

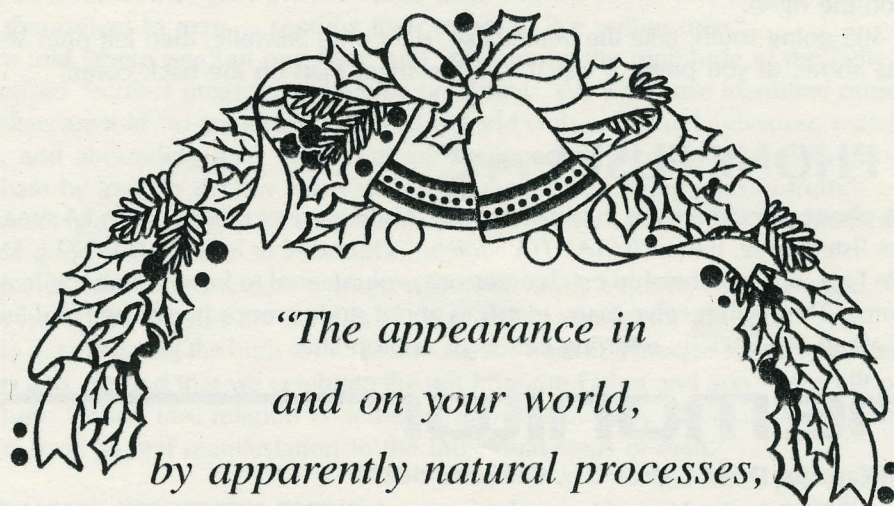
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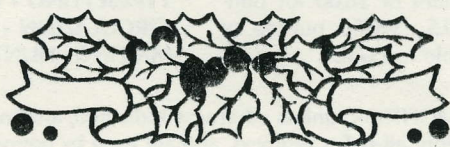
the monitor

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST URANTIA[®] SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES



*“The appearance in
and on your world,
by apparently natural processes,
of a divine Son, we regard as a miracle —
the operation of universal laws
beyond our understanding. Jesus of
Nazareth was a miraculous person.”*

Pg.1331



FUSLA HAS A NEW HOME . . . AND A NEW PHONE!



The search for a new meeting place for FUSLA has been in the works for sometime. After investigating several alternatives, the "new meeting place" committee settled on a Victorian that houses the Unitarian Society LA West, located in Mar Vista at 3744 Barrington Ave. It's more easily accessible by wheelchair, with a kitchen, off-street parking, in a residential neighborhood, and inside it's "child-friendly."

Our first meeting there will be January 5, 1986. From the San Diego Freeway (405) going north, take the Venice Ave. exit, left on Sepulveda, then the next left onto Venice. Pass under the freeway, past McLaughlin, to Barrington. Turn right onto Barrington, and you're there (the house is on the right).

From 405 going south, take the Venice exit, right onto Sawtelle, then left onto Venice. Proceed as above. (If you prefer a visual, see the street map on the back cover.)

"T.A. PHONE FUSLA . . ."

When phone directories are published again for the greater metropolitan LA area, you will find us listed there, under "URANTIA Society." Our number is (213) 456-9711. Duane and Lucille Faw, our membership co-chairpersons, volunteered to have the phone installed in their home. They will receive many inquiries about study groups (we hope!) and answer questions about the Society, referring callers as appropriate.

the monitor

9980 Farragut Drive, Culver City, California 90230

The MONITOR is the bi-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 fourteen 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 of \$8.00 for non-FUSLA members in the U.S., \$10.00 outside of the U.S. Make checks payable to FUSLA.

MONITOR SUBMISSIONS DEADLINE

All submissions to The MONITOR are due the first of each **odd-numbered** month. The MONITOR will be issued the first of each **even-numbered** month.

EDITOR - CHARLES ARTERBURN

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

When we flip the calendar to December, our first reaction is "Christmas in just 25 more days!" Christmas, that magical time of the year: Special music, special decorations, special parties, and special food! Even our brothers and sisters who don't understand the CHRIST part of CHRISTmas feel the urge to join the celebration of giving. It's the one time of the year when it's o.k. to say "Merry Christmas" to someone you've never seen before or perhaps will ever see again, accompanied by the exchange of a smile or handshake because there is a feeling of something special going on.

The day of Pentecost marked a new beginning on *URANTIA*. "Up to Pentecost religion has revealed only man seeking for God. Before Pentecost the Apostles had given up much for Jesus. At Pentecost they gave themselves to God, and the Father and the Son responded by giving themselves to man — sending their spirits to live within men."

We are told "there was but one heart and soul among the multitude of the believers." We're promised "endless progress and divine unfolding." We who have identified ourselves as truthseekers are told "to go out to conquer the world with unfailing forgiveness, matchless good will, and abounding love. They (we) are equipped to overcome evil with good, to vanquish hate by love, to destroy fear with a courageous and living faith in truth."

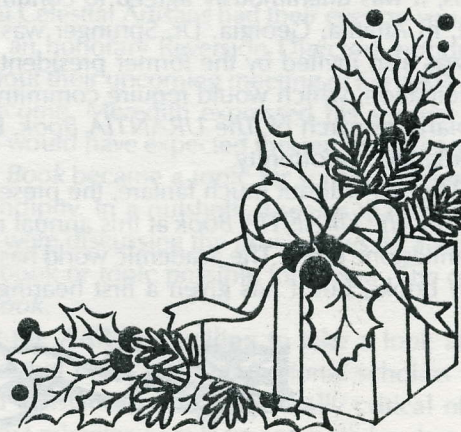
"The secret of a better civilization is bound up in the Master's teachings of the brotherhood of man, the good will of love and mutual trust."

"The joy of this outpoured spirit, when it is consciously experienced in human life, is a tonic for health, a stimulus for mind, and an unfailing energy for the soul."

We join in celebrating the birth of that precious babe born in a manger to Mary and Joseph, 2,000 years ago. Beyond that we celebrate the gift from the Father and Son — the gift of the Spirit of Truth. "At last true religion is delivered from the custody of priests and all sacred classes and finds its real manifestation in the individual souls of men."

God bless you and yours,
Merry Christmas!
Cathy Jones

(Excerpts are from Paper 194, *The URANTIA Book*)



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION LOOKS AT THE URANTIA BOOK

The American Academy of Religion (AAR), the leading professional organization of student and faculty scholars in religious studies, convened its annual meeting in Anaheim, on Nov. 23 - 26. One hundred thirty-two scholarly papers were presented altogether, and among them were five papers about *The URANTIA Book*.

Dr. James C. Mills, of Tallahassee, Florida, and Dr. Meredith Sprunger, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, presented two of the papers, entitled "*The Origin and Proliferation of Reality Seen from the Perspective of the URANTIA Book*" and "*The URANTIA Book and Religious Studies*," respectively. Other presentors and their papers were: David L. Miller, "*Urantia: Religion as Texture*"; John E. Collins, "*The Cosmology of the URANTIA Book and Contemporary Scientific Cosmology*"; and Thomas J. Clark, "*The God-Concept of the URANTIA Book*."

The papers were read before an open audience of about thirty-five people, most of them "rumored" to be readers of the Book. Anyone who had registered with the AAR could attend any of a large number of readings, or "consultations." The small room was charged with an air of great expectancy, as an anxious audience reflected in its faces a motherly concern for how the academic world would treat this "new kid on the block," a Book, among many books.

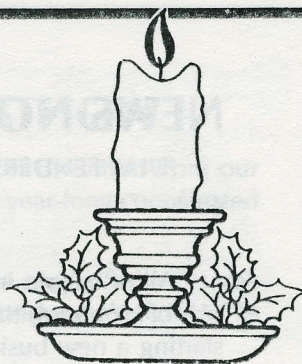
Just so, all but Dr. Mills and Dr. Sprunger (both students of the Book since it was published, should you not know them) raised points of criticism about *The URANTIA Book*, its doctrines, language, and cosmology. Dr. Sprunger presented first, and did set a tone of constructive criticism and dialogue, inviting religious scholars to seriously examine the Book, there to discover a source for desperately needed "spiritual foundations which are large enough, solid enough, and have the visionary potential to give stability and guidance to the new age which is struggling to be born."

Dr. Mills' paper, a careful analysis of Paper No. 105 in *The URANTIA Book*, might be characterized by one of his closing remarks: "[The URANTIA Book's] wealth of material is amazing on all levels; yet when one studies it carefully one sees a very faint glimmer of the vastness of what is untold."

The entire proceedings were conducted in an atmosphere of reason and cordiality. Afterwards, it was unanimously agreed to continue this event at the next annual meeting of the AAR, in Atlanta, Georgia. Dr. Sprunger was asked to preside over next year's consultation. He was also invited by the former president of the AAR to petition for a "seminar" level of participation, which would require commitments from twenty people for five years to foster scholarly research of *The URANTIA Book*. Both Dr. Sprunger and Dr. Mills consider this a remarkable opportunity.

Though without much fanfare, the presentation of five different and thoughtful perspectives on *The URANTIA Book* at this annual meeting of AAR will probably someday be seen as a milestone event. The academic world has not given its blessing to this unique Book among many books, but it has given a first hearing. Rome wasn't built in a day.





FUSLA HOSTS MILLS AND SPRUNGER

While in town for the AAR meeting, Jim Mills and Meredith Sprunger were our guests for an evening buffet and fellowship at Michael and Lori Longs' in Highland Park, on Saturday evening, Nov. 23.

Attended by approximately 50 FUSLANS and friends, it was positively regaling! More than that, it was described by some (whose opinions can be trusted) as one of the very best *URANTIAN* socials yet — ever! Whereas, therefore, honorary induction into the Celestial Artisans, Local 606, is in order, to wit: Michael and Lori Long, Will and Corlin Sherwood, Susan Stevens, and Carmen Ulibarri all would surely make it into the ranks of the Designers and Embellishers, first class, for such an elegantly simple and refreshingly beautiful environment of white tablecloths, candles, and floral arrangements. This able team was also largely responsible for the planning and coordinating of the potluck buffet, Lori topping it off with a delicious stew. There were, no doubt, many Harmony Workers among the crowd, but those who are up for induction this time around must include Lynn Davis, education chairperson, who initially planned this event around Mills' and Sprunger's visit and who also presided over the evening; Chick Montgomery, who rocked the collective cradle and fraternized with destiny while everyone else repasted; and Kermit and Jackie Anderson, who worked behind the scenes to do those necessary things that go unnoticed. For all of those who also worked behind the scenes and did go unnoticed, the real Celestial Artisans had their eyes on you, too.

After dinner, Hoite Caston (who is already an honorary Reversion Director) introduced our two guests. Both Jim and Meredith talked about their upcoming meeting of the AAR, how it all began, and their expectations of the outcome. Meredith expressed his surprise that academics were reviewing the *Book* so soon. "I would have expected this ten or fifteen years later," he said. The story of how the *URANTIA Book* became a topic for scholarly review is amusing, maybe even revealing of angelic serendipity. In a nutshell, it seems that two men who were responsible for planning for the AAR were discussing the possibilities. In a jocular mood, one wondered about the most unlikely book or topic possible for review. The other, also light of heart, proposed *The URANTIA Book*.

Jim and Meredith were quite pleased that the AAR was willing to take a look at the *URANTIA Book*, but in closing both cautioned that these were professional scholars who live in a real world, sometimes pedantic, often resistant to change, usually critical of the new and unexplored, and that we shouldn't expect miracles — at least not until they happen.

NEWS NOTES

JULIA FENDERSON tells us that a new study group is in the making out in the Palmdale area.

★ ★ ★

All of us join in welcoming two new immigrants from Music City (Nashville, Tenn.) by way of Monterey, to the City of Angels, LEE and MARY RECTOR. Lee and Mary are busy with starting a new business enterprise and a new study group in Canoga Park. Soon they will be starting a family, too.

★ ★ ★

BEVERLY WOLD has a new study group that meets in Hemet, Monday mornings, 9:30. For more information, call Beverly at (714) 927-1015.

★ ★ ★

KERMIT and JACKIE ANDERSON are hosting their 10th annual New Year's Eve Remembrance Supper at their home, 15872 Wicklow Lane, Huntington Beach. The evening begins at 8:00 PM with a worship and remembrance supper, culminating in a festive late night potluck and songfest to ring in the new year. All are welcome, but it is imperative that those coming RSVP (714) 894-5417. Dress casually and bring an accompaniment to turkey and chowder.

★ ★ ★

✓ KERMIT also urges people to avoid the New Year's rush and send in their FUSLA membership dues (\$24) at their earliest convenience to him, 15872 Wicklow Lane, Huntington Beach, CA 92647.

★ ★ ★

ROBERT SLAGLE, Ph.D., a longtime URANTIA Book reader, has recently published a handbook on family meetings. Anyone interested in further information may contact him at Family Relations Foundation, P.O. Box 462, Sebastopol, CA 95472.

★ ★ ★

HELEN HUTCHINSON, in her delightful newsletter *Fort Sanders Faith Sons*, Knoxville, Tenn., announces their group is sponsoring a "U-Week", May 5-9, during which they will explore the topic, "Self Mastery," each evening at Helen's home, complete with soup and breads. The event will culminate on Saturday, May 10 with a full-blown feast. A marvelous idea, Faith Sons!



"If you are true to the Spirit within, you will walk forever through the winds of time."

Native American proverb

INVITATION TO YEAR-LONG READATHON

Cathy Jones, President of FUSLA, has recently received a letter of invitation from our sister society, Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska, to join in a year-long coordinated reading of *The URANTIA Book*:

The newly chartered Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska cordially invites you to help us celebrate our first calendar year by joining us in a year of studying the URANTIA Book together.

We feel that one of the most important duties we have as individuals is to truly learn what the Father's will is for each of us. The best way to accomplish this is to better know the Father of that will, and as much as possible His purposes for us and all of existence.

The URANTIA Book tells us on page 2097 that "The great challenge to modern man is to achieve better communication with the divine Monitor that dwells within the human mind". To help achieve this we should try personally to get to know our Father more completely. And what better way is there of getting to know our Father than through prayer, and a complete study of the revelatory knowledge of the URANTIA Book, which our Creator Brother has chosen to send us to heighten our spiritual awareness of truth, beauty, and goodness, and of our perfect Father within us.

To know the Father more is to love the Father more. To love the Father more is to love ourselves more. To love ourselves more is to love our brothers and sisters more. The more we love our brothers and sisters, the more we can service and align our will with the Father's will for us.

Therefore, we invite students from all over the world to join together in one grand reading of the Book. As many as will, let us read the Book together in 1986. We can do this individually or with our families, or however we desire, but let us do this reading in addition to our study groups, societies, and URANTIA Brotherhood activities. Mostly, let us do it all together, progressing through the Book this one time in synchrony. Beginning at the front, on Wednesday, January 1, 1986, let us read four papers a week, each week, until we are finished, just before Christmas of 1986. A year-long Christmas present dedicated to Jesus, and the greater glory of our Father.

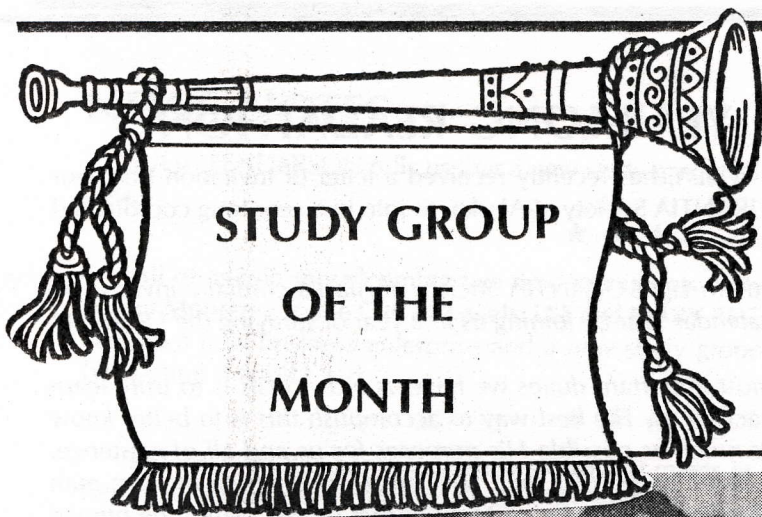
For those of you who wish to join us, we are enclosing the address of our Society for you to send your names and address. We will keep you informed and encouraged on a monthly basis. Let us keep each other inspired and motivated.

Please join us in this coordinated study effort and help us make 1986 truly a "Year of Study". Please feel free to pass this on to others who may be interested.

Not our will, but the Father's will be done in our lives. God bless and guide you.

Northern Light URANTIA Society of Alaska
3605 Arctic Blvd., #972, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

If you want to take the pledge and participate, please get in touch with Cathy Jones at (714) 960-8790. Northern Light, we salute you as you launch your new vessel on its maiden voyage in this special way!



One of our newest groups is the South Bay Study Group, which is comprised of readers from Torrance, Redondo Beach, Palos Verdes, and San Pedro. Now almost one year old, the group was founded by Diane Bishop and Janet Kelly. Next came John Farrington, then Billie Goulette and Darrell Johnson. Regular visitors include Ernie Barbosa, Charles Arterburn and Irving Townsend.

The South Bay group study the papers sequentially, allowing time to socialize before and after their weekly meetings on Tuesday evenings, 8 PM. Visitors and prospective new members are encouraged to attend. Call Janet (213) 378-4226 or (213) 373-6373, ext. 296, or John (213) 541-1664 for more information and meeting place.

Help keep a focus on study groups by submitting a 4 x 5 glossy of your group to the Monitor from anywhere in the Southland. Tell us something about your group including the date it was formed. Newer groups will be featured first.

ON PASSING BY

Several years ago Fred Craddock was lecturing at Yale University. He told of going back one summer to Gatlinburg, Tennessee, to take a short vacation with his wife. One night they found a quiet little restaurant where they looked forward to a private meal — just the two of them.

While they were waiting for their meal they noticed a distinguished looking, white-haired man moving from table to table, visiting guests. Craddock whispered to his wife, "I hope he doesn't come over here." He didn't want the man to intrude on their privacy. But the man did come by his table.

"Where you folks from?" he asked amicably.

"Oklahoma."

"Splendid state, I hear, although I've never been there. What do you do for a living?"

"I teach homiletics at the graduate seminary of Phillips University."

"Oh, so you teach preachers, do you. Well, I've got a story I want to tell you." And with that he pulled up a chair and sat down at the table with Craddock and his wife.

The man stuck out his hand. "I'm Ben Hooper. I was born not far from here across the mountains. My mother wasn't married when I was born so I had a hard time. When I started to school my classmates had a name for me, and it wasn't a very nice name. I used to go off by myself at recess and during lunch time because the taunts of my playmates cut so deeply. What was worse was going downtown on Saturday afternoon and feeling every eye burning a hole through you. They were all wondering just who my real father was."

"When I was about 12 years old a new preacher came to our church. I would always go in late and slip out early. But one day the preacher said the benediction so fast I got caught and had to walk out with the crowd. I could feel every eye in church on me. Just about the time I got to the door I felt a big hand on my shoulder. I looked up and the preacher was looking right at me."

"Who are you son? Whose boy are you?"

"I felt the old weight come on me. It was like a big, black cloud. Even the preacher was putting me down. But as he looked down at me, studying my face, he began to smile a big smile of recognition."

"Wait a minute," he said, "I know who you are I see the family resemblance. You're a son of God."

"With that he slapped me across the rump and said, 'Boy, you've got a great inheritance. Go and claim it.'"

The old man looked across the table at the Craddock and said, "That was the most important single sentence ever said to me." With that he smiled, shook the hands of Craddock and his wife, and moved on. Suddenly, Fred Craddock remembered. On two occasions the people of Tennessee had elected an illegitimate to be their governor. His name was Ben Hooper.

—Reprinted from "Power For Living", copyright 1983, Arthur S. DeMoss Foundation



FUSLA AND VALLEY SOCIETY 1986 SCHEDULES

First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles

Unitarian Society of LA West
3744 S. Barrington
Mar Vista (West LA), CA

(714) 960-8790
(213) 456-9711

JANUARY 5 - 2:00 pm. Video presentation by Lynn Davis, *"The Growth of Fundamentalism and The URANTIA Book."*

FEBRUARY 2 - 2:00 pm. Presentation by Richard Keeler, *"Marriage, Money, Sex and Power."*

MARCH 2 - 2:00 pm. Presentation by Jim Wanlass and Kermit Anderson, *"Cosmic Consciousness."*

MARCH 30 - 2:00 pm. Easter Worship Service and Picnic. (Location to be announced.)

MAY 4 - 2:00 pm. Combined Meeting, USSFV/FUSLA. Presentation by Martin Myers, *"Mankind Service."* To be held at FUSLA.

JUNE 1 - 2:00 pm. Talk and Workshop by Chick Montgomery, *"Creating World Government."*

JULY 6 — USSFV/FUSLA Summer Picnic. (Location to be announced.)

AUGUST 3 - 2:00 pm. Presentation by Polly Friedman. (Location to be announced.)

SEPTEMBER 7 - 2:00 pm. Potluck and Special Update by Dick Prince on the Spanish Translation.

OCTOBER 5 - 2:00 pm. General Assembly and Society Election.

URANTIA Society of San Fernando Valley

Glendale Federal Savings
Community Room
Balboa at Devonshire
Granada Hills, CA
(805) 484-2991
(818) 880-5943

JANUARY 26 - 1:30 pm. Video presentation by Lynn Davis, *"The Growth of Fundamentalism and The URANTIA Book."*

FEBRUARY 23 - 1:30 pm. Study Group topic, *"The Sovereignty of Self"* by Dick MacDonald.

MARCH 23 - 1:30 pm. Study Group on Paper 118, *"Time and Space, Providence and Predestination"* by Larry Whelan and Polly Friedman.

APRIL 27 - 1:30 pm. Panel Discussion: *"What is the Meaning of the 'New Cult?'"* by the Sherwoods' Study Group.

MAY 4 - 2:00 pm. Combined Meeting, USSFV/FUSLA. Presentation by Martin Myers, *"Mankind Service."* To be held at FUSLA 3744 S. Barrington, Mar Vista (West LA).

MAY 25 - 1:30 pm. Presentation by Dorothy Elder. (Location to be announced.)

JUNE 29 - 1:30 pm. Study Group topic, *"The Common Thread in All Religions"* by Grace Sims.

JULY 6 — USSFV/FUSLA Summer Picnic. (Location to be announced.)

AUGUST 17 - 1:30 pm. Jesus' Birthday Celebration.

AREA/CONTACT

MEETING INFO

Anaheim Pierre & Marlene Chicoine	Mondays @ 7:00 PM (714) 761-1565
Arcadia Hal & Lucille Kettell	Mondays @ 7:30 PM (818) 447-1403
Brentwood Irving Townsend	Sundays @ 7:30 PM (213) 207-3187
Burbank Lee & Roselyn Armstrong	Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM (818) 841-6286
BOM Radio Net Bruce Fiero (213) 827-1015	Saturdays @ 10:00 AM-7.290 Mhz Sundays @ 10:00 PM-7.280 Mhz alternate frequency 10:10 AM-14.330 Mhz
Calabasas Polly Friedman	1st & 3rd Mondays @ 7:30 PM (818) 880-5943
Camarillo Gary Reedy	1st & 3rd Mondays @ 7:30 PM (805) 484-2991
Chatsworth Ray Caliguiri	1st & 3rd Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM (818) 993-5286
Fresno Jim Brannon	Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM (209) 255-2147
Hemet Beverly J. Wold	Thursdays @ 7:30 PM (714) 927-1015
Highland Park Marriage & Family: The Longs	3rd Sunday @ 10:30 AM (213) 255-5454
Huntington Beach Kermit & Jackie Anderson	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (714) 894-5417
La Mesa Jim Felt	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (619) 286-8220 (Business)
Los Angeles Will & Corlin Sherwood	Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 394-0710
Malibu Duane & Lucile Faw	2nd & 4th Mondays @ 7:30 PM (213) 456-4927
Palm Springs (Pinyon Pines) Ed Geisler/Lori & Sergio Dante	Sundays @ 5:00 PM (619) 349-3544 or (800) 228-4452
Palmdale John Dees	Sundays (No Time) (805) 948-7063
Rancho Santa Fe Rich Keeler	Alternate Thursdays @ 8:00 PM (619) 755-0264
San Diego Bill & Dorothy Hazzard	3rd Sunday @ 2:00 PM (619) 299-4195
San Diego Dick & Cheryl Prince/Phil & Cindy Calabrese	Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM (619) 270-6558
Santa Barbara/Goleta Samsara Amato-Duex	Tuesdays @ 7:30 PM (805) 967-0975
Santa Barbara Barrie Bedell	Thursdays @ 7:30 PM (805) 969-1565
South Bay/Torrance Janet Kelly	Tuesdays @ 8:00 PM (213) 378-4226
Van Nuys Dick MacDonald	2nd & 4th Thursdays (818) 343-3364
Ventura Larry Whelan	Weekly @ 7:00 PM (CALL for Day) (805) 643-8728
Whittier Stella Religa	1st & 3rd Fridays @ 7:30 PM (213) 698-2122 (Evenings)



the monitor

NEWSLETTER OF THE FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

JANUARY MEETING:

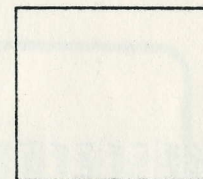
Sunday, January 5, 1986 at 2:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Lynn Davis, featuring a video presentation on the "The Growth of Fundamentalism and The URANTIA Book."

Unitarian Society of L.A. West

3744 S. Barrington, West L.A. (Mar Vista)

POSTMASTER:
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9980 Farragut Drive
Culver City, California 90230

