



SEPTEMBER 1982

the monitor

NEWSLETTER of the FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY of LOS ANGELES

STUDY GROUPS AROUND THE WORLD



The September 5th FUSLA meeting will be a presentation by Julia Fenderson entitled "Study Groups Around the World." It is a two-fold topic, the first part being a slide show of study groups from all over the planet. Julia will have just returned from Tahiti where a new French speaking study group has formed with the French edition of The URANTIA Book.

The second emphasis will focus on nine different ways of carrying on a study group. There will be hand-outs and other materials as well as stimulating discussion. Members who have begun study groups will discuss the process with its problems and joys.

We have been admonished to go into the world and freely spread the truths of the kingdom. This month's topic presents us with ways others have chosen to execute this quest, and suggestions as to how we can do the same.

Joanne Larson

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"But be not deceived; while salvation is the free gift of God and is bestowed upon all who accept it by faith, there follows the experience of bearing the fruits of this spirit life as it is lived in the flesh. The acceptance of the doctrine of the fatherhood of God implies that you also freely accept the associated truth of the brotherhood of man. And if man is your brother, he is even more than your neighbor, whom the Father requires you to love as yourself. Your brother, being of your own family, you will not only love with a family affection, but you will also serve your brother because you, being my brethren, have been thus loved and served by me. Go then, into all the world telling this good news to all creatures of every race, tribe, and nation. My spirit shall go before you, and I will be with you always."

*(pg 2053-54)

SILVER 'AG' BEGINS ASCENT

FUSLA'S Publications Committee is proud to announce that production is now beginning on the long awaited return of The AGONDONTER. The 25th Anniversary Commemorative Collector's Edition is expected to be out by mid November. We are now in the process of compiling historical photos and letters and publications pertaining to FUSLA's quarter-century in the Brotherhood. We are also looking for essays, articles, poetry and graphic art to be included. Please send all submissions to FUSLA Publications, 711 Superba Ave., Venice, CA 90291. Our goal is to accurately report on the past, inspire for the present and speculate on the future for FUSLA and all Urantian Agondonters. We wish to thank all of you who continue to support us in this effort. It's still not too late to reserve your Collector's Edition. Just send a \$10 donation to FUSLA Publications (checks payable to FUSLA). We are looking forward to appearing on your doorstep!

The MONITOR

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

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 thirteen societies of 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.

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THE TRIBUTE DINNER

BY LEE ARMSTRONG & ROSELYN VAN BENSCHOTEN

A very special event occurred July 16 as 112 friends and relatives of Julia Fenderson and URANTIA Book readers from all over the state of California met to honor Julia and celebrate the 25th anniversary of FUSLA as a Urantia Society. The setting was perfect—high atop the Verdugo Mountains overlooking the San Fernando valley at the elegant Castaways Restaurant. As the lights from the valley twinkled below, chamber music greeted the guests. After opening greetings by moderator Lorrie Shapiro, the buffet-style banquet was served under the watchful supervision of Lori Long. Roast chicken, beef tips, and of course the chocolate mousse were deliciously palatable. Jonathan Johnson and Francyl Streano Gawryn shared musical selections including Jonathon's rendition of the John Lennon song "Julia".

During the evening dinner an 'open mike' format was adopted. Anyone who desired to pay tribute to Julia was invited to step up and speak. Many shared fond memories. As Julia listened attentively, a host of cards and letters were shared from around the country recalling Julia's days as a member of the forum in Chicago as well as her pioneering efforts which led to the forming of FUSLA and its early days. Martin Myers read letters from John Hales, president of URANTIA Brotherhood and Tom Kendall, president of the Foundation regarding Julia's years of devoted service to the movement. Many moments of personal crisis were shared in which Julia gave a sympathetic ear and acted as a stabilizing force. Vince Ventola presented Julia with a plaque commemorating Julia's loving service to FUSLA after which Chick Montgomery gave Julia a special gift made by Michael Long. The evening ended with dancing and socializing.

The next evening, at the home of Chick and Ellen Montgomery, Julia shared some of her thoughts about the special tribute. She noted that the things which everybody mentioned were the simple things that anybody can do in day to day life. Just listening and being there, having a place for a visitor to sleep or a piece of cherry pie and a hot cup of coffee to lift someone's spirits at the right time were the things which were mentioned again and again. To Julia's surprise, her in depth study of the Foreward and other scholarly explorations of The URANTIA Book were not mentioned. She said that we all can learn from this that the important things are the little things; putting the teachings into practice rather than mere intellectual study of the book.

This really is the special quality which was celebrated. Just as Jesus went about ministering to people as he passed by, Julia has also become a master of the well-chosen word and has shown in her life the love that the Father has for each one of us by sharing that love with all of her brothers and sisters. Because of this, her triumph is our triumph. Everyone who attended the dinner came away with a sense of spiritual excitement. Julia's special celebration is an affirmation of the fact that the greatest thing in the universe is LOVE.

FUSLA BUSINESS

1982 GOVERNING COMMITTEE IN REVIEW

BY JOANNE LARSON

This year's Governing Committee worked hard to uplift FUSLA, to expand its outreach, and to increase its capacity for service. Each member of the committee dedicated themselves to working together as a team, with a spirit emphasis to extend FUSLA upward. The following is a brief example of what each office accomplished throughout the year.

As President of FUSLA, Vince Ventola tried to improve the dialogue between membership and the Governing Committee, keeping us informed as well as requesting feedback. He actively worked towards improved contact with our members in Orange County. Locating the new meeting place further south was another accomplishment with Orange County in mind. Under the auspices of the Education Committee, Vince established and produced the Friday Night Forums.

Vice-President, Chick Montgomery, maintained and updated the FUSLA Policy notebook. Encompassed in this work was the wording of each resolution as it was passed.

Grace A. Simms filled the office of Secretary. She took the minutes at each Governing Committee meeting and subsequently made them available to interested members. It was also her job to answer incoming mail and to direct inquiries to the appropriate committee, study group or monthly meeting. Grace worked hard to update FUSLA's membership list and maintain a constant dialogue with Chicago.

As Treasurer, Gary Reedy kept the books very well-organized, maintaining all receipts and balances. He is looking forward to future fund raising activities to help balance the budget as past donations have been insufficient.

Membership Committee co-chairmen, Duane and Lucille Faw, this year held one membership class that resulted in the initiation of four new members. The formal recognition of these new members was held at the monthly meeting.

Education Chairman Joanne Larson's main goal was to improve the quality of the presentations at the monthly meetings by selecting relevant, stimulating topics for discussion. The half hour optional prayer time was established to provide interested members with an opportunity for group worship and thanksgiving before the meetings.

As Hospitality Chairman, Lori Long outdid herself with Julia's Tribute dinner. Suffice it to say it was a joyful success with thanks to Lori. The Hospitality Committee was expanded to provide housing information to visiting or relocating readers.

The Book Committee was very active this year under the guidance of Janelle Balnicke and Polly Friedman. They kept a card file of the estimated 50 URANTIA Books placed in local libraries, and aided the Brotherhood in an exhaustive bookstore survey with help from new FUSLA member Gerald D'Arcy. Five books were donated to various study groups in the area.

The most remarkable changes came from the Publications Committee co-chaired by Roxy Alessandro and Bruce Fiero. Under their expert guidance and much hard work, the Monitor format was improved and expanded to include editorials, stimulating articles, Spotlight on Spirit, study group information, poems, artwork and letters to the editor. A very active committee was formed and we owe them heartfelt thanks for their hard work and dedication.

While each committee member worked as an individual it was the teamwork that made things come together. Learning to work together harmoniously is a key to success. And this year's successes seemed to far outweigh the failures.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FUSLA FUND RAISING TAKES OFF

Attention all artisans! An evening of entertainment is now in the planning phase for all FUSLA artisans and friends to 'strut their stuff.' In an attempt to raise funds for future Society endeavors, Lee Armstrong and Roselyn Van Benschoten are now organizing this event. They are looking for painters, potters, actors, dancers, musicians, poets and any other talented persons who would like to be involved in an evening of pure entertainment. Participants are needed for skits, musical revues, showings etc. Anyone who is interested in participating is asked to call Lee or Roselyn at (213) 841-6286. This event is being scheduled tentatively for late October or early November. If you ever needed an excuse to creatively express yourself, here it is!

FUSLA ELECTIONS SLATED

FUSLA'S annual election of officers will be held on Sunday October 3rd at our new meeting location, Coast Federal Savings and Loan, 718 Wilshire Blvd., Santa Monica. All Society members are urged to attend to elect our Governing Committee for 1983. This will also be a great opportunity to get to know the Committee members and offer your services to one of their active committees. Remember, you must be current with your dues to vote. See you there!

NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED

Dorothy Elder will head the year's Nominating Committee that will approve the candidates for the upcoming election of officers. The other two members are Jackie Anderson and Jonathon Johnson. Roger Abdo is the alternate. Recommendations for the October slate are now being accepted. Members are asked to contact any member of the nominating committee if they wish to recommend someone for office. The slate will be announced in next month's MONITOR.

Dorothy Elder (213) 472-8722 - Jackie Anderson (714) 894-5417

Jonathon Johnson (213) 374-2720.

SEPTEMBER FORUM ANNOUNCED

On page 1257 The URANTIA Book says: "The reserve corps of destiny consists of living men and women who have admitted to the special service of the superhuman administration of world affairs." Thus begins one of the most fascinating sections in Paper 114 - Seraphic Planetary Government. September's Forum includes a group reading of pages 1257-1259, and will examine the human links' in the chain of spiritual ministry to URANTIA. The focus will be on group discussion and questioning how we can work more effectively and efficiently with our 'unseen friends.' Date: September 17 at 8 p.m. sharp! Kermit Anderson and Vince Ventola will present a brief introduction. RSVP Jackie or Kermit Anderson (714 894-5417). The forum will meet at their home in Huntington Beach.

TOPICS ANYONE?

Is there a topic you would like to see on our list of future Friday Night Forums? Are you interested in leading a forum discussion? Please call Joanne Larson (450-4475) or Vince Ventola (396-9180) and let us know.

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STUDY GROUP SCOOP

BY LORRIE SHAPIRO

Time after time we have been admonished to form study groups. In fact, we have heard that we cannot make the Revelation public until "thousands of study groups have been formed." It's not difficult to speculate as to the reasons. I can remember when I started reading The URANTIA Book. I read alone, and the concepts were so difficult and so easily confused in my mind. I attended my first study group a year later, and the perspective of the group -- of other readers -- clarified a lot of my confusion and greatly increased by understanding of the teachings. Eight years later, this still holds true.

Study groups also provide us with a forum to freely practice the art of brotherhood. They give us a place to share our feelings of cosmic citizenship with others. Some groups offer us a chance to experience the joys of group prayer and meditation. Some help us to coordinate our ideas through topical studies. Study groups are really our only place to share the teachings of the book we love with others who love it also.

Los Angeles and Orange County have (relatively) many study groups. And the really good news is that as our readership expands, the number of new groups forming increases. The following is a list of new study groups and of people who want to form study groups. If they are in your area -- give them a call. Let's help move the Revelation a little closer to fulfilling its worldwide mission -- the realization of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God.

Burbank	Downey	Palos Verdes	Arcadia
Lee Armstrong & Roselyn Van Benschoten Mondays at 7:30 PM (213) 841-6286	Gerald D'Arcy Tuesday at 7:30 PM (213) 630-8778	Stacy Betterman Date Open (213) 375-9793	Harold Kettel Date Open (213) 447-1403

A NOTE FROM JULIA

Dear Friends:

Thank you for participating in the wonderful celebration of FUSLA's 25th Anniversary where they gave me the role of honor. I represented the early Founders who have all been promoted to the Mansion Worlds but me. (I had more lessons to learn). They were Betty and Marvin Tackett, Fred and Viola Squires, Helen Steen, Arlie Riddleberger, Winona Jewell, Florence Thuerk and Ethel Jane Jones.

Lori Long, our hospitality chairman, and Vincent Ventola, our president with their very talented committees really planned and produced a memorable Jubilee for which we are so grateful. There were tributes, excellent food, music, dancing and great socializing. There were true highlights in having the Vice President of URANTIA Foundation Martin W. Myers, Tery McCade, President of SFBAUS, and Vern Grimsley President of FOG as well as Clyde Bedell, author of the Concordex all present.

Thank you again, all 120 of you dear friends for coming and making this a great FUSLA Jubilee.

With love, joy and peace,

Julia

STUDY GROUPS

AREA/CONTACT

MEETING INFO

Camarillo Gary Reedy	1st & 3rd Mondays @ 7:30 PM (805) 484-2991
Culver City Julia Fenderson "Marriage & Family"	Wednesdays @ 7:30 PM (213) 838-3215
Malibu Duane & Lucile Faw	2nd & 4th Mondays @ 7:30 PM (213) 456-9708
Anaheim Pierre Chicoine	Mondays @ 7:00 PM (714) 761-1565
Downey Gerald D'Arcy	Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM (713) 630-8778
Anaheim Marlene Chicoine	Mondays @ 10:00 AM (714) 761-1565
Burbank Lee Armstrong & Roselynn Van Benschoten	Mondays @ 7:30 PM (213) 841-6286
Orange City Jerry Lyle	Wednesdays @ 7:00 PM (714) 637-3065 / 633-2293
Santa Monica Vince Ventola	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 396-9180
Huntington Beach K. & J. Anderson	Fridays @ 8:00 PM (714) 894-5417
Van Nuys Dick MacDonald	2nd & 4th Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 343-3364
Hemet, CA Beverly J. Wold	Thursdays @ 7:30 PM (714) 927-1015
Redondo Beach Jonathon Johnson & Betsy Slavik	Tuesdays @ 8:30 PM (213) 374-2720
Orange City Janice Gallegos	Saturdays @ 7:30 PM (714) 639-0690
Ventura Larry Whelan	Weekly @ 7:00 PM (call for day) (805) 643-8728
Santa Barbara Barrie Bedell	Thursdays @ 7:30 PM (805) 969-1565



the MONITOR

the FIRST
URANTIA SOCIETY
of LOS ANGELES

POSTMASTER:
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**SEPTEMBER
MEETING
INFORMATION**



DATE: SEPTEMBER 5, 1982

TIME: 1:00-1:30 Group Worship
2:00-Program

PLACE: Coast Federal Savings
718 Wilshire Boulevard Santa Monica

