

MONITOR

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

November, 1979

P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

We want to inform all members and friends of FUSLA of an important change in meeting arrangements: We have been forced by the remodeling at the Veterans' Memorial Building to seek another meeting place. For the next three months, we will be meeting in Room 103, Building B-4, at West Los Angeles College.

We will be permitted to serve prepared foods and beverages, and have the use of a sink in the room. Unfortunately, these meeting facilities will not accommodate children.

We face the additional problem of having a locked gate which will be opened for a 30 minute period before the meeting, locked during the meeting, and opened again at the end of the meeting. This will necessitate careful planning by those attending meetings, because we will have to be on time.

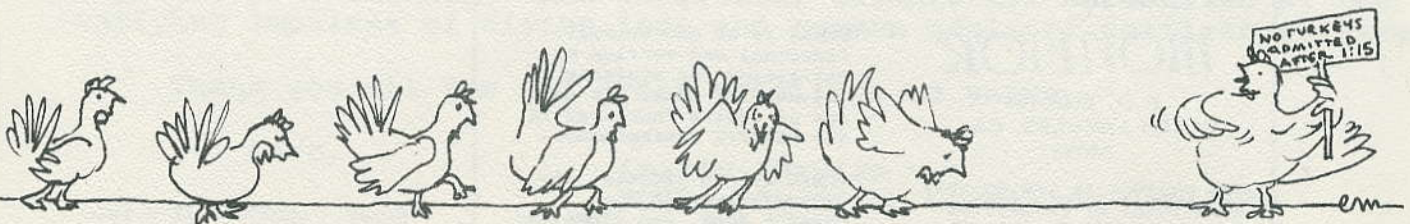
There is a map in this issue to show you where to park--plenty of parking is available for our largest meetings. We will put up signs or post people to help you find the room.

An attempt will be made to negotiate better gate arrangements when we meet the guard in person. Meantime, let's all arrive no later than 1:15 PM.

Our Society has been looking for an appropriate permanent meeting place for over two years. A new search committee will be appointed soon to check more possible sites. Volunteers are welcome!

....The conference set a spiritually high note which should sustain us for a long time. Come share our loving fellowship and learn more of the teachings from The URANTIA Book.

Lucile Faw.



THANKSGIVING: FROM PETITION UP TO WORSHIP--A TURKEY STORY

Thanksgiving season brings to mind images of family gatherings around the table, turkey with all the trimmings, and the harvest. There was once a time when the harvest was a significant season of the year. (That was before canned foods, frozen foods, and long distance shipping made nearly every kind of food available all year around.) And when the sheaves were brought in, abundant and overflowing the bins, men were compellingly reminded of how bounteous the earth is, and how provident the ways of God. And they gave thanks...gratefully, spontaneously. Eventually the thanksgiving dinner became an annual tradition.

As City dwellers, we are removed from the phenomena of ripening and harvest. We see food as something that comes in brown bags from the grocery store, and is bought with money. So we tend to give thanks primarily for the fact that we can afford all this food and put it on the table.

Let us remember that the source of all this, the turkey and the trimmings, the stuff and the stuffing, is Providence itself: that before the brown bags, the money exchanges, the distributor, the farm machinery, even before the farmer's labor and planned intention, there existed the mysterious forces of life itself which produced the grains, the fowl, the berries, and brought them forth in the environment, more or less for our taking.

We might remind ourselves to be thankful not only for the availability of these things, but also for their very existence. And the contemplation of their existence, for those who will take the time to really see, brings wonderment. How did God do this? How does this web of life, this galaxy of phenomenal variation, this cycle of experience, really come to be? And we see how marvellous He is! How beyond our understanding, yet within our appreciation!

And thus our thoughts progress: from petition (for isn't that what concern over availability really is?) to thanksgiving (When we perceive that heaven mysteriously gives these things forth) to true worship (when we begin to appreciate the magnificence of the creative and loving spirit which set all this up.) It is at this point that we experience real devotion, even communion, in relation to our maker. --CMM

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The Monitor is the monthly newsletter of FUSLA, The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles.

Charles Montgomery, Editor

FUSLA is an educational, fraternal and service organization for students of The URANTIA Book. It is one of twelve Societies in the URANTIA Brotherhood.

There are no official interpretations of The URANTIA Book, and views expressed at FUSLA meetings and in the Monitor are entirely individual.

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FUSLA'S REGIONAL CONFERENCE--"A SPECIAL WEEKEND"--GREAT SUCCESS

We think everyone really enjoyed our special weekend. Such a nice setting, great food, terrific program and wonderful fellowship-- There were about 130 people there. And would you believe, we came out just about even on the books--expenditures balancing receipts. (Of course there were a number of generous unreimbursed contributions by participants.) Fine conference! Let's do another soon!

A NOTE OF THANKS

Dear Friends,

I have received a lot of congratulations, positive evaluations and thanks from the loving brothers and sisters who shared in FUSLA's "Special Weekend" on October 5, 6 and 7. I want to take this opportunity to add my own gratitude, and share this praise for a job well done with the large number of people who are truly responsible for creating the conference.

To the artists, entertainers, speakers, moderators, scholars and students--to the gracious hosts, transporters, greeters, registrars--to the child care volunteers, cooks, bakers, furniture movers, --to the technical equipment donors and operators, the writers, typers, graphic artists, printers, envelope addressers, stuffers, and lickers--to the visionaries, the clean up crew, the problem solvers-- to all of you who served so freely...THANK YOU.

We are especially grateful to our guests from Oklahoma, and from Berkeley and Sacramento, for the thoughtful research, diligent labor, creative energy and love that was reflected in their inspirational and uplifting presentations.

I want also to thank the FUSLA Governing Committee for their consistent encouragement, support, and trust--and thanks to the Foundation for their concern, vigilance and advice.

But most of all, my deepest appreciation and love to Lori Bailey, Donna Byrum-Klavir, Karen Jeppeson, Chick and Ellen Montgomery, Diana Rolfe, and Jim Wanlass who made up the conference planning committee. This talented and diverse group gave their time, energy and love so that we all could share a special moment of fellowship. And in doing so, they taught me great lessons about the increased strength and capability of teamwork when individual talents are harmonized by the unifying impulses of divine love and common goals of selfless service.

Thank you all for the great privilege to serve.

Love,

Lorrie Shapiro
FUSLA Education Committee Chairman

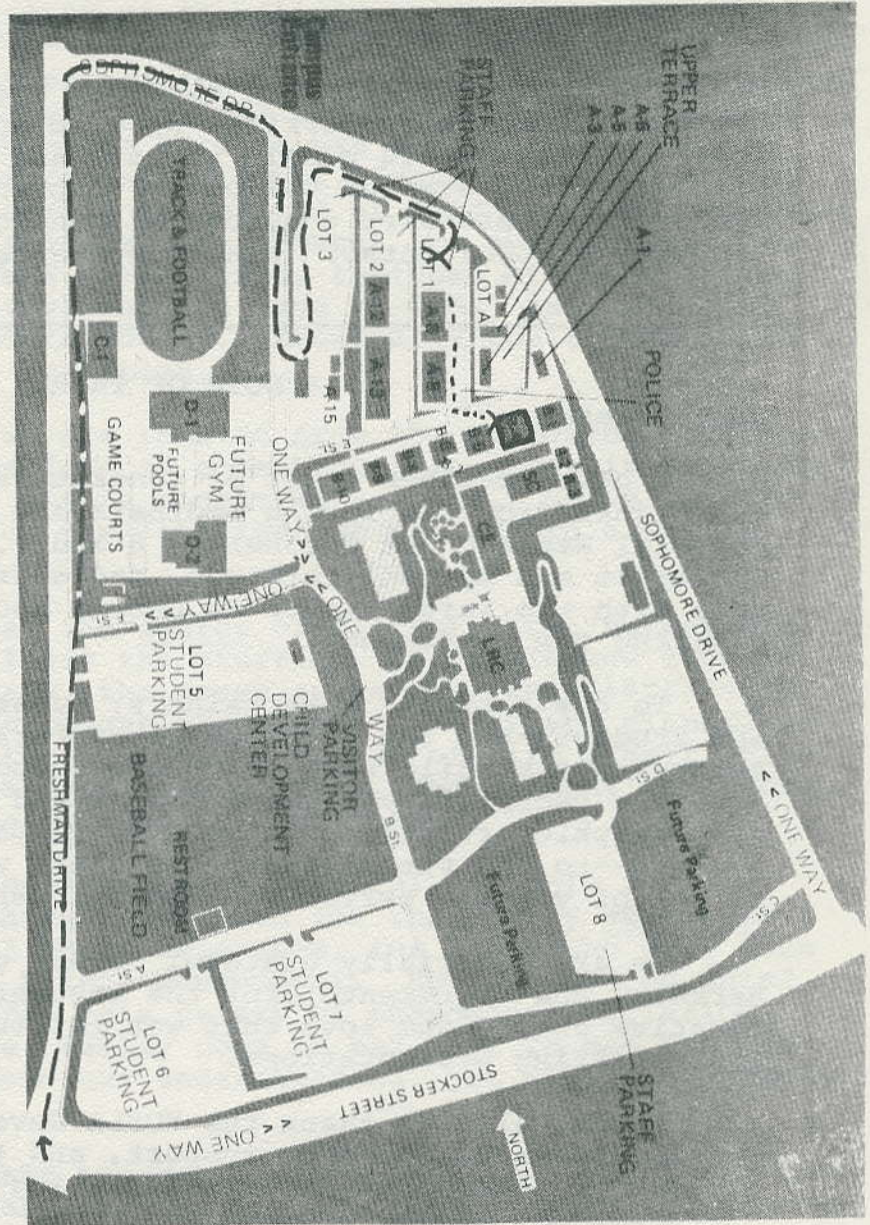
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"OUR PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE" IS THE THEME FOR NOVEMBER'S MEETING

You all saw that large cloth painting of the Master Universe at the Conference? Well, that will be the focus of a 15-minute talk by Chick Montgomery entitled "The Master Universe and the Mortal Ascension Career," at our first-Sunday-of-the-month meeting on November 4, at our new meeting place (see map) at 1:15 sharp.

After Chick's talk we will break up into small study groups to ponder 20 questions (you will be given a list) including toughies like "How do we evaluate the odds for survival?"

Y'all come and bring a friend as this will be a topic of interest to everyone.



The Big Picture:
(See maps to right for more detailed directions.)

