



GALA CHRISTMAS ISSUE!
the MONITOR

DECEMBER
1981

NEWSLETTER of the FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY of LOS ANGELES

Peace ON Earth

by Joanne Whitbread

Jesus' life among us is a gift we cherish close to our hearts. The truth and spirit of his life guide us lovingly through each day of our lives. The December FUSLA meeting will provide an atmosphere of spiritual rejuvenation with the remembrance of our loving Creator Son. Being so close to Christmas, when the world celebrates his sojourn on URANTIA, it promises to be an inspiring, lovefilled celebration of the life of Jesus of Nazareth. Duane and Lucille Faw have generously opened their home in Malibu for the occasion. Lori Long will satisfy our palettes with a delicious Christmas Pot Luck. I am certain Lori will welcome any help, so if you have a special Christmas dish you wish to bring, please call her- (213) 255-1375. And of course there will be Christmas carols to sing.

But most importantly, the focus of our hearts will be on a presentation of the seven bestowals of Christ Michael, and the loving celebration of a Remembrance Supper from 1 PM - 1:30 PM during the optional prayer time. Please reread for preparation, and your enjoyment, Paper 179 (pg. 1936) with special emphasis on:

3. Washing the Apostle's Feet
5. Establishing the Remembrance Supper

Also in Paper 180,

1. The New Commandment

Please join us for what I expect will be a profound experience of Michael's love.

1.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

December . . . the Season of Remembrance. The Season of Celebration and Giving. The Season of Light. Of the Bestowals of Light. Of the Birth of Light. The Birth of the Child on URANTIA. Of Michael on Earth. The Christ Child within our Hearts. The Star Child of our Souls.

The Season of Family. The family of Joseph and Mary and Joshua Ben. The Family of Our Father and Our Mother. Our Family of God's.

The Season of Brothers and Sisters. The Season of Children. Asleep on Christmas Eve and waking on Christmas Morning in GodLight and SonShine. Receiving the Gifts of Love from the Father and Mother of Life Eternal.

And so we are born the Children of Light. And Christmas is born again in December. As He was born on August the twenty-first. As we are born again each and every day.

This month we shall dedicate our meeting to Michael, as our Christmas present to You. We would love for you to celebrate with us at a very special and unique gathering. For this month our spotlight is truly on Spirit . . . Michael's Spirit. We will honor Our Creator Son and Sovereign of Nebadon and the Path of Bestowals which brought him to us. And in the deepest Spirit of this Season we invite you to join us for a * Christmas Remembrance Supper. * (*optional during quiet time)

As students of The URANTIA Book, how could we not include this most treasured way of remembering Our Master's Life and of Celebrating his Ever-Presence. And what a joy to share this experience with you at Christmas.

Of course there will be fellowship and feasting. And a warning to one and all . . . come prepared to Sing for there will be Christmas music in the air. Will you join us this December?

But above all, please know that wherever you are, our Season's Greetings and Prayers shine out to you, your family, and friends, for a Peace-Filled and joyous Christmas.

Pray for World Peace on Urantia
God Bless Us All

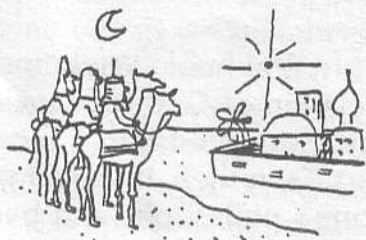
Vince Ventola

ATTENDANCE UP AT NOVEMBER MEETING

For those of you who missed last month's meeting on "Prayer, Thanksgiving, and Worship," we're happy to report that it was quite successful. We had a group of 30 people who participated in the optional ½ hour group worship, and the consensus of opinion was that it felt good to add an element of prayer to FUSLA meetings. This will be a regular feature at each meeting from here on.

About 40 people attended the FUSLA meeting, in which Vince Ventola's study group shared their experiences on group prayer. The meeting opened with a short videotape of "man on the street" interviews, produced by Roxy, on the topic of prayer. While Vince moderated, the study group members told FUSLA about their experiences with group prayer. This led to an interesting discussion on the topic, with everyone participating. We ended with fellowship and refreshments.

We hope even more readers will attend our December meeting. Please make a special effort to be there, because our FUSLA meetings are getting better and better!



A Christmas Message

Nearly Two thousand years ago the close of a Dispensation Period was marked by a fourth epochal revelation to mankind which inaugurated the beginning of a new era of enlightenment for all seekers of Spiritual knowledge, beauty and truth.

Somehow the story of the three Magi bearing gifts to the new-born Savior has been lovingly handed down from generation to generation with all its simple charm and eloquence. Between the lines of its allegory lie a Spiritual message of deep significance, symbolized by the very act itself -- of giving.

To give is to serve. To serve other than self stirs the God Fragment within each of us. The only way the Will of the Father can be done is through service to others. As we continue giving, each loving act becomes another footstep along the pathway leading to the Kingdom of Heaven.

As we are gathered together at Christmas time, let us remember the hearth of the family is the very heart of our civilization; and our giving of gifts is but a reminder that the Royal Road to the Kingdom is indeed, constant loving service to others day by day, each and every day of the year.

---Dick MacDonald

by Duane and Lucile Faw

The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (FUSLA) is a component society of URANTIA Brotherhood. URANTIA Brotherhood is a voluntary, non-profit, secular organization designed to promote the spread and understanding of the teachings of The URANTIA Book. It is a social, collective activity and claims no ecclesiastical authority.

The Brotherhood consists of persons who, having discovered in The URANTIA Book certain values which are meaningful to themselves, wish to employ collective action as a means of sharing their exciting discoveries with others. IT IS NOT A RELIGION! It has no saints, shrines, dogma, ritual or holy relics. Its members include many who are active in various organized religions.

Although the Brotherhood does "foster religion," such religion is simply a God-knowing relationship between each individual and his or her God. Society and Brotherhood meetings are not worship services, though the end product of successful group study leads to worship, individual or collective, by God-knowing persons. Therefore, the Brotherhood does not discourage voluntary, spontaneous and inclusive worship as part of any of its activities.

The URANTIA Book is not sacred; it is a physical book. While to many readers it contains the Fifth Epochal Revelation of God to mankind, it reveals nothing except as its teachings are assimilated into a receptive mind and accepted by a truth-hungry heart. Even then, its teachings are ineffective until they go beyond being one's philosophy and become one's religion. Truth can be known only to persons: no human institution, organization or group can hold the "truth."

Persons who have "found" The URANTIA Book seem to develop two appetites: first, to search more deeply into the teachings of the book; and second, to share these great teachings with others. URANTIA Brotherhood and its societies help provide a framework or mechanism for satisfying these needs by organizing, encouraging and supporting study groups for collective reading and discussion of the book; conducting conferences and workshops; and through presentation of in—depth papers on specific topics from The URANTIA Book. The urge to share the teachings with others is met in several ways: through an evangelizing effect of study groups, societies and conferences; through providing open forums for orientation of the curious, and by seeking wise and

appropriate means of making the book available to those who may be led to seek it, such as placing copies in bookstores and libraries.

The Brotherhood does not employ Madison Avenue techniques to promote sales of The URANTIA Book. Rather, we seek to make the book available to as many of those led by the Spirit as we can. It is the unfortunate truth that some religious groups feel threatened by what they hear about one or more of the teachings of The URANTIA Book. We seek no confrontation with them, nor do we seek to challenge or proselyte any person who has found peace with God through any religion. We must depend upon readers to be sensitive and discerning in opening the book only to those who are truth-hungry and truth-seeking.

Membership in the Brotherhood is open to those who have read a sufficient portion of the book to know with moral certainty that it contains teachings of such value as to warrant further personal study and inquiry and who wish to commit themselves to further dissemination of its teachings through a human, social institution designed to provide resources for this task through collective action.

Membership (or non-membership) in URANTIA Brotherhood does not affect one's salvation. URANTIA Brotherhood recognizes that all God-knowing beings are members of that greater spiritual brotherhood: the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of GOD.

The First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles is the local arm of the URANTIA Brotherhood. Members join the Brotherhood through FUSLA. However, FUSLA is autonomous in determining its activities and government. FUSLA has its own personality; no other society is like it.

FUSLA can, and has, set its own standards for membership. These few requirements are not designed to produce an 'elite' group, but to make certain that those who join are fully aware of the nature of the teachings of The URANTIA Book, the goals and functions of the Brotherhood, and of the fact that membership is not a goal but rather a commitment to further service.

FUSLA has established the following requirements for membership, which are found in its Constitution:

- 1—Have attained the age of 14 years, be resident in good standing of this community and of this country;
- 2—Affirm a belief in the teachings of The URANTIA Book; and
- 3—Affirm their support of the URANTIA Foundation in its mandate

to maintain legal protection of the concentric circles symbols, the word URANTIA as a trademark and service mark, and the copyright of The URANTIA Book.

In addition, the Governing Committee has established a policy requiring each applicant to have completed reading the entire book before being inducted into membership. The Governing Committee is further required by the Constitution to be guided in its judgment of the eligibility for membership of any candidate by his/her maturity, participation in study group and/or society meetings over a period of at least one year, completion of an orientation program designed by the Society, familiarity with the content of The URANTIA Book and sponsorship by one or more members of FUSLA. These five guidelines are not to be considered as mandatory requirements that each candidate must have met.

If you think that you would like to join with us in supporting the programs of URANTIA Brotherhood and those of FUSLA, please contact Duane or Lucile Faw by mail at 23301 Bocoana, Malibu, California 90265 or call us in the evening at (213) 456-9708. If there is sufficient interest, an orientation series consisting of three meetings will begin in January.

At Long Last . . .

As most of you already know, Michael and Lori Long are the proud parents of a baby boy, Erien Michael Varton Long. The Monitor apologizes for the delay in this announcement of our newest Urantian, but Erien also kept *us* waiting. We expected him to be born in late June, but his birth was miscalculated by Michael and Lori, both first-time parents. We're sure they'll get the next one right! Erien was born on August 7, 1981, and weighed in at 9½ pounds and was 22 inches in height. You've probably seen him at FUSLA meetings, a healthy dark-haired, dark-eyed beauty. We welcome him to Urantia, and congratulate Lori and Michael on this joyful occasion.

study group SCOOP



Enthusiasm, the joy of discovery, love and warmth are just a few of the sensations one feels at the home of Pierre and Marlene Chicoine at their Monday night study group in Anaheim. Fifteen readers seated around a large table filled with snacks, papers, and URANTIA Books, grappling with the physical aspects of Jerusem create an energy level that's so hard to describe, but so wonderful to be a part of.

It's hard to believe that this study group began less than two years ago with only two readers. How it has grown! Many new readers attend this group along with seasoned veterans like Pat McNelly and Pierre, who provide patience and direction for the newer students. The group reads from the book, going paper by paper. They are now well into the Local Universe section. Not only is this one of the largest study groups I've ever attended, but four different Orange County study groups have grown out of it!

One of the nicest things about this group (and there are many) is that children are welcomed and provided for. In fact, the youngest reader I'd ever met attends this group (she's 13!). So many children are attracted on Monday night that Marlene and Pierre are beginning a special study group for children, ages 2 to 12 years, on Sunday. They will be studying The Life And Teachings of Jesus.

As if this wasn't enough good news. . . this group doesn't only study, THEY ACT! They have donated five URANTIA Books for a new group beginning in Bear Island, Alaska. They are contacting libraries all over Orange County about placing books, and they've also sent a book to India!

I could go on and on about this very special group of brothers and sisters in Orange County. We would all do well to visit their group and catch some of the infectious joy and energy they radiate. If you're interested in attending the Monday night group or the new children's study group on Sundays, feel free to call Pierre or Marlene for directions at (714) 761-1565. You'll be better for it.

Love Love Love,
Lorrie Shapiro

FUSLA SERVITALS

—Francyl Streano, a Berkeley reader and musician, is collecting lyrics and songs for a new spiritual album to be released soon. Those interested in contributing original music should call her at (415) 548-7966.

—Terry St. James is collecting original songs for a booklet of URANTIA Book related music. Call him at (213) 653-3223.

—Brian Soderberg, (213) 838-3215, still needs help in programming names of URANTIA Book readers into his computer. Call after 6 P.M.

—FUSLA is once again looking for a new meeting place. It must be centrally located, inexpensive, large, and have parking and kitchen facilities. A "search" committee is forming now, headed by Vince Ventola. Call him at (213) 396-9180.

—Any FUSLA member who does not have a membership card and would like one, please call Grace A. Sims, (213) 459-3284, and she will send you one.

"Ooops We're Sorry!"

In the November issue of The Monitor, outgoing board member Irving Townsend was thanked for serving as head of the Membership Committee. This is incorrect. He was chairman of the Book Committee, and we apologize for this mistake.

Why More URANTIA Societies?

by Polly Friedman

Many people in southern California are asking, "why more URANTIA Societies in this area?" For the sake of discussion let's examine the particular needs here and the special communication problems we face:

The metropolitan areas of San Diego and Los Angeles are like one vast rug of people reaching from Mexico to Santa Barbara. The rug is one of various designs — American Traditional, Oriental, Native American, Mexican, African, etc. — an intricate weaving of many ethnic patterns. Those of us blessed with exposure to revelatory truth have a unique opportunity now to assist others in finding this remarkable revelation. This outreach involves placing books in key places, providing educational aids and programs, and answering inquiries — bringing people together. To be effective, this necessitates personal contact, not only a voice on the phone or a word in print but a helpful hand. For it is most advantageous to share ourselves with others. How best to bring individuals in touch with one another and encourage small groups in study?

Study groups concentrate on study, learning, and individual growth. Societies seem to function mainly in the communications area, serving as a spiritually motivated switchboard. We all appreciate the real one-to-one contact, more than the recorded voice, or the computer. In this day of mechanization and numbers, lonely individuals crave sincere caring and attention. This direct personal assistance can be possible only with definite plans of operation. Many active units will not only serve to greater advantage, but eliminate the bureaucracy of large complex organizations, resulting in more opportunities for specific leadership tasks.

More Societies will provide greater representation in The URANTIA Brotherhood that is uniquely West Coast. The Middle-West needs this progressive input. At present, Society members are the practical source of providing representation.

More Societies mean more tracks going in the same direction, more hands joining hands for wider outreach and a broader sharing of experience, responsibility as "soldiers of the circles", i.e. expanded grass roots participation!

The picture I see is not one of separate wheels revolving independently like isolated planets, but rather interlocking cogs of separate, clock-wheels turning at different speeds, together efficiently producing the march of time.

SPOTLIGHT ON SPIRIT

The Spirit in Science

by Lorrie Shapiro

On July 20, 1969, Apollo II astronauts gazed down on the first earthrise ever witnessed from the moon. It was then we realized that the earth and the heavens were no longer divided. The earth is in the heavens. Thus has science been bringing man closer and closer to the realization that we need a new religion, with new and expanding symbols.

Can science, the cold calculated art of hard facts and raw knowledge, bring us closer to the Father? Can we marry the centuries of accumulated religious doctrine with the discoveries of the moment and tomorrow? Will scientists introduce the mind of man to the possibility of God?

Here's what a few scientists have to say:

JULIAN JAYNES, Professor of Psychology at Princeton University and author of *The Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*:

"... But science and religion are becoming resonant to each other again with the discovery of the bicameral mind out of which religions began. The probability that this ancient mentality was genetically evolved and thus has even now a definite and special substratum in the brain tells us that religious feelings and strivings are not just historical ephemera but have a biological basis in us all."

MICHAEL WEISS, biochemist, Dept. of Neurophysiology, Harvard Medical School:

"A person who is both a scientist and a believer, as I am, uses both disciplines to come to a comprehensive world view. I think the so-called conflict is contrived by people who understand neither science nor religion. When I go into a lab and discover a magnificent enzyme system in a bacterium and it's the same enzyme system that humans and elephants have, that shows me the beauty of the Universe as manifested through God."

(continued)

JOHN SLAUGHTER, electrical engineer and director, National Science Foundation:

"I see nothing in an age of science that would reflect in any way but positively on the future of religion. It is true, I believe, that in the increasingly revealed beauty, regularity and interdependence of nature a large number of scientists see the hand of a supreme being."

FATHER ROBERT A. BRUNGS, S.J., physicist and director, Institute for Theological Encounter with Science and Technology, St. Louis: "Developments, especially in the life sciences and the information technologies, raise significant questions about the meaning of our humanity. Science is only a part of the total human endeavor and cannot explain the meaning of the whole. Answering the questions of meaning — the why questions — has been one of the traditional roles of religion. Since the questions of human meaning are becoming more crucial under the impact of science, religion will be needed even more."

This is the struggle of forging a new faith. The scientists and the religionists grapple with ancient beliefs and modern discoveries, searching for the future religion. . .fusing science and spirit. "Can it be done?" The world wonders. And somewhere another big blue book is opened by the trembling hands of a new pilgrim.

Reference: Visions of A New Faith, Science Digest — Nov. 1981

eyes of faith
forever seeing what mind does not
joyous love, sublime peace pervade my being
perfect guide I love you
forever opening further my eyes, my heart,
creating our perfect union
faith imagination inspires images of joy,
at last ot consciously embrace
love, divinity
eyes of faith become eyes of experience.

—Joanne Whitbread

Quotes of the Month

"Be not discouraged; human evolution is still in progress, and the revelation of God to the world, in and through Jesus, shall not fail." p. 2097

"Jesus did not require of his followers that they should periodically assemble and recite a form of words indicative of their common beliefs. He only ordained that they should gather together to actually do something —partake of the communal supper of the remembrance of his bestowal life on Urantia." p. 1091

"God is spirit, and God gives a fragment of his spirit self to dwell in the heart of man. Spiritually, all men are equal. The kingdom of heaven is free from castes, classes, social levels, and economic groups. You are all brethren." p. 1487

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the MONITOR

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The MONITOR is the monthly newsletter of FUSLA, the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles. FUSLA is an educational, fraternal and service organization for students of The URANTIA Book. It is one of the thirteen 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.

NOTE: Urantia is a registered mark of the Urantia Foundation, copyright owner of The Urantia Book.

EDITORIAL

The purpose of The Monitor is to keep you, the readers, informed about FUSLA activities, give you a place to voice your opinions, and get to know some of our members a little bit better than you otherwise might. We also try to keep those who cannot attend our monthly meetings regularly well informed.

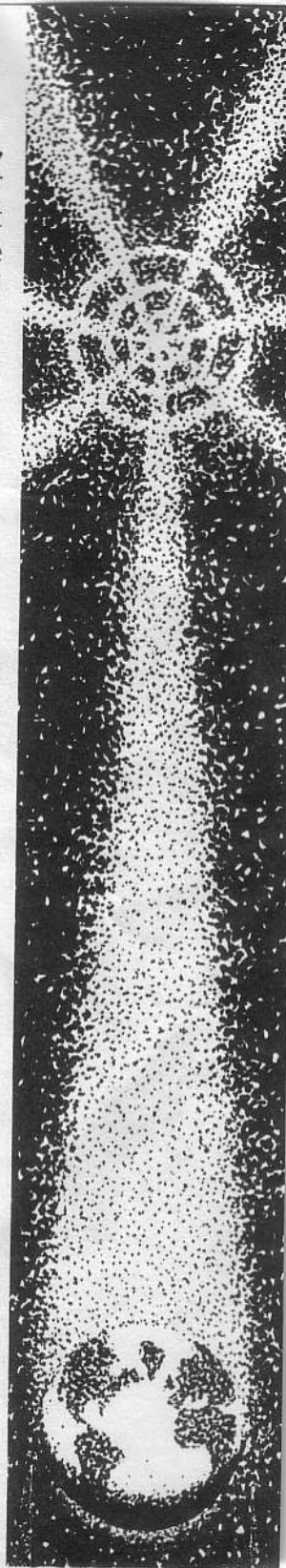
In keeping with these goals, we would like to include a photograph or two in each issue, and expand our mailing list to include presidents of other Societies, Brotherhood field representatives, and other URANTIA related publications.

The response so far to our newly expanded Monitor has been overwhelmingly positive. We encourage you to drop us a line and let us know *your* reactions, suggestions, and ideas. Letters to the editors will be included in future issues.

Unfortunately, due to ever-increasing production costs and an expanded format, The Monitor has exceeded its budget. In order for us to continue this increased coverage of FUSLA activities it will be necessary for us to do some fund raising. In this December issue of The Monitor, the staff extends holiday greetings to all of you, and in addition, we have included a cut-out bookmark for you to use in your URANTIA Books. Perhaps you might place it in page 1581, and read the quote on paragraph 5. If the spirit of giving is upon you during this season, please remember The Monitor. We will gratefully accept private donations for The Monitor, whether large or small. They should be given to Gary Reedy, our treasurer, at the next FUSLA meeting, or mailed to us.

Won't you consider helping us so that we may better serve you? Merry Christmas to you, in this season of love and joy. It is wonderful to experience the Brotherhood of man with millions of people across the world, and welcome Michael symbolically to Urantia again as we do every year. As troubled as our world is it's comforting to remember that Michael chose us for his final bestowal, and *that's* a cause for celebration! We pray for Peace on Earth, and the coming of Light and Life to our planet.

Roxy and Bruce

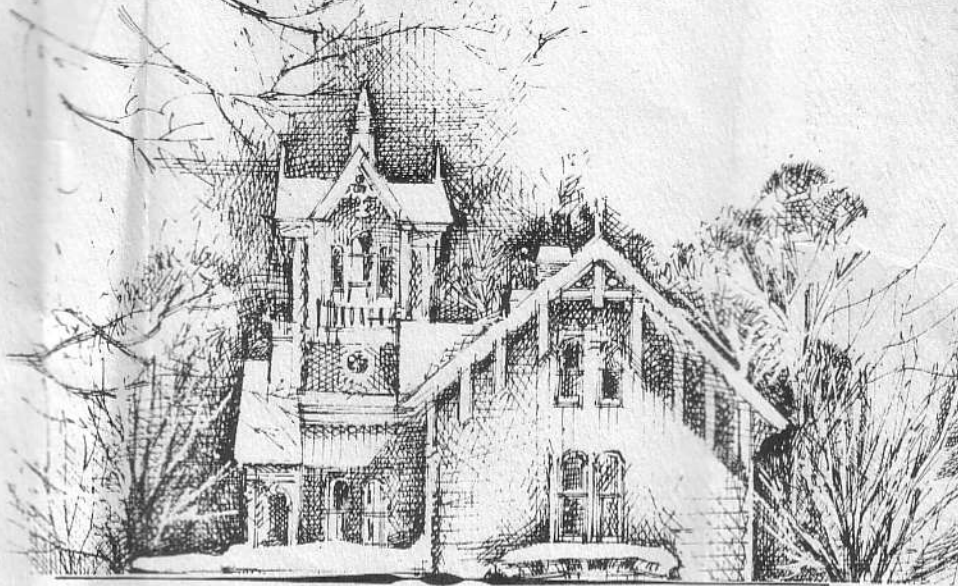


CURRENT STUDY GROUP ACTIVITIES



AREA CONTACT	MEETING DAY, TIME & PHONE
Santa Monica Joanne Whitbread	Mondays @ 8:00 (213) 450-4475
Camarillo Gary Reedy	1st & 3rd Mondays @ 7:30PM (805) 484-2991
Malibu Duane & Lucile Faw	2nd & 4th Mondays @ 7:30 PM (213) 456-9708
Anaheim Pierre Chicoine	Mondays @ 7:00 PM (714) 761-1565
Orange County Harley Eakins	Mondays @ 10:00 PM (714) 636-3371 / 636-1190
Anaheim Marlene Chicoine	Tuesdays @ 10:00 AM (714) 761-1565
North Hollywood C. & E. Montgomery	Tuesdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 763-6650
West Los Angeles Jim Wanlass & Donna Byrum-Klavir	Tuesdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 837-2503
Culver City Julia Fenderson "Marriage & Family"	Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM (213) 838-3215
Orange City Jerry Lyle	Wednesdays @ 10:00 AM (714) 637-3065 / 633-2293
Santa Monica Vince Ventola	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 396-9180
Huntington Beach K. & J. Anderson	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (714) 894-5417
Van Nuys Dick MacDonald	Alternate Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 343-3364
Orange City Janice Gallegos	Saturdays @ 7:30 PM (714) 639-0690

(The study group leaders listed above have given FUSLA permission to publish their names in this list of Study Groups, as a service to interested readers. The editors have deleted study group topics due to frequent changes. PLEASE -- Always call the study group leader to get details before attending a meeting.)



DIRECTIONS TO FUSLA CHRISTMAS MEETING

From I-10 West through Santa Monica to Hwy. 1 North (Pacific Coast Hwy.) past Big Rock to Sea Lion Restaurant on left and two traffic lights. Second is at Rambla Pacifico, where you turn right about 3.5 miles up hill past Fire Sta. 8 two blocks to Monte Verde Estates entrance on Monte Viento St., right 3 blocks to Bocana, right to end of circle and 2-story house 23301.

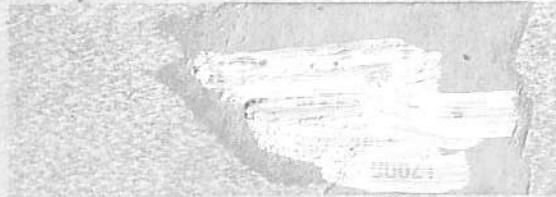
From Ventura Fwy. (101) toward Ventura go to Las Virgenes Cyn/Malibu Cyn Rd. exit and follow it to Pacific Coast Hwy. turn toward Santa Monica to traffic light at Rambla Pacifico just before Sea Lion Restaurant and turn left on Rambla Pacifico 3.5 miles up hill past Fire Sta. 8 two blocks to Monte Verde Estates entrance on Monte Viento St., turn rt. 3 blks. to Bocana, rt. to end of circle and 2-story house 23301.

NOTE: for those familiar with the terrain, there is a short-cut from Valley Circle—Mulholland Exit by following Thomas Guide, but don't take it in the dark the first time — people tend to get lost!



the **MONITOR**
the FIRST
URANTIA SOCIETY
of LOS ANGELES

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December Meeting Location

Place: Lucille and Duane Faw's
23301 Bocana
Malibu, California
Date: December 13, 1981
Time: 1:00 PM
Phone: (if lost) (213) 456-9708

* Please note that the meeting has been moved to the second Sunday of the month - Dec. 13, 1981,* and starts at 1PM. See you there!
*Directions on back page.