

= Ruth Norman =

Ruth E. Norman (born Ruth Nields ; August 18 , 1900 ? July 12 , 1993) , also known as Uriel , was an American religious leader who co @-@ founded the Unarius Academy of Science , based in Southern California . Raised in California , Norman received little education and worked from an early age in a variety of jobs . In the 1940s , she developed an interest in psychic phenomena and past @-@ life regression . These pursuits led to her introduction to Ernest Norman , a self @-@ described psychic , in 1954 . He engaged in channeling , past @-@ life regression , and attempts at communication with extraterrestrials . She married Ernest , her fourth husband , in the mid @-@ 1950s . Together they published several books about his revelations and formed Unarius , an organization which later became known as the Unarius Academy of Science , to popularize his teachings . The couple discussed numerous details about their past lives and spiritual visits to other planets , forming a mythology from these accounts .

After Ernest died in 1971 , Ruth succeeded him as their group 's leader and primary channeler . She subsequently began publishing accounts of her experiences and revelations . In early 1974 , she predicted that a space fleet of benevolent extraterrestrials , the Space Brothers , would land on Earth later that year , which led the Unarius Academy to purchase a property to serve as the landing site . After the extraterrestrials failed to appear , Norman said that trauma she had suffered in a past life had caused her to make an inaccurate prediction . Undaunted , she rented a building for Unarius ' meetings and sought publicity for the movement , claiming to have united the Earth with an interplanetary confederation . She revised the Space Brothers ' expected landing date several times , before finally settling on 2001 . Her health declined in the late 1980s , prompting her students to try to heal her with rituals of past @-@ life regression . Despite predicting that she would live to see the extraterrestrials land , Norman died in 1993 . Unarius has continued to operate after her death , and formed a board of directors . Since the 2000s , leaders have concentrated on individual transformation leading to spiritual change in humankind .

= = Early life and marriages = =

Ruth Nields was born in Indianapolis , Indiana , on August 18 , 1900 . Three years later , her family moved to Pasadena , California , where her father worked as an upholsterer . She and her five siblings were reared there , receiving little education and working from a young age . As a teenager , she labored as a fruit packer and a maid . Most of her income went to her father , whom she later described as abusive .

In 1918 , she married a man named Frank (his surname is unknown) , and they had a daughter two years later . The couple divorced in the early 1920s ; Frank gained custody of their daughter , although Ruth had access as well . Little is definitively known about Ruth 's life from the mid @-@ 1920s to the 1940s , but she worked in a variety of jobs . She held positions in several restaurants and also worked as a model , real @-@ estate broker , resort manager , and nanny . In the 1940s , she enrolled at the Church of Religious Science , where she studied New Thought under Ernest Holmes , and was separately introduced to psychic healing in that decade . Over time , she also became interested in spiritualism , channeling , and past @-@ life regression . She married Benjamin Arnold in the 1940s ; the marriage lasted until his death in 1951 . Two years later , she remarried and settled in Lancaster , California . Her third husband , George Marian , owned a milk @-@ delivery business which Ruth helped him to manage . In the mid @-@ 1950s , she became interested in acting and earned the starring role in a local play .

= = Marriage to Ernest Norman = =

In 1954 , at a psychic event in California , Ruth was introduced to Ernest Norman , who told her that in a past life she had been the daughter of an Egyptian Pharaoh and had protected Moses . Members of the organization they later established , the Unarius Academy of Science , affirm that Ernest and Ruth married on the day they met , and the group celebrates their anniversary as

February 14 , 1954 . However , Diana Tumminia of California State University , Sacramento , notes in her 2005 study of the group that Ruth was probably still married to George Marian in early 1954 and speculates that their divorce was a lengthy process ; Tumminia posits that Ernest and Ruth married in 1956 .

Ernest believed he could communicate with both extraterrestrials and historical figures , channeling messages from them . In 1954 , seeking to popularize his channeling , Ernest and Ruth formed an organization known as Unarius , operating from their home in California . After their marriage , Ruth served as Ernest 's typist , later claiming to have learned the skill while sleeping . She recorded the information he channeled , writing books about psychic healing and trips into the solar system . In the 1950s and 1960s , they attracted several followers , including two students whom they later taught to channel . One early trainee was Charles Spiegel , who later led the group . Many converts had previous involvement with New Age or mystic groups , making it easy for the Normans to convert them .

Converts were provided with elaborate details of Ernest and Ruth Norman 's purported spiritual visits to other planets . The couple believed that humans could learn from great teachers on these journeys ; Ernest said that this contact held the potential to educate and heal humanity . Ernest also spoke of the scientific advancements of other worlds . The couple also discussed revelations about their past lives , including Jesus and Mary of Bethany among their past identities . Ruth stated that she had lived about 50 lives over several million years ; she recalled being several well @-@ known and a few obscure people on Earth , as well as beings from other planets and an archangel . Their group developed a mythology from the accounts that Ernest and Ruth gave of these lives , including tales from their past incarnations in Atlantis and Lemuria . Some of their stories were similar to the plots of contemporary books and films , prompting Tumminia to cast their beliefs as a pastiche or bricolage of the surrounding culture .

Ernest and Ruth promoted millennialist teachings , holding that higher beings were to transform the Earth and bring devotees to a new level of existence ; the couple held that this growth would allow people to travel through space . Zeller compares their millennialist doctrines to those of Christian dispensationalism , noting their shared utopian views .

= = Leadership and death of Ernest = =

Ernest died in 1971 ; thereafter , Ruth led their organization and served as its primary channeler . Spiegel moved to San Diego to assist her . After Ernest died , Spiegel affirmed Ruth 's nascent belief that she was an archangel named Uriel from the " fourth dimension " .

In 1972 , Ruth Norman began publishing *Tesla Speaks* , a series of messages that she said were given to her by the American inventor and engineer Nikola Tesla from his dwelling in outer space ; she stated that he also relayed messages from scientists Albert Einstein and Louis Pasteur to her . Norman asserted that the Tesla Tower held secrets which were to be recovered by Unarius . The American journalist Alexander S. Heard argues that Tesla 's rumored interests in death rays and free energy drew the group to him . In 1973 , Norman recounted an experience in which she spiritually married the archangel Michiel at a lavishly decorated temple on another planet ; the event was said to have culminated with her being crowned the Queen of Archangels , Uriel , by the Archangel Raphael . She and Spiegel envisioned the events of the ceremony over several days , and she published their recollections later that year . Her students subsequently referred to her as Uriel , an acronym of " universal , radiant , infinite , eternal light " . She and Spiegel re @-@ enacted the ceremony for her followers , and the group celebrated the anniversary of the event annually . After her spiritual marriage , Norman increased her channeling of historical figures , including Plato , Tesla , and John F. Kennedy .

= = Prophecy and therapy = =

= = First extraterrestrial prophecy = = =

In a volume published in March 1974 , Norman predicted that a spacefleet of an " Intergalactic Confederation " was to land on Earth before December 1974 . In November 1974 , assisted by some of her students , Norman purchased a 67 @-@ acre (0 @.@ 27 km2) property near Jamul , California , to serve as a landing site for extraterrestrials , whom she referred to as the " Space Brothers " . At some point in 1974 , Norman revised the date at which she expected extraterrestrials to land to September 1975 , citing ongoing Confederation efforts to prepare humanity for their landing as the reason for the delay . She predicted that a single flying saucer would bring extraterrestrials to persuade humans of their teachings , after which another 33 vessels would arrive . These beings were to restore the lost teachings of Atlantis to the Earth , and their revelations were to free humanity from crime and disease , ushering in an era of learning . She believed that this information would be imparted by a thousand extraterrestrial scientists , who would also bring advances in technology , among which she specified crystal computers , to Earth . Norman presumed that Confederation leaders were to take her on a world tour after their arrival , and she bought herself a new wardrobe in preparation . In addition , she arranged a large banner to welcome them , made arrangements for buses to the landing site , and informed the National Enquirer , an American tabloid , of her expectations . In early September 1975 , she gave a farewell message , telling of her future home on a spaceship . On September 22 , however , she concluded that a landing would not occur and stated that she was reliving the trauma of a past life ? in which she was Isis ? when she was assassinated shortly before extraterrestrials were to land . She explained that the effects of this trauma had caused her to make an inaccurate prediction . Norman led the group in classes to teach them how to relive the event that had culminated in Isis ' assassination and took them to the expected landing site to stir their memories . They began to hold public meetings again in November . Several students doubted Norman 's explanation ; some of them left the group .

In 1975 , Norman used the proceeds of a home sale to rent a storefront for her group 's meetings , which they lavishly decorated . She purported to be the " Spirit of Beauty " and the " Goddess of Love " ; in this capacity , she claimed complete knowledge of truth and the ability to heal . After their new headquarters opened , Norman told her students ? and the media ? that she was an ambassador from the Interplanetary Confederation , and , in February 1975 , she opened the Academy of Parapsychology , Healing , and Psychic Science , which soon became known as the Unarius Academy of Science . The group celebrates the anniversary of the union of Earth and the confederation annually around October 12 .

= = = Past @-@ life therapy and subsequent prophecies = = =

Norman pioneered a form of past @-@ life therapy , teaching her disciples how to recall details of experiences from their past incarnations . These recollections contributed to the group 's mythology , which developed over time with student input . Unarius ' members occasionally recalled crimes that they had committed in past lives , including times they harmed incarnations of Ruth Norman . The students sometimes acted out and filmed scenes from their previous incarnations , an experience that participants found therapeutic ; they cited this benefit as proof that the events were real . Norman 's therapy , according to R. George Kirkpatrick of San Diego State University and Tumminia , differed from most New Age past @-@ life therapies in the way that it wove her followers into the group 's narrative .

In March 1976 , Norman publicly wagered \$ 4 @,@ 000 with the British gambling firm Ladbrokes that extraterrestrials would land on Earth within one year , a prediction which attracted media attention . Tumminia states that Norman had " no public distress " over the failure of her prediction . Despite the negative publicity from the prophecy 's failure , new members were attracted to the group . After losing the wager , Norman changed the expected landing date to 2001 ; she taught that the close of the 20th century coincided with the beginning of a new cycle which would bring great benefits to humanity . Representatives of Unarius later stated that the prophecies had been misunderstood and that the Space Brothers had not visited because humanity was not yet ready for them . They have argued that Unarius ' teachings must be understood to correctly interpret Norman

's statements . Tumminia writes that they used " adaptive storytelling and continuous narrative invention " to explain the failure of the prophecy .

The group enjoyed publicity , and media outlets regularly covered them . Most journalists portrayed Unarius as a curiosity and accentuated its novel aspects . In the area near their headquarters , they were viewed as an unusual group with strict behavioral standards . One local writer published a sensationalist account of the group under the title " The Gods Must Be Crazy " . But , after interviewing Norman in 1976 , Brad Steiger , who has written extensively about the paranormal , gave a positive account of Unarius . Norman disliked academic writings about her organization , seeing them as unfairly negative .

= = 1980s and 90s = =

In 1979 , Norman claimed to have an unofficial following of more than 100 @,@ 000 . That year , she announced a spiritual promotion : she was no longer an archangel but , with Michiel , a " Lord of the Universe " and a " Prince of the Realm " . She renamed Spiegel as " Antares " in 1984 , stating that he had overcome the evil of his past incarnations ; he subsequently began to channel . As of 1986 , the group had about 450 regular students and charged \$ 5 per class . At that time , Norman lived in a house in La Mesa , California , with two of her disciples .

Assisted by her followers , Norman recorded her teachings in about 80 books . She wrote educational materials designed to empower students by teaching them about subjects such as the " psychology of consciousness " and " self @-@ mastery " . Ernest and Ruth Norman 's writings are revered as scripture by members of the Unarius Academy . The group developed a set of six core sacred narratives about the past lives of its founders , describing key events on Earth and other planets . These myths featured tales of romance , war , and scientific advances in the Aries and Orion constellations and in ancient civilizations on Earth . Kirkpatrick and Tumminia state that the Unarian canon appears to be incoherent to outsiders , but is appreciated as a cohesive body of literature by the group 's members .

Norman wore a variety of brightly colored , elaborate costumes and was often photographed by media while wearing royal @-@ style gowns and wigs and holding a scepter . She stated that her habiliments mirrored the practices of extraterrestrials , whose attire she said was brighter and more radiant than clothing on Earth . At the group 's headquarters , she had a gold @-@ colored throne that was decorated with peacock feathers . Her assistants helped shepherd her media image ; Kirkpatrick and Tumminia speculate that her charisma was primarily responsible for gaining publicity for the group .

Followers of Norman held her in high regard : they occasionally fainted when she touched them , and some wept when allowed to meet with her . They painted several portraits of her , one of which they believed had healing powers . According to students , Norman healed them in their dreams and sometimes reported seeing visions of her . Several times , group members chose to forgo cancer treatment , trusting in Norman to heal them . Tumminia says that Norman was a clear example of the German sociologist Max Weber 's concept of charismatic authority . Norman sometimes had disagreements with students and excommunicated two senior assistants who questioned her , although she welcomed one back a few years later . If healing was unsuccessfully sought , the failure to receive it was sometimes attributed to disloyalty to leadership . Criticism of Norman was not tolerated by the group ; Tumminia describes Norman 's leadership style as " benign authoritarian " .

= = = Declining health and death = = =

In 1988 , Norman broke a hip and her health began to decline . Although she had promised to live until 2001 , her deteriorating condition made her followers suspect she would die before then , causing them some distress and denial . In an attempt to help her recover , students used past @-@ life regression to recall interactions with her , and some became very emotional after experiencing memories of events in which they had rejected and hurt her . Norman returned to

leading services in February 1989 , making a quicker than expected recovery , which was attributed to the past @-@ life rituals . After a period of good health , her condition again deteriorated , prompting students to resume recounting their past crimes . Norman lost most of her hearing and experienced chronic pain ; she was admitted to a hospital in December 1989 , but by the summer she was well enough to be present at events . She was nearly bedridden in her last years and was attended to by some followers . In 1991 , she stated that the Space Brothers had given her permission to die before their expected arrival in 2001 .

Before her death , Norman met with each of her followers ; she died on July 12 , 1993 , and was cremated . In her will , she promised to return to Earth , accompanied by the Space Brothers , in eight years . Students , some of whom were surprised and confused by her death , were instructed by leaders not to grieve because she was in a celestial state . Some of them privately mourned , and a few left the group . Items of Norman 's were distributed to students , some of whom wore them at later events .

After Norman 's death , Antares took over as leader and channeled messages from her . Others later began channeling her , and recordings of her messages were replayed . Antares died in 1999 , and a board of directors assumed leadership of the organization and channeled . In the 2000s , Unarius ' leaders emphasized individual transformation , focusing on a gradual spiritual change in humanity .

= = Legacy = =

Images of Norman have been used to attract attention by some outside of the Unarius Academy of Science . In 1996 , an MTV executive viewed a picture of Norman and decided to use her image in an advertising campaign for the MTV Music Video Awards . The network contacted the Unarius Academy of Science and received permission to use a look @-@ alike in their promotions . In 2000 , Norman was featured on the cover of Kooks : A Guide to the Outer Limits of Human Belief , a book about personalities with fringe beliefs .

After Norman 's death , public opinion of her organization was strongly influenced by the 1997 mass suicide of Heaven 's Gate , a UFO religion whose members occupied a house within 50 miles (80 km) of the Unarius Academy of Science . In the suicides ' aftermath , some reporters and members of the anti @-@ cult movement described Unarius as a similar group . Tumminia disagreed with this portrayal , casting Unarius ' practices as no more dangerous than those of widely accepted religions .