



morontia

The topic for the February meeting will be *Aspects of the Morontia Life*, presented by Dick MacDonald's study group. They hope to help us gain deeper insight into the ascension career by focusing on the more qualitative and more obscure aspects of the morontia life. They will concentrate on the aesthetic, subjective elements, assuming that most students of the URANTIA Book have studied Paper 47 and understand the mechanics of morontia progression. They have chosen five areas of emphasis:

1. The Ascender Experience (Dick MacDonald)
2. Architectural Systems (Charles Hicks)
3. Morontia Relationships (Elaine Iverson)
4. Creative Expressions (Jack Kleinkopf)
5. Morontia Learning (Ray Caligiuri)

There will be handouts and time for questions and discussion after the presentation, so please come prepared for what promises to be an exciting and insightful program.

In preparation, please reread Paper 47. There are certainly many truths worth studying again; pg. 536:2 & 5, pg 537:5, pg. 538: 2, 3, & 4, pg. 539:2.

There is a slight change in the normal scheduling in that the election for the Triennial Delegate will be held at 1:00 p.m. sharp, continuing to 1:30. Will all members please try to be there promptly? The optional group prayer time will be from 1:30-2:00, with the program beginning at 2:30. I look forward to seeing you there.

Joanne Whitbread

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

The experience of serving as President of this URANTIA Society continues to be a most challenging and educational adventure. And I would like to take this opportunity to share some thoughts and to ask some questions. I remember Clyde Bedell once saying to me, "Vincent, everyone is afraid of rocking the boat. But sometimes, you have got to be a boat rocker!" I express these thoughts, ask these questions, and "rock this boat" without criticizing any personalities or blaming anyone for anything. I simply speak as a member of our family, out of love and concern for our family.

The URANTIA Book is filled with careful guidance and many admonitions regarding the dangers of sectarianism, institutionalization, the diversions of service of God to the service of the organization, and especially the inclination of leaders to become administrators instead of ministers. What a most unusual position we are in! On one hand, this Epochal Revelation has awakened our spiritual hunger and thirst. We seek to read and study with the eyes of the Spirit and an inner ear ever listening for the Guidance and Wisdom from Within. We know our task is to Follow in Faith and to Live these Teachings. Many of us have the desire to socialize and share our religious experience with other readers and students of The URANTIA Book. And as we well know, the experience of reading and studying with a group of diverse minds and personalities adds new depths and dimensions of insight and understanding. Isn't it interesting that one of the only admonitions we were 'given' concerning the book itself was to form thousands of study groups and to preserve inviolate the text?

On the other hand, we find ourselves answering a call to Serve in the movement and organization which has evolved around The URANTIA Book. There is The URANTIA Foundation, The URANTIA Brotherhood, and the existing URANTIA Societies. And though organization tries to keep itself at a minimum, one can become quite involved in the study of The Declaration of Trust, Brotherhood Constitution, and Society Constitutions. And almost unavoidably, one is bound to hear the word "politics" mentioned and immediately my mind recalls Our Master washing the feet of his apostles. And I remember his request that we refrain from *contending* for positions of greatness.

What a paradox we find ourselves in. What a challenge! And what a responsibility! We all seem to be in agreement on the major purposes of the organization we are creating and they are the study and dissemination of the teachings of The URANTIA Book. It is only natural that we have developed a structure through which we can function and communicate. Committees are formed, heads of committees are appointed, meetings are held, and we even have elections. I often wonder, if a stranger to The URANTIA Book were to study the organizational aspects of our movement, would it appear to be yet another one of the many earth-bound institutions in the kingdoms of men? And when our own students study our own organizational charts, constitutions, policies, and by-laws, can they tell that it is a Spiritual organization?

How will our own leaders avoid the tendency to become administrators first and spiritual 'ministers' second? As the years come and go, and as we grow in membership, how will we deal with our well meaning and even sincere brother and sister, who has just a tad too much hunger for title and 'power' within our organization? How will we respond to those who view opportunities and positions in terms of political advancements and not spiritual service? Though we have no priesthoods claiming ecclesiastical authority, is there still a danger in creating a 'hierarchy' of our own Trustees, Executives, Field Representatives etc.? Are we many hands preparing to present The URANTIA Book to the world or are we many hands weaving a cocoon of over organization headed by the chosen few? How did the apostles deal with these problems? How will we? What mistakes did they make? Will we learn from them? What advice did the Master give? Will we follow his advice?

Imagine . . . if all The URANTIA Books were to suddenly vanish! What would we do? How would our URANTIA Brotherhood be affected? What would we do with all the energy we direct into our Societies and Study Groups? Would we wish we had simply *studied* more?

With The URANTIA Book as a constant reference, I pray that we will all succeed in creating an organization which will remain unencumbered by not only religious but also political trappings. On page 312 we are told: "One of the most important lessons to be learned during your mortal career is *teamwork*. The spheres of perfection are manned by those who have mastered this art of working with other beings. Few are the duties in the universe for the lone servant. The higher you ascend, the more lonely you become when temporarily without the association of your fellows."

I pray we remember these words and live them. I pray that The URANTIA Foundation, URANTIA Brotherhood, and all Societies will keep centered and true to the Spiritual Heart and Soul of Our Mission. I pray that all Trustees, Officers, and heads of committees will dare to add prayer and meditation before their business meetings, committee meetings, and elections. I wonder if our officers are so used to the formalities and procedures of business meetings out in the working world, that they fall into the habit of conducting Brotherhood or Society meetings in the same manner?

May our humble attempts to create and maintain what we are calling The URANTIA Brotherhood provide all membership and especially our officers an opportunity to practice what we are preaching. And in the years to come, may our URANTIA Brotherhood be so abundant with the fruits of the spirit, that our contribution to this Epochal Revelation will be a living tapestry of Fellowship and Teamwork, rich in diversity and spiritual unity. I pray for the Guidance and Wisdom, Humility and Honesty of us all.

In Friendship & Brotherhood,

Vincent Ventola

the MONITOR

711 Superba Avenue, Venice, California 90291 (213) 822-2498

Roxy Alessandro & Bruce Fiero — EDITORS

Dick MacDonald &

Brian Soderberg — CIRCULATION

Charles Hicks — PHOTOGRAPHY & MAILING

Dianna Rolfe — TYPESETTING

Lori & Michael Long — GRAPHICS

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.

Subscriptions to The MONITOR are available on a yearly basis for a minimum \$5.00 donation for non-FUSLA members. Make checks payable to FUSLA.

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

FRIDAY NIGHT FORUMS TO BEGIN

Vince Ventola, working under the auspices of the Education Committee, has instituted another "FUSLA first" - Friday Night Forums. These forums will be held once a month, at various members' homes in Los Angeles, Orange County, the Valley, for the purpose of in-depth discussion on controversial URANTIA Book topics. Many readers feel that there is no outlet for sharing ideas and feelings on provocative issues raised in the URANTIA Book. So, in response to this Vince has created the "forums". We want this to be an avenue where readers ask questions, share feelings, learn new insights, and even disagree on subjects that have no clear cut solutions. (Please note, these are not Study Groups). We hope lively discussions will be the rule at these "forums".

Four topics have been scheduled so far. They are:

1. "FUSLA and The URANTIA Brotherhood: Politics Within The Movement?" - February 19, 1982 at 7:30 P.M. , hosted by Roxy Allessandro, Vince Ventola, and Julia Fenderson at 9980 Farragut Drive, Culver City. (213-838-3215). We rarely have the opportunity to discuss and share our thoughts regarding the organizational aspects of The URANTIA Brotherhood. We strongly urge members who have an interest in this topic and a desire to question our own representatives to the Brotherhood in Chicago to attend this Forum. The topic of the French translation of The URANTIA Book will also be discussed.

2. "Genetics" - March 1982, hosted by Kermit Anderson (714-894-5417).
3. "The Color Races" - April 1982, hosted by Dorothy Elder (213-472-8722).
4. "The Birth Of Personality: The issues surrounding birth control and abortion" - May 1982, hosted by Roxy Allessandro (213-822-2498).

If you wish to attend any of the "Forums" you must call the listed number and register. Since space limits the number of participants, FUSLA members will be given preference if there is a large response. We are very excited and very pleased to offer you these Forums!

FUSLA SERVITALS

Sharing Environments

This is a service-motivated offering to students of the Book in the Los Angeles area. If you ski, we will give you lodging near Sun Valley, Idaho, and guided ski tours of the mountain.

For the summer we would like to book back-packing trips, in an effort to share high country beauty near the Sawtooth Mountains of Central Idaho. These expeditions will provide ample time for daily personal solitude as well as group discussions and study.

For further information, contact:

The Mountain Messenger
c/o Bert Cobb
Route Two
Jerome, Idaho 83338
(208) 324-8339

—Vince Ventola still needs help in finding a new location for our FUSLA meetings. Please call him at (213) 396-9180 to volunteer.

—The Education Committee needs volunteers to help with a springtime retreat weekend. Please call Joanne Whitbread, (213) 450-4475, evenings.

—Janelle Balnicke, chairman of the Book Committee, is out of town on a work project for some time. Polly Friedman, co-chairman, needs someone to handle the sale of URANTIA Books! If you wish to help, please call Polly at (213) 880-5943.

EDITORIAL

Our February FUSLA meeting is a departure from our regular monthly format in that we have set aside a half-hour (from 1 P.M. to 1:30 P.M.) for elections of a delegate and an alternate to represent FUSLA at the Triennial Elections to be held in Chicago in June, 1982. This election period is open to FUSLA members *only*. If you are anything like us, you've probably just groaned and thought "I'll come at 1:30 for prayer time; this sounds really boring." But again, if you're anything like us, after you realize how important this election is to *you*—a FUSLA member—you'll *make sure* that you're there to cast your vote. You see, the Triennial Delegates, which are elected as a body every three years by Societies, actually nominate and elect one third of the General Council, which is the governing and decision-making arm of the URANTIA Brotherhood. Only through the Triennial Delegates do individual Societies have direct input into our national organization—The URANTIA Brotherhood.

This is our number one way for members to influence national policy in Chicago. This is the first reason to attend this election.

The second reason to attend is that the Governing Committee has structured this year's election to allow for maximum FUSLA membership input. First, nominations for the Triennial delegate and alternate will *only* be taken from the floor, so please think carefully about who you would like to represent you. If you wish to nominate someone, you *must* notify that person in advance; all nominees must be prepared to make a short statement on their reasons for wanting to be a FUSLA representative. Do not let money deter you, because FUSLA will pay air fare and hotel costs for the two elected representatives.

Once we have chosen our delegate and alternate, the Governing Committee has scheduled a "membership only" meeting in April, 1982 for our representatives to report to us on who is running for the General Council. We, the FUSLA members, will then instruct them on how we wish them to vote. Never before has FUSLA given such an opportunity to its membership to make their views known in Chicago! We urge each of you to participate fully in this process—starting with the special election on February 1.

Remember, the decisions we make now will affect us for the next three ^ayears, so please take your responsibility as members of The URANTIA Brotherhood seriously—become well-informed and vote wisely!

Roxy & Bruce

Quote of the Month

"Mortal death is a technique of escape from material life in the flesh; and the mansonia experience of progressive life through seven worlds of corrective training and cultural education represents the introduction of mortal survivors to the morontia career, the transition life which intervenes between the evolutionary material existence and the higher spirit attainment of the ascenders of time who are destined to achieve the portals of eternity."

p. 540



PORTRAITS

Beverley Wold—an exponent of *The URANTIA Book* teachings. She has for many years been associated with the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles in its many and varied activities. Though currently hampered by the great distance she has to travel, we enjoy Beverley's open and friendly company at our Society meetings whenever she is able to attend. She was "discovered" by the Book in 1962 and later, "finding" F.U.S.L.A., she attended their meetings over an extended period of time before joining the Society in 1974. The

1970's were busy years for Beverley. Along with her interest in study groups she took an active part in the First Western URANTIA Conference in Los Angeles in 1973 and the Third Western URANTIA Brotherhood Conference at University of California Irvine in 1977. Beverley, in referring to her active URANTIA interests, says she looks back with fond memories on her experiences at Lake Geneva and the Northwest Regional Conference at Wenatchee, Washington in 1978. Also the Snowmass Conference at Aspen, Colorado in 1981. An expert photographer, Beverley has shown her very professional slide shows on many occasions. One in particular was at a large gathering of study groups on Oahu at Honolulu in the fall of 1977. In that same year a new door of service was opened up to her when David Kantor, who has been producing Cosmic Pilgrim Productions for the Family of God (F.O.G.), contacted Beverley and selected photographic material for some of his multimedia shows. Along with other photographers she supplied David with slides which appeared in two of his shows, "Quest for Perfection" and "Vision for an Advanced Civilization." As Beverley looked back over her years of association with the URANTIA activities, she reflected that the single most inspiration the teachings have brought her are the contents of Part IV giving a detailed revelation of the Universal Creator coming to this particular planet as a mortal to show us the will and true nature of God by his example and teachings. In conclusion she humbly states: "It is gratifying to be able to contribute in some small way in helping to spread the supernal truths (our road map to Eternity) found in *The URANTIA Book*. I am sure my celestial helpers will nudge me into continued and expanding ways to serve." And we are sure, too, Beverley, that they will keep you moving in the same direction you are going.

by Dick MacDonald



by Lee Armstrong

Once again, FUSLA's president emeritus, Julia Fenderson, has committed herself to another year as the leader of the study group on Marriage and Family. The group this year is smaller than before with about ten people attending. This difference in size has allowed for more personal interaction and a sharing of concerns regarding the topic. While the original plans called for just three meetings, the group decided that because of the volume of material which is so beneficial, the meetings should be extended to five. In addition, Julia is preparing a "second semester" in the spring which will include, 'Discipline of Children', 'Teaching Religion in the Home', actual workshops with children, and one session devoted to 'The Step-Family'.

Knowing the importance the URANTIA Book places on the family, the group started by reviewing the papers in the book on marriage and sharing personal criteria for choosing a mate. Later, the seven love stories in the URANTIA Book were reviewed and exciting parallels were discovered. A list of traits of successful marriage were discussed. The essential experiences of parenthood and the unique role of the earthly father were also covered. Gard Jameson will lead the final session of the 'first semester' on family finance in February.

Julia has an extensive bibliography of books and articles on the topic. However, the URANTIA Book is almost the only one to stress the spiritual aspects. Julia is using the input from this study group and last year's to develop a spiritualized text to help in the formation of groups around the country who realize the importance of improving family life and the need for study. "The great inconsistency of modern society is to exalt love and to idealize marriage while disapproving of the fullest examination of both." (URANTIA Book, p.929)

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

"Dear Friends at FUSLA,

Good to hear about you through *The Monitor*. Thanks for the copy, and please keep us on your mailing list. Much love to you all!"

Steve & Bobbie Dreir
Teaneck, New Jersey

"Congratulations on your first excellent issue of *The Monitor*. The high quality of the entire twelve pages, the content, layout and features are evidence of your great enthusiasm, talent, effort and caring. I must express my appreciation to you not only because I'm grateful for all this sharing but also for the benefits of reading enjoyment . . . besides the hint of more to come!

I especially like your idea of writing about members and friends of FUSLA; it is the members that really are FUSLA, not only the officers and chair people. It is time we work for true representation with many and varied voices combining together in a blend of harmony. But I see that is what you are about to encourage—

We will certainly achieve more togetherness and higher goals of service through basic improved communication. Our publication, (*The Monitor* at present) can serve as a primary tool towards increased human understanding, which we so need. I feel we are now progressing on that upward trail of service, creative spiritual accomplishment."

Love,
Polly Friedman

look for me
in a smile that is real
find me
when you think you feel
touch me
i am the son on your face
feel me
as the warmth left in its place
when there is darkness
envision me as light
when there is peace
i am silence, i am night
hold me in your thoughts
you are always in mine
i am the endless mystery
i am the endless rhyme

Vince Ventola



GOING TO THE CHAPEL

FUSLA members all wish our Education Chairman, Joanne Whitbread, the best of luck and happiness on her upcoming wedding, set for March 6, 1982. Cam Larson, the soon-to-be bridegroom, took Joanne by surprise when he proposed; but she was not so shocked that she couldn't respond with an excited "yes"! We all understand why Joanne won't be able to attend our FUSLA meeting on March 7; a honeymoon should come first! Best wishes to you both!

CONCENTRIC CIRCLE PINS AVAILABLE

A pin featuring the URANTIA Brotherhood's trademark, three blue concentric circles against a white background, are now available to FUSLA members only for \$21.00 each. To order, make checks payable to the URANTIA Brotherhood, and send to: URANTIA Brotherhood, 533 Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Ill. 60614.

THANKS TO THE FAITHFUL SERVITALS

A warm and heartfelt thank you from all of us to Bryan Soderberg and the staff who are placing all names and addresses on a computer to aid the continual stream of travelers. The following members volunteer their services to keep an up-to-date file for all URANTIA Book readers: Bruce Fiero, Jonathon Johnson, Janelle Balnicke, Pierre Chicoine and Lorrie Shapiro. More volunteers are needed and would be welcome any evening or weekend. Please call first as Bryan must be present. (213) 838-3215.