



## Bay Area Urantians Form New Society

A new URANTIA Society has been born. On February 8, 1976 at the Family of God headquarters in Berkeley, the San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society was formally invested as the planet's twelfth chartered URANTIA Society.

Two of those twelve never acted officially as Societies, so SFBAUS is, for all practical purposes, the tenth. In this connection, Brotherhood President Paul Snider remarked in jest that SFBAUS must therefore be a "decimal" society and must have some experimental purpose. (It remains to be seen just what sort of mutations may evolve.)



SFBAUS Officers, David, Mary, Jo Ann, and Gard.

Presiding at the ceremony was Mary Lou Hales, Chairperson of the Brotherhood Charter Committee. Also participating in the proceedings were Julia Fenderson, Field Representative, and Herman Schell, member of the Charter Committee. Following the ceremony, about thirty-five persons enjoyed a sit-down fellowship luncheon.

The officers of the new Society are David Gray, President; Mary Echlin, Vice President; Jo Ann Eichmann, Secretary; and Gard Jameson, Treasurer.

SFBAUS set numbers records with eighteen Founders and five Charter Members at the time of its inception.

The Founders are: Connie Aller, Sara Blackstock, Mary Beth Brunner, Brian Cox, Mary Echlin, Jo Ann Eichmann, Bettina Gray, David Gray, Nancy Grimsley, Vern Grimsley, Gard Jameson, David Kantor, Sue Kantor, Terry McCade, Penny Poole, Fred Shupp, Susan Shupp, and Jeff Wattles.

The Charter Members are: Bob Blackstock, Marvin Gawryn, Marilyn Nelson, Francyl Streano, and Mark Turrin.

May we all, Urantians around the world, join in extending our best wishes for success, our love, and our prayers to each of the members of SFBAUS, our newest URANTIA Society.

## Dr. Prince Appointed Brotherhood Field Rep

In February, the URANTIA Brotherhood Executive Committee named a new Field Representative, Richard F. Prince, M.D. Dr. Prince thus joins a distinguished group of fewer than ten persons who bear that title throughout the world.

As a Field Representative, Dr. Prince will serve as liaison between Chicago and local groups in his own area, currently San Diego, and wherever he may chance to travel.

A primary aim of the Field Representative is to encourage the formation of study groups, to follow up on inquiries from interested new readers, and generally to coordinate the activities of Urantians on a local level.

Technically, Field Representatives are not assigned to any geographical area and have an international responsibility. In practice, however, Dick will probably concentrate his efforts in California.

Dick is 31 years old, received his B.A. in Psychology from the University of Virginia in 1966 and his M.D. from the Medical College of Virginia in 1970.

He is currently Staff Physician in the Emergency Department of Bay General Hospital in Chula Vista.

Dick lives in San Diego with his charming wife Cheryl, a former airline stewardess, and his daughter, Christine Ananda, born last year on August 21. The Princes conduct a URANTIA Book Study Group on Tuesday evenings in their home.

## FUSLA Adds 14 Members

Fourteen new members were formally accepted into the membership of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles, March 7, 1976.

In alphabetical order, the new members are:

Frances Basso  
Cale Brehio  
Marc Denton  
Carol Forsythe  
Gregory Harris  
Chris Heimor  
Charles Hicks  
Quentin James  
Johathan Johnson  
Karen Johnson  
Gladys Marquart  
Russ Marquart  
Andrew Remon  
Bill Sherwood

(See story and picture, p. 4)

### agondonter

The Agondonter is published quarterly by the First Urantia Society of Los Angeles, and is wholly supported by FUSLA.

Donations are appreciated and should be in the form of a check, payable to FUSLA.

Items of mutual interest are welcomed from Societies, study groups or individuals. Shorter items are given preference.

Write to: Agondonter, PO Box 963, Los Angeles, CA 90053

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Production Manager: Bill Sherwood  
Editorial Consultant: Julia Fenderson

Editorial Board: Jeff DeBell  
Charles Montgomery  
Scott Forsythe

On Jerusalem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as Urantia "are known as the agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creators who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." \*page 579

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# LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

To the Editor:

Please accept my donation for your (our) newsletter. Been meaning to write since I first read one. I just read the Fall, 1975 issue and it really topped off a bountiful day. Reflections was far out and the cartoon I could relate to. Been reading The URANTIA Book about two years now and I surely thank God for it. How Father loves us!

Praise God in all his glory  
Thank you Jesus  
Maholo nui loa  
The Miller Family  
Kekaha, Kauai, Hawaii

To the Editor:

What a great experience reading the Agondonter, with its news, pictures, comment and interesting miscellany. I hope the enclosed check will keep me on the mailing list. Such a publication makes a community of us all and makes for a vicarious fellowship, drawing in those of us who are not able to attend meetings.

Sincerely,  
Ken Knight  
Aurora, Colorado

To the editor,

Our group here in Sacramento is coming along very nicely. We have a regular group of about eight to ten people and seem to be meeting new potential members all the time.

At present the format of our group is similar to that in Berkeley where I was a member for a year or two. One person takes responsibility for leading the group each time



and usually selects a topic which is pursued in depth with the help of the Concordax. Of course, everyone has his own style and so the meetings are always different.

By the way, the Agondonter is great. Thank you for your excellent publication.

Regards,  
Ron Davis  
Carmichael, California

Agondonter, Spring 1976, page 2

Dear wonderful people who publish the Agondonter:

Put me on the mailing list—so thrilled to hear about it. I have been a Urantian for 40 years—just love it—in Chicago. Now live in St. Petersburg—8 years. Did meet Vern Grimsley—year ago—Julia Fenderson, Bill and Carol Brehio—Love them all—

Agatha D. Cook  
St. Petersburg, Florida

Greetings URANTIA Friends,

1975 has been a happy and growing year for our "tadpole" Alaskan study group. In addition to our regular weekly meetings, we have had workshops, socials, dinners, mountain hikes, and weekend trips. Three of our members attended the General Conference in Chicago while others visited with study groups in Hawaii, California and Oklahoma. One of our greatest pleasures this year has been communicating and personally fellowshiping with you, our "outside" Urantian friends.

Some of our study group members have been absent at intervals this year while working on the Alaska Pipeline. We certainly see and feel the "boom" effects of the pipeline all around us in our pioneer state's accelerated material growth.

We are presently planning a program for discussion sessions to introduce the basic messages of The URANTIA Book to individuals who have expressed interest. This will provide us the opportunity to disseminate the teachings and to practice our abilities as student teachers. We hope the efforts will pave the way for the formation of new study groups here in the Northland.

Our thanks to all of you who help to keep us informed of our "family" activities: individuals, the Foundation, the Brotherhood, the Family of God, the Agondonter, and the Finaliter.

Patsy Hayes, Tucky Hayes, Ron Craig, Ed Harrigan, Alan Hanson, Alice Colman, Doug Fulton, Wayne Fulton, Deborah Foster, Barb Maier, Andrew Klein, Tom & Annie Choquette. [Anchorage, Alaska]

To the Editor:

Ron & Barbara Edwards shared their Agondonter with our study group and we really love it. My 8 and 10 year old sons really related to Vince's style when I read it to them (Reflections) as they rolled happily on a friend's water bed.

Our group and the Tampa/St. Petersburg group sponsored a state conference December 6th in Tampa. There were some fifty people attending and many fantastic discussions. We plan to do it again next year, in October. Vern, Jim Mills & John Hales spoke.

Many of us plan to attend the National Conference next summer in Oklahoma. I hope to meet you there.

Ann Cole  
Sarasota, Florida

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## Thanks

P.S. To those of you who have written to us and have received no personal replies, please accept our thanks at this time. We are unable to answer every letter, but we really appreciate hearing from you. Keep them coming.

CMM

## News from Chigago

In a November, 1975 letter to Friends of the URANTIA Revelation, Tom Kendall, President of the URANTIA Foundation, noted: "In just 20 years, approximately 55,000 URANTIA Books have quietly found their way into circulation. During that same period, our office work has grown in volume to embrace interests and activities in countries all over the world."

In an accompanying letter, Paul Snider, President of the URANTIA Brotherhood, reported: "The work at headquarters has been increasing rapidly. Within the past year our small staff (2-1/2 paid and 2 volunteer) has answered about 2400 letters, 1500 phone calls, and has met with 450 visitors in addition to processing orders and shipping URANTIA Books on a regular basis to almost 1000 bookstores and many hundreds of individuals who order the book directly from Chicago."

## A REMINDER:

We wish to bring to the attention of our Agondonter readers the financial needs of our busy parent organizations in Chicago. (See reports above.)

Did you know that a broad base of contributions will help them maintain their non-profit tax status?

That's so. So even if you have only a couple of dollars to spare, send them! (And if you have any extra, don't forget your local Society, and...oh yes, your friendly Agondonter.)



Scott M. Forsythe  
FUSLA President

## NEWSLETTERS

### URANTIA COMMUNICATIONS EXPAND

A number of newsletters published by Urantians have appeared in recent months. Most recent and foremost is The URANTIAN, published by the URANTIA Brotherhood in Chicago. This was sent to the some 1200 names on their list, and if you did not receive a copy, you might wish to write them. The subscription price is three dollars per year.

The Finaliter is published by and for east coast Urantians, but if you send him three dollars, Nick Scalzo will be glad to send it to you wherever you may live. Write him at 51 Ironworks Road, Clinton, CT 06413.

From Hawaii, Bill Lindsay recently sent out the first issue of the (would you believe) Hunuhunukunukuapuaa. This is a one-page mimeographed affair, much like our own Agondonter of five years ago. Bill has no set price but if you'd like to be on his list, I'm sure he'd accept a couple of dollars donation. Write him at 3649 Nihipali Place, Honolulu, Hawaii 96816.

Joek Griffis, in Alvin Texas is planning a newsletter which would take on a more reflective note--more like a journal, perhaps. He is at 1301 S. Hood, #9, Alvin, TX 77511.

Joe Pope, a journalist up in Canada, is keen on seeing a Canadian newsletter develop. He's at 50 Rosehill Ave. Apt. 2110, Toronto, Ontario M4T 1G6.

And there may be others that we don't know about. At any rate, good publishing to all of you. These are exciting times we are in. And in case you may benefit from it, you may be interested in knowing that our policy here at Agondonter includes (a) no advertising, (b) slow growth, and (c) a positive outlook.

--CMM

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**MAY:** There will be a conference in Oregon beginning Friday evening, May 22, with a social around the campfire. On Saturday the program will include fellowship and worship at the edge of the Rogue River. Sunday, the conference will end with an expanded meeting of the regular Study Group. Contact David and Rose Clearwater. (Address on back page.)

**JUNE:** FUSLA plans a one day mini-conference, really a day of spiritual retreat, on either June 5 or 6, at Zuma Beach, near Malibu. The program will be exceedingly simple, with the emphasis on communion. FUSLans will receive notice. Others interested in attending contact Vince Ventola. (Address on back page.)

**JUNE:** The URANTIA International Forum, Oklahoma, will be on June 25, 26, and 27, with workshops on June 28, 29, and 30. Contact Berkeley Elliott. (See story this issue.)

**JULY:** Sometime in July, shortly after the Oklahoma Forum, there will be an East Coast Conference at Dan Massey's big stone house in New Hampshire. We don't know much about this, but you might try contacting Nick Scalzo, Finaliter Editor, for details.

**SEPTEMBER:** Urantians will meet at the beautiful Astromar conference site in Monterey, California, on a weekend in mid-September. Keep it in mind. Further details in next issue.

**OCTOBER:** A Florida State conference is tentatively planned for October. No details as yet.

**ETERNITY:** Throughout all time, and in eternity, Urantians will be meeting somewhere, somehow, and exchanging their love.

## SOME BASIC DEFINITIONS...

**The URANTIA Book:** The fifth epochal revelation to the planet Earth (Urantia). The Book consists of a 2097-page collection of writings from super-human personalities dealing with God, man, earth, the Universe of Universes, and every conceivable branch of human science and thought, all in a uniquely brilliant, internally consistent, and spiritually uplifting manner. The style, organization and content are incomparable.

A portion of the Book portrays the life and teachings of Jesus in a single narrative so sublimely beautiful and profound that it could only be a revelation; it could not be the work of man.

**The URANTIA Foundation:** The group charged with the full and single responsibility of preserving the integrity of the URANTIA Revelation and making it available intact. In other words, the copyright holder and publisher of The URANTIA Book. Address: 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois 60614.

**The URANTIA Brotherhood:** We might say that this is the entire body of believers in the URANTIA Revelation. But specifically, the URANTIA Brotherhood is a fraternal organization with an educational purpose, headquartered in Chicago along with the Foundation, and composed of members-at-large and local URANTIA Societies around the world.

--CMM

# FUSLA News

## Fourteen Added

### FUSLA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

Fourteen new members were formally accepted into the membership of the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles on Sunday, March 7, 1976 at the regular monthly meeting.

The new members are: Frances Basso, Cale Brehio, Marc Denton, Carol Forsythe, Gregory Harris, Chris Helmer, Charles Hicks, Quentin James, Jonathan Johnson, Karen Johnson, Gladys Marquardt, Russ Marquardt, Andrew Remon, and Bill Sherwood.

Prerequisites to membership in our URANTIA Society include having read the entire URANTIA Book and stating a belief in its teachings, having completed a prescribed course of orientation meetings, having agreed to support the URANTIA organizations and to conform to the laws of this country, having been known by another Brotherhood member for at least one year, and being at least fourteen years of age.

A new group of seven candidate members recently began the six month orientation program pre-requisite to formal membership.

Any person is welcome to become a member of FUSLA while still retaining their membership in any church, religious organization, or fraternal society.

Membership in FUSLA automatically constitutes a person a member of the URANTIA Brotherhood.

We congratulate each of the fourteen new FUSLA members upon the occasion of their formal induction into the URANTIA Brotherhood; we welcome their energy, their commitment, and their personalities to our growing community of URANTIA believers and workers.

## Monthly Meetings

### FUSLA FEATURES VARIED PROGRAM

On the first Sunday of every month, FUSLA holds an area-wide meeting in Los Angeles. From thirty to fifty members and guests generally attend these gatherings. Our Education Chairman, Vince Ventola, sets up the program for these meetings, and for the past six months we have had the following:

**November:** Clyde Bedell gave a slide show talk on his Concordex, and was presented a plaque of appreciation.

**December:** Vince gave a talk on worship, a topic he has studied at length, illustrating his points with original art work.

**January:** After brief keynote presentations, the group broke into four seminars to grapple with the issue of "our highest loyalty," after which a person from each small group reported the findings to the reassembled whole.

**February:** Julia Fenderson reported on her trip to Australia, and showed slides of people at headquarters in Chicago.

**March:** FUSLA's fourteen new members were formally installed, and Vern Grimsley spoke on effective personal work. The FOG crew was down in force for this meeting, and we had over 100 people in attendance.

**April:** Polly Parke presented a slide show talk on symbols and the meaning of the new cult, followed by open discussion.

Following every meeting we have varied and interesting refreshments, thanks to our Hospitality Chairperson, Felice Long, and the many individuals who volunteer to bring food items. This is the time for meeting new persons and fellowshiping with old friends.

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New FUSLA members: Greg Harris, Francis Basso, Marc Denton, Carol Forsythe, Chris Helmer, Cale Brehio, Andy Remon, Charles Hicks, Gladys Marquardt, Russ Marquardt, Bill Sherwood. (Absent from picture: Jonathan and Karen Johnson and Quentin James.)

## Delegates and Officers

### FUSLA ASSEMBLY ACTS TO FILL POSTS

An assembly of the FUSLA membership voted on March 21 to elect Scott Forsythe as Delegate and Dorothy Hicks as Alternate Delegate to the Triennial Delegation in Chicago in June.

The Assembly also voted to fill the vacancies soon to be created in the offices of Secretary and Treasurer. Secretary Leonard Kidd and his family will be moving to Pennsylvania. Treasurer Patricia Bedell will be taking her family and following husband Jeff to Saudi Arabia where Jeff has a two-year teaching appointment.

Carol Forsythe was elected to fill the office of Secretary and Lucile Faw was elected to the Treasurer position, both for the remainder of the present terms of office.

All votes were unanimous.

## Beverly Wold

### FUSLA MEMBER LISTED IN "WHO'S WHO"

Warm congratulations to FUSLA member Beverly Wold of Hemet, California, honored by a listing in the 1975-76 edition of "Who's Who of American Women" for her work in occupational therapy.

Beverly has been affiliated with the Sunshine School in Riverside, the Elks mobile therapy unit in Palm Springs, and was with the Riverside General Hospital's occupational therapy department for nine years. She is currently the therapist for Meadowbrook Convalescent Hospital in Hemet. She also teaches, conducting an evening class at Mt. San Jacinto College to train Activity Leaders for Convalescent Hospitals and related health-care facilities. She hopes to have twenty students receiving their Activity Leader's Certificate by the end of the semester.

In addition to her work, Beverly enjoys travel and photography, having combined both interests on tours to Russia, the Far East and Europe, as well as in Canada and the United States.

When she is not away on a trip, Beverly hosts a URANTIA study group in her home, Wednesday nights.

CONCORDEX AUTHOR

## Clyde Bedell Honored

At its November 2 meeting, FUSLA honored Clyde Bedell for his remarkable work in producing the ConcordeX.

This is the first, and, as yet, the only index to The URANTIA Book, and is an invaluable study aid.

The ConcordeX was Clyde's life work, (apart, that is, from his secular career as a business consultant,) and he produced it single-handedly. In doing so he performed a great service to us all.

Clyde's letter of acknowledgement →



If you are a reader of The URANTIA Book, you surely need a ConcordeX. You may be able to get one at the book store where you obtained your book, or you can write to headquarters in Chicago, or, if you prefer, write directly to Clyde at:

120 Camino Alto  
Santa Barbara, Calif. 93103

120 CAMINO ALTO • SANTA BARBARA • CALIFORNIA • 93103

November 11, 1975

Scott Foraythe  
President  
First Urantia Society of Los Angeles  
12815 Pacific Avenue #8  
Los Angeles, California 90066

Dear Scott:

The award I was given last Sunday by FUSLA pleased me more than any other honor, award, or recognition I have ever received. It was a particularly notable and memorable Urantian surprise to me, for it is the first "official recognition" of any kind my labor of love has received. It is especially precious to me, therefore.

I want to say a great "thank you" too for the thoughtfulness shown in the lovely bouquet given Florence. She deserved it, for she was a "ConcordeX widow" for more long evenings and weekends than I would dare calculate.

Please let your membership know that this beautiful expression of appreciation touched me precisely where and as you all intended it to.

This "thank you" will always seem inadequate to me.

Sincerely yours,

  
Clyde Bedell

Photos taken at recent FUSLA meetings.

## A SALUTE TO FORMER FUSLANS

Urantians seem to move around a lot. (You'd know what we mean if you saw the revisions we have to make in our mailing list every three months!) Over the years, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles, FUSLA\*, has admitted over 100 members, but only about fifty are locally active at the present time.

Five of the twenty-three members of the newly formed Bay Area Society, SFBAUS\*, are former FUSLANS, who migrated northward to assist in the spiritual work at FOG\*.

Now, with the forming of SFBAUS, (see front page article) it seems a fitting time to present short sketches of these five former FUSLANS.

This is the story of five people who dared to seek God's will in their lives, found it, and actually did it!

\*A few definitions may be helpful for those not familiar with these California groups:

**FUSLA:** The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles. For many years the only URANTIA Society in California. Publisher of this newsletter, the *Agondonter*.

**SFBAUS:** The San Francisco Bay Area URANTIA Society. California's second and only other URANTIA Society.

**FOG:** The Family of God Foundation, in Berkeley. Not an official URANTIA organization, but organized and staffed by Urantians. Produces the "On Campus" radio program. (Box 126, Berkeley, CA 94701)



**Mary Echlin**, 30, was introduced to The URANTIA Book in May of 1971. In October of that year, she came to Berkeley to visit the Family of God headquarters, along with Jo Ann Eichmann, Bob Blackstock, Kermit Anderson, and Scott Forsythe. (Kermit and Scott remain FUSLANS, the other three having become SFBAUSers.)

After serving for a time as FUSLA's Hospitality Chairman, she moved in August of 1972 to join FOG. She now teaches English as a second language at Armstrong College. At FOG she is in charge of mail-out of the radio tapes, a complicated and exacting process. She also helps edit the various FOG publications.

In 1974 she married Terry Echlin and the couple bought a house in Berkeley which they are refurbishing. An accomplished keyboard instrumentalist, Mary says she now has little time for hobbies, as her job, her commitments to home culture, and her work with the Family of God require her full attention.

**Jo Ann Eichmann**, 31, discovered The URANTIA Book in 1968, read the whole work over the next three years, met Julia Fenderson in 1971 and was installed into FUSLA on Jesus' birthday, August 21, 1971. She served FUSLA for a very short time before making an instant decision to move north to join FOG that same year. . . without a job. She quickly secured a good position with the Bay Area Rapid Transit, and is now a station agent.

Jo Ann has a degree from the University of California at Irvine, where she majored in Philosophy. She does correspondence counselling at FOG, and prepares FOG's quarterly report. Her interests include poetry, writing, and hot-air ballooning.

Jo Ann recently moved into an apartment building directly across the street from the FOG house, to be more convenient to her volunteer work there. (All "foggers" contribute their labor and talents on a strictly non-cash basis and quite a few live within a stone's throw of the old two-story house that is the FOG headquarters.)

**Bob Blackstock**, 41, has been reading The URANTIA Book since 1967. Of our five former FUSLANS he's been reading the Book the longest; he actually has a first printing, one of the first 10,000 Books printed. Yet, because he hasn't been in the Bay Area for a full year, he is the only one of the five who did not qualify to be a Founder of the new Society, SFBAUS. Ah, the tyranny of rules!

An aspiring barrister, Bob received his Juris Doctor from Loyola in September of 1974, and moved to Berkeley to join FOG in June of 1975. (He had been planning the move for three years.) In October he married Sara Lindorfer, another Urantian and "fogger," and is now negotiating to buy a home.

Bob works in the Solano County Children's Shelter. He is interested in photography, and does most of the photography work for the Family of God Foundation.

**Terry McCade**, 29, found The URANTIA Book in 1971 and was for a short time a FUSLAN before coming to Berkeley, where he found work as the customer relations manager for a glass manufacturer.

Terry was previously active in gymnastics and water-skiing. He studied physical therapy and a variety of other subjects for five years at California State University at Sacramento.

Now he concentrates on outreach. Each Saturday morning, with Fred Shupp, he engages in campus ministry, and he produces art and graphics work for FOG publications. Terry is single, (and, he emphasizes, available).

**Fred Shupp**, 24, found The URANTIA Book in 1969, and moved to FOG in 1974. He recently married Susan Halbert (see story) and is very interested in street work and public ministry (see his personal account).

Fred works as an insurance agent and is interested in guitar and horticulture. He assists at FOG in the mail-out department.

## "a day on campus"

—by Fred Shupp

Recently while on the Berkeley campus during one of our Saturday afternoon adventures\* I found myself in the middle of a group of people trying to explain that God is a God of love and that he has a plan for each and every one of us.

For the most part, people were listening, and it seemed as though some were even interested in what I was saying.

But as usual, there was a considerable amount of commotion coming from the crowd. It seems to me that some people actually come here every Saturday for the sheer enjoyment of disrupting our talks. I must admit that on this particular day they were in good form and the competition was tough.

Anyway I was right in the middle of a discourse so to speak when a loud voice from the crowd said, "Sit down, you are wasting your time; I don't believe God exists, nor will I ever believe it!"

He asked me to prove that God exists. I asked him to prove that he doesn't.

I began talking again, and after about three sentences this same person yelled, "I told you, I don't believe in God." To which I replied, "Would you please describe this God that you don't believe in."

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\*It is customary for Fred Shupp, Terry McCade, and several others of the Berkeley crew to engage in personal ministry, or what some would call "street preaching", each Saturday near the University's Sather Gate, at the busy intersection of Telegraph Avenue and Bancroft Street.

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After hearing this awful description of our heavenly Father being an angry king with a lake of fire, etc., etc., I said, "Well, I don't blame you. If God were like that, I don't think I would believe in him either."

I continued to talk about the love of God, and just as I was saying that we are all infinitely valuable, this same man approached me again and asked, "How can you prove what you are saying? You are talking about something that is unreal. God doesn't exist."

To this I replied, "I challenge you to go off by yourself, and with a sincere heart and an open mind, to ask God if he is there. Actually say, 'God, if you are there, I want to know about it, and if you aren't, I want to know that too.'"

Then suddenly he went away, and I continued talking with the other people.

About ten minutes after I finished talking, I saw this same man approaching me. He walked up to me and looked me straight in the eye and said, "You know, I just tried what you told me to do, and I had to come back and tell you that I really believe God does exist, and to thank you for helping me to discover that."

Then I said, "Don't thank me, thank the Father!"

Well, needless to say, I was so surprised that I nearly fell over. This man really was searching for God, and as we all know, the Father will never let us down. This experience was every bit as rewarding to me as it was to the other man, because I walked away with one of the greatest feelings I have ever experienced:

THE LOVE OF OUR HEAVENLY FATHER.

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## F.O.G. Radio Ministry Grows

### Penetrates Middle East--U.S. Blanketed

"On Campus", the radio program produced by the Berkeley-based Family of God Foundation, will now be heard on Radio Jordan, a 100,000 watt short-wave station broadcasting from Amman.

This transmitter is King Hussain's primary outlet to the entire Middle East, reaching Israel, of course, and as far as Egypt and into southern Europe.

In view of the fact that the station carries very little religious programming, and that "On Campus" was given a prime time spot (8:00 PM on Friday evenings) we can only conclude that it is God's will that the show's message now begin to reach the Arab world.

The program centers around taped spiritual encounters between Vern Grimsley, long time student of The URANTIA Book, and students on the University of California at Berkeley campus. The URANTIA Book is never mentioned or quoted, but its essential ideas of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man are emphasized.

On the home front, "On Campus" now broadcasts from stations in all fifty states, North Dakota having recently been added, completing the "fifty states" campaign, a two-year effort by the Family of God staff to obtain full nationwide coverage for the program.

## Fred Shupp, Susan Halbert Exchange Wedding Vows

In a lovely church on a lovely day in the hills above Berkeley, Fred Shupp and Susan Halbert exchanged wedding vows. The date was February 14, 1976. Susan wore a modest gown of traditional bridal white, and Fred's apparel included a shirt lovingly hand-embroidered by Susan.

Vern Grimsley officiated, quoting from Plato, the Bible, and The URANTIA Book.

Then Susan spoke these vows: "Fred, I choose you above all others to take as my husband. I pledge to share my life openly with you, to honor and tenderly care for you, to cherish and encourage your growth as an individual, to help you become all that God would have you be. I promise to honor this commitment as long as we both shall live." And Fred responded with similar vows.

Various friends provided original music, enhancing the mood of deep meaning and true love.

Following the ceremony all enjoyed a spread of various delicacies, and many joined in square dancing with blue grass music ably provided by all musicians who cared to join in.

# STUDY GROUPS

## ----- A SUGGESTED FORMAT

Experience with many study groups has shown that the following format is a common one, and one which seems to work well. Of course, each group should work out the variation that works best for them.

1. Assemble: (Have a set time and stick to it.)
2. Fellowship: (Until all members have arrived.)
3. Worship: (Silent or spontaneously aloud, to become centered and attuned preparatory to reading. Some groups join hands in a circle.)
4. Read: (See suggestions below.)
5. Worship: (Give thanks, again silently or aloud. Some groups have a remembrance supper at this time.)
6. Refreshments and Fellowship.
7. Disband: (Stick to the agreed upon time.)

The following are possible approaches to reading, depending upon the newness of the group, member preferences, etc. Generally every person should have a chance to read.

1. Read the next paper in the Book, if you are attempting to read the Book straight through.
2. Read the next paper in series, such as the Thought Adjuster papers, the Religion papers, the Marriage Papers.
3. Read a paper agreed upon at the previous meeting
4. Read a paper agreed upon that night.
5. Each person reads his favorite passage or passages.
6. The "shishkabob" approach: read passages throughout the Book relating to a particular agreed upon theme, e.g., "loyalty", "decisions", "faith", etc.
7. The rotating group leader method: Each week a leader is assigned to choose a topic for the following week. During the week he prepares. At the meeting he assigns appropriate passages for reading and leads discussion.

We hope these ideas will help you have study groups that are intellectually stimulating, religiously helpful, and filled with the spirit of brotherhood.

—CMM

# EDITORIAL

## Correction

In the Fall issue cartoon I said that nobody I've ever shown The URANTIA Book to "has really dug it." Well the very day I mailed that issue, my first 'convert' went out and bought her own book. See Ellens account, p. 10.

## Sponsoring Outreach

Many people send in contributions for "subscriptions" not knowing how much is expected. There is no set amount. The Agondonter is free, and is supported by voluntary donations. But as a guide, if you just want to cover your own costs, send three dollars a year. If you want to sponsor outreach, send more.

## Concentrated Energy

While we're on the subject of money, let us not forget the various other URANTIA activities that need our support. Stop and consider what a privilege it is to be giving our energy to the greatest movement on the planet. (It's been said that money is a form of concentrated energy.)

## Spreading the New Revelation

All our branches are solvent, but all need the continual support of loyal readers to keep them viable and effective. First there is the URANTIA Foundation. The fifth printing is underway and your contributions will help to keep the cost of the book down: within reach of everyone.

Next there is the URANTIA Brotherhood. Its communications and organizational efforts play a vital role in keeping us all in touch and active.

Next there is your local URANTIA Society, FUSLA, SFBAUS, etc., the vehicle for expanding brotherhood on a personal level.

Finally, there are the special projects of your choice, such as the Family of God radio broadcasts, the various URANTIA Society newsletters, and other worthy projects by Urantians that exist now or may spring up in the future.

Pray about it. Put your energy to work. The addresses of these various good causes are listed elsewhere in this issue.

God bless you. And may God bless the efforts of each of us in this great effort, the spreading of the new revelation, the gospel of the Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man.

Peace,  
Charles Montgomery



Bob and Bonnie Hunt and their family.

## Publications

The Agondonter is not presently handling any requests for publications. However, you can now receive the following items directly from the authors. Be sure to send along a couple of dollars to help cover printing and mailing costs.

The URANTIA Book, *A Guide to the Future and Beyond*, is a paper which Bob Hunt delivered to the World Future Society. Write Bob at 1425 Buttermilk Lane, Arcata, CA 95521. Bob is a math professor and expresses himself clearly and beautifully.

The URANTIA Cookbook, is a collection of interesting recipes, many organic, gathered from Urantians by Arlene Weimer. The book contains unusual graphic decorations too. Write Arlene at 419 W. 22nd St., Pueblo, Colorado 81003. By the way, congratulations to Buck and Arlene on their decision to create children for the Father. They are expecting their first child around August 21st, Jesus' birthday.



# Epistle from Australia

Greetings from the other side of the world!

This has been a tremendous experience and one of great joy--meeting all of these loving URANTIA Book readers who are sincerely trying to live the great teachings of the Book.

And prepare yourself--I have 14 study groups to report!

I landed in Sydney after a 21 hour flight. Christmas Eve our beloved young newlyweds, Jane and Phil Rolnick and I had a joyous fellowship and worship together. The next day they decided to drive to Adelaide and then fly from there to join me at Perth, clear across the country to the west coast on the Indian Ocean. We rented a car there as the Universal Brotherhood Inc. is 150 miles south of Perth in a place very difficult to get to.

The group at the Universal Brotherhood Inc. number about 100 young people--some married and with families who live in caravans around or above the main house.

The whole place is headed by Fred and Mary Robinson and a center core of about 8 people. They have 315 acres, with streams and a waterfall--sheep, goats, cows and gardens and orchards. They pay cash for everything and get their living from the land.

Really some bright people there reading the URANTIA Book, and we organized ten study groups under the regular organization they have, of rainbow colors. Each day Phil and Jane and I led study groups and Phil led music a lot, as they are all musically inclined with some really fine musicians among them. Two have been radio singers and I will get their tapes: Brian Peacock and Matt Taylor.

We stayed at a little hotel about ten miles away as there simply wasn't room for all of us at the farm, and we drove back and forth a couple of times a day, with a big musical after each evening meeting and a swim and picnic at the swimming hole on New Year's Day. This is midsummer--fresh vegetables and fresh fruit all sun-ripened.

These beautiful people extended every courtesy and kindness to us.



Julia Fenderson (right) visits with members of the Universal Brotherhood, Inc. in Western Australia.

After returning from Perth to Eastern Australia, we met with Diane and Keith Bacon's marvelous groups. They meet every Monday and Thursday and have about 40 readers listed in their two study groups. They, again, are all young people, about the age of the average study group member wherever I have travelled.

Tom Robinson, another ardent Urantian, has a study group which happened to be on vacation. He showed us so many courtesies and explained how they carry on Urantian activities.

I showed the slides I have now collected from all over and they are so eager to meet everyone they saw on the slides--which also show headquarters at Chicago with the Foundation members and Brotherhood officers. I also showed these at Balingup, (location of the Universal Brotherhood Inc.)

By the way, these people have a little school for primary children, and have a great need for teaching aids and school materials. They are a private school, not a public one, and most of their resources at this point must go toward basic necessities. So please do write to them and send them primary school materials.

c/o Stephen Carthew, Director  
Universal Brotherhood Inc.  
P.O. Balingup 6253  
Western Australia.

Much love and best wishes,

JULIA FENDERSON



Some of the children at Universal Brotherhood

Informal gathering at Universal Brotherhood

Fred and Mary Robinson, and Rosemary Wood

## Readers' Forum

We recently asked our readers to answer one or more of the following: How did you find the URANTIA Book, and what was your immediate response?  
How would you describe the book to others?  
... Here are some of your answers:

In response to your question of how do you relate to an Earthling what The URANTIA Book really is, you might try one or both of the following questions:

- (1) You know what science fiction is?  
Well, this is Science FACT!
- (2) Did you ever receive a 2100-page letter from God?

Jay Newbern  
San Francisco, California

When people ask what I'm reading, I say, "It's a book I find extremely interesting," and let them make their own conclusions from subsequent conversation.

The book found me through a chance meeting of another reader who had mentioned it to me after we had visited ad lib about our personal experiences. The conversation led to the book. It arrived about a month later.

My immediate reaction was that this was the recognizable unfamiliar wishful dream of reality, too good to be true. The words were conceivably beyond this physical life.

I explain to friends that the book found me at a most propitious time of my life, when I was in need of it. I have found so far that while others may not be as interested as I, they appear to be less resistant to the possibility of its reality and seem to be placing it on a shelf for further reference when they can understand it. Of course, I've only shared it with individuals in my personal world, but these individuals seem to be observing me more closely as though they expect more from me in the way of genuineness and love.

It is a book of feelings come true.

Love to you,  
Beatrice Weber  
922 E. Parkway  
Oshkosh, Wis. 54901

How do I describe The URANTIA Book?  
Depending on circumstances:

- (1) A perfect blend of many excellent things, all of which equal a healthy mouthful of good news!
- (2) The "606" Book!

How did I discover The URANTIA Book?

Went into a Pickwick Bookshop looking for something rare and meaty.

What was my immediate reaction?

Pure glee! Much salivary action!

Mark Hastings  
Buena Park, California

Everything can be traced to the events of Halloween night, 1975, when a new friend began reading to me out of a LARGE BLUE BOOK.

Despite my normal distaste for being read to, what I heard from this book quickly and surely captured my imagination. After several days of reflection, a call to my friend for the correct spelling of URANTIA and a journey to the nearest book seller became necessary.

With a combination of wariness and hope, I began to read. From the outset, the URANTIA Book made me feel better--a powerful motivation that has sustained me so far through all of Part One and whets my appetite for the remaining three parts.

What the outcome of such single-minded concentration will be is, of course, yet to reveal itself, but the spiritual skepticism of several decades is giving way. For the first time I am able to believe in a Creator, I see a center now for the obvious vastness, intricacy, balance and beauty of the universe, and I know I have a home in it.

Suddenly I am no longer afraid of the future. It was always easy to reject both the idea of roasting forever below and of an eternity of blissful harp playing above. It was not so simple, however, to dismiss the chilling prospect of nothing. Thanks to The URANTIA Book, nothing is now replaced in my mind by the idea of purposeful survival and, as a result, there is much more meaning in what happens today.

Ellen Cowsky  
Monday, 26 January 1976  
Los Angeles, California

## Vitality vs. Vitalism

—by Jeff Wattles, Ph. D.

We have all been thinking about the supreme values, truth, beauty, and goodness. There are many other, sub-supreme values. How do they relate to the primary ones? I want to advance a beginning of a general answer by talking about a specific class of values—the values of vitality: health, vigor, alertness, happiness, dynamism, determination, enthusiasm, etc. By the word "vitalism" I mean a deformation of an individual's value perceptions in which the values of vitality take top priority and displace the supreme values. What does this mean? To take an example,

There is a significant degree of vitalism in our present culture: the cult of youth, the enormous attention to sexual power, the demagoguery of preferring passionate political conviction to the thoughtful approach to long-range problems, the assertion that feeling is essential

and intellect is less essential. For example, the street corner evangelist may be so eager to impress you with his dynamic joy in having found God that he forgets you in the process, and dons a smile that disappears in the face of personal encounter. That smile dies hard, because it is the confession of incompletely socialized religious discovery.

When I first learned about vitalism\* and its historical connection with facism I became wary of the real values that vitalism overvalues. When I dared to seek out these values in The URANTIA Book I found them everywhere: dynamic religion, living faith, thrilling proclamation, energetic preaching, strength of conviction.

(continued on next page)

\*In philosophy, vitalism is the "doctrine that the processes of life are not explicable by the laws of physics and chemistry alone and that life is in some part self-determining." [Webster's Dictionary definition]

# Scaffolding...

As universes spasm their creation  
And galaxies and systems come and go,  
Temporal urges are replaced by bolder values,  
And time no longer is.

As mind's created out of haziness, confusion,  
And spirit gently wrestles for its final form,  
Some day infinity will show its pattern  
And you will have begun to be.

Eva Sepp  
Kailua, Hawaii

Urantia is the living world  
Upon which man unfolds;  
We are what we're becoming  
And that's what God beholds.

Lawrence Hildonen  
Steilacoom, Wash.

Be still  
The Divine Love

Be still  
To know who you are

Be still  
He speaks with Divine Love  
Brother you are part of all

Be still  
To know who you are  
To know what you are

Be still  
Be assured that you have found Him  
Because if you are looking for Him  
He has found you  
You are a child of God

Be still  
You have nothing to fear  
You are a child of God

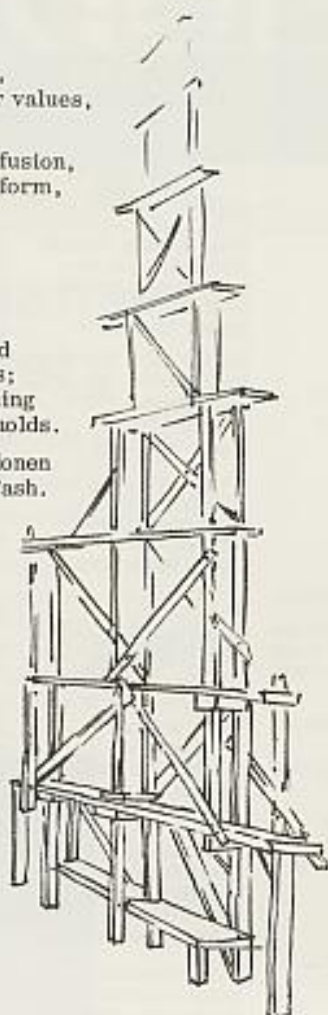
Laura Mabery  
Highland, California

■ And now we,  
Who truly hear the truths  
Of brotherhood upon brotherhoods,  
Have come to see these truths  
Through a new set of revelations:  
Yet undisturbed  
By the careless hands of this realm.

■ Wherefore,  
It is up to us  
To live  
And adhere to these truths  
While they are  
In their purist form,  
Rather than just knowing  
And believing.

■ Seeing the eternal path,  
You are only a bystander.  
It is only by following this path  
That you become  
One of the many eternal pioneers  
Of the universes.

Jonathon Johnson  
Los Angeles



You are a love leaf on the great cosmic tree,  
You are exquisitely irreplaceable;  
You will soar on the wings of eternal glory;  
You will transcend into the Divine heights of Light.  
Why not take the inner kingdom by surprise, now,  
With a gale of laughing and joy?  
For to you He sends no surrogate ambassador;  
He Himself comes to you personally and forever.



Dr. Robert Slagle  
Sebastopol, California

## A JESUSONIAN EPISTLE -- Excerpts

---ooo0ooo---

As a domicile, this planet supports mankind's  
inhabitants regardless of beliefs.

---ooo0ooo---

To govern oneself in the spirit of love, mercy and  
universal service and by the rules of truth, goodness  
and beauty is the mark of a Jesusonian and hope of our  
human family's continued existence.

---ooo0ooo---

By placing yourself below the position of God, you  
enter into an adventure of uncertainty with the prompt-  
ings of an indwelling guide. By acknowledging yourself  
as God's expressive medium, you accept the responsi-  
bility of giving freedom to your imprisoned guide.  
Your duty to yourself is to acknowledge all that you are,  
even your spirit.

---ooo0ooo---

A Jesusonian is not one to accept death as the end;  
he is, in concept, a seed of time in the soil of eternity.

--Jonas

(continued from previous page)

The relation of higher values to lower is like that of a  
two-stage waterfall. The torrent from the summit fills  
the next rocky receiver to overflowing. If we take our  
stance as citizens in the domain of the Supreme and sons  
of the Father, the vitality will be born spontaneously—  
just like tomatoes on a tomato plant.

Lower values are important, but as we progress they  
require less attention to be satisfied. Material values  
are lower than spiritual, but a balance is required—for  
example: If you do not keep your body in tune, the har-  
mony of spirit, mind, and body which is necessary for  
personality progress will be delayed.

The indwelling Adjuster is the key to discerning in  
any vital performance the truth contained therein. Let us  
not greatly value personality force, rhetorical power,  
youthful enthusiasm in ourselves or others except as it  
is coordinated with and springs from the pure spirit  
energy of the water of life, the First Source and Center.

The Adjuster is also a key to augmenting our true  
vitality. If I wake up without cheer and enthusiasm for  
the day's work, I can visualize my Adjuster's cheer and  
enthusiasm, stand by faith in the flow of that spirit energy,  
stumble out of bed, and take two showers instead of one.

—JW, November 1975

## Study Groups in the West

### Australia

Keith & Diane Bacon  
270 Walsh St.  
S. Yarra Melbourne  
Victoria Australia 3141

Tom Reynolds  
1622 Dandenong Rd.  
Oakleigh, Melbourne  
Victoria Australia 3166

Wolfgang & Irene Borrutta  
20 Moonya Rd.  
Carnegie, Melbourne  
Victoria Australia 3163

Phil & Jane Rolnick  
Flat 1 - 25 Pacific Espl.  
Slade Point, Queensland  
Australia 4741



Fred Robinson  
Mary Robinson  
Rosemary Wood  
Stephen Carthew  
(Ten Study Groups)  
Universal Brotherhood, Inc.  
P. O. Balingup,  
Western Australia 6253

### Northern California



Bob & Bonnie Hunt  
1425 Buttermilk Ln.  
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(707) 822-4938

Bob & Cheryl Boden  
Route 1, Box 8  
Lola, CA 95551  
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3516 Bajamont Way  
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David Saunders  
Box 816  
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Box 1126  
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Christy Chung  
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Honolulu, HI 96822  
988-3805  
(Tues. 7:30 PM)

Nor Lau  
403 Namahana St.  
Waikiki, HI 96815  
(Thurs. 2:00 PM)

Sue Smith  
1588 Kamali St.  
Honolulu, HI 96821  
373-1936  
(Wed. 2:00 PM)

Jim Kimmell  
Star Route 370  
Kaunakakai,  
Molokai 96748  
558-8181  
(Wed. Sun. daily)

Bill Lindsay  
3649 Nihopal Pl.  
Honolulu, HI 96816  
737-3424  
(Tues. 7:30 PM)

Eva Sepp  
Kailua, HI 96734  
Call Kathy for  
time. 261-0781

### Alaska



Pat & Tuckey Hayes  
SRA 1547 J  
Anchorage, AK 99507  
Ph: 344-5069

### Northwest States



Lewis & Alice Clark  
243 S. Georgia Ave.  
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(509) 854-4655

David & Rose  
Clearwaters  
538 South Side Rd.  
Grants Pass,  
Oregon, 97526

Joe Zablrel  
832 B Street  
Ashland, Oregon  
97520

Elouise Wells Child  
200 S. E. Tide Ave.  
Lincoln City,  
Oregon 97367

### Western States

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Clarkfork, Idaho 83811

Wally & Marilyn Sharpe  
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(303) 544-8752

Mo & Peggy Siegel  
702-1/2 Spruce St.  
Boulder, Colo. 80302  
(303) 447-0033



Dorothy Elms  
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Albuquerque, NM 87112  
(505) 299-1929

Ed Oscarson  
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Ph: 821-6196

### Los Angeles County



Chas. & Dorothy Hicks  
11357 Berwick  
Los Angeles, 90049  
(213) 472-8722  
(Meets Wednesdays)



Vince & Cathy Ventola  
1610 California Ave.  
Santa Monica, 90403  
(213) 395-0802  
(Meets Thursdays)

Scott & Carol Forsythe  
12815 Pacific Ave. #8  
Los Angeles, 90066  
(213) 390-2573  
(Tues. 8:00 PM)

Michael & Felice Long  
3993 Drysdale Ave.  
Los Angeles, 90032  
(213) 222-9566  
(Meets Wednesdays)



Terry Follmer  
17 Sunset #4  
Venice, CA 90201  
396-2991  
(Sun. 10 AM)

Ruth Flanders  
15315 Florwood Ave.  
Lawndale, CA 90260  
(213) 676-6109  
(Thursday evenings)

Polly Friedman  
18863 Muirkirk Dr.  
Northridge, 91324  
(213) 300-4018  
(Meets Saturdays)

Bill & Jean Becker  
541 San Gabriel  
Sierra Madre, CA  
(213) 355-8772  
(Mon. 8:00 PM)

### San Francisco Bay



For information on  
other groups in the  
Bay Area, contact:  
SFBAUS, Box 126  
Berkeley, CA 94701  
(Pres. David Gray,  
Ph. 415-548-2428)

Dr. Robert Slagle  
2010 Coffee Lane  
Sebastopol, CA 95472  
(707) 823-0876

Mark Turin  
DL 50661050  
1820 Balley Road  
Concord, CA 94521

Bob & Sara Blackstock  
509 Carmel Ave.  
Albany, CA 94706  
(2nd Sun. 7:30 PM)

David & Sue Kantor  
2584 Craig St.  
Castro Valley, CA 94546  
(415) 582-7280

Dr. Jeffrey Wattles  
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Jo Ann Eichmann  
1850 Arch St.  
Berkeley, CA 94709  
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William Jonke  
1502 20th St.  
San Francisco 94107  
(415) 647-2047

Meredith Landrun  
2842 Buchanan  
San Francisco 94123  
(Several groups)

Jim Rowland  
21841 Delores Ave.  
Cupertino, CA 95014

### Central Coast

George & Barbara  
Thornbury  
831 Belden St. #2  
Monterey, CA 93940  
(408) 624-9004

Bob Chen  
612 Andamar Way  
Goleta, CA 93107  
(Wed. 8:00 PM)

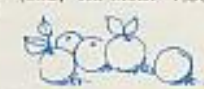
### Riverside County

Russ & Gladys  
Marquart  
8224 Acapulco Pl.  
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(714) 687-5257  
(Meets Wednesdays)

Beverly Wold  
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Hemet, CA 92343  
(714) 927-1015  
(Meets Wednesdays)

### Orange County

Duane & Lucile Faw  
11912 Arroyo  
Santa Ana, CA 92705  
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(2nd, 4th Mon. 7:30)



### San Diego County

Rich Keeler  
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Solana Beach CA 92075  
(714) 753-3246

Capt. & Mrs. Hazzard  
4388 Arcadia Dr.  
San Diego, CA 92103  
(714) 299-4195



Dick & Cheryl Prince  
645 Loring St.  
San Diego, CA 92109  
(714) 488-0747  
(Tues. PM)

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