

don't  
give  
up

# Agondonter

Vol. 5, Issue 2

Fall 2007

## UBLA To Host IC 2008 at UCLA

The next Fellowship of the Urantia Book International Conference will take place beginning Wednesday, July 2, through Sunday, July 6, 2008, at the campus of the University of California Los Angeles. Local Urantia Book readers are busy with the massive organizational effort that will make 2008 the best IC yet. We even have a brand-new song from reggae star and UB reader Pato Banton, written exclusively for this conference — don't miss it!

“The Thrill of Loving Service” is the theme of IC08. In his Farewell Discourse, Jesus told his Apostles, “If you would share the Master's joy, you must share his love. And to share his love means that you have shared his service.” Joy in service is the goal, so this conference will explore the human experience of service and the ways in which it opens the door to understanding and spiritual growth.

Conference Committee Chair Susan Cook has promised us a new format that's in keeping with SoCal style: more more action-oriented sessions plus more time for fellowshipping. And all this on a beautiful, park-like campus just minutes from the ocean, the mountains, and all the variety of entertainment that only Los Angeles can offer.



As hosts for the Conference, we hope that the event will be a sublime experience for everyone. You can help make it so by donating some time during the conference. See the following page in this newsletter for service opportunities, or contact Victoria Clark at [vicgarten@msn.com](mailto:vicgarten@msn.com) or Nathan Clukey at [nclukey@gmail.com](mailto:nclukey@gmail.com) to find out how you can best use your talents. Remember, loving service is the goal!

Those of you who wish to present at the conference, read the guidelines for submitting a proposal for a workshop, presentation or forum at the IC 08 website: <http://www.ic08.org/> And make plans to be there!



## Local Volunteers Needed for IC08: Be a Roadie, a Companion, an Assistant Auctioneer!

Have you ever wanted to do something different? Something fun and worthy and right at the heart of events? If so, you have a chance next July, when the Fellowship's International Conference 2008 (IC08) comes to UCLA. This is UBLA's home turf, and we'd like to show everyone how thrilled we are!

Roadie wannabees, your chance comes Tuesday morning, July 1, when volunteers are needed to set up a stage, unpack and display bookstore merchandise, and set up the Exhibition Hall for Silent Auction items. Then on Sunday afternoon, July 6, everything has to be broken down and/or packed up for transportation. Joe Farar is coordinating that job, email [joefarar@nutradvice.com](mailto:joefarar@nutradvice.com) to get your name on the list.

That same day, the Registration process gets underway, Paula Thompson and Michelle Klimesh presiding. Will and Margo Sherwood are coordinating volunteer efforts for this herculean task, which is broken down into one-hour intervals from 3–9 PM. You'll get to see everyone! Contact the Sherwoods at (805) 259-5077, or email [will@thesherwoodgroup.com](mailto:will@thesherwoodgroup.com)

Working hand in hand with the Registration volunteers will be the Urantia Companions—also coordinated by the Sherwoods—a group of individuals who tarry on their path to perfection to welcome people and guide them around the conference venue. Companions who can speak a second language such as Spanish are encouraged to help out with international visitors. Volunteers are needed to work alongside Registration folks from 3-9 PM, plus a second gig in the main hall from 7-10 PM to greet new arrivals at the Tuesday evening Reception.

If sales is where your heart is, then the IC08 Bookstore and Art Gallery is the place for you. Assistance is requested beginning Wednesday afternoon, July 2. A two-hour shift—1-3 PM or 3-5 PM—would be great! JoAnn Wiedman is the Chair of the Bookstore Committee; Chris and Tamara Wood will be your colleagues in this mercantile event. Volunteer Coordinators are Richard Omura at (310) 710-7962 [omura@verizon.net](mailto:omura@verizon.net) and Norman Ingram (562) 698-2122 [norlastar@aol.com](mailto:norlastar@aol.com)

What would Los Angeles be without a little glitter? Saturday night is the Masquerade Ball and Silent Auction, come as your favorite celestial or morontial being! The Best Costume contest will be emceed by Judi Langston, with the winner chosen by a panel of three judges. Contact Nathan Clukey (310) 430-2972 [nclukey@gmail.com](mailto:nclukey@gmail.com) to get in on the glitz. Then the Silent Auction takes place under the talented hand of Elisabeth Callahan (805) 525-4447 [elisabeth.callahan@verizon.net](mailto:elisabeth.callahan@verizon.net) A number of volunteers are needed to assist in staffing the exhibition hall, plus collecting and counting the bids and recording transactions.

If you have a spare hour or two during the Conference, you might like to help out at the Volunteer Center, where staff assist performers and presenters with stage sets, equipment, etc. You will also work with the Tweens, a volunteer youth group organized by Pradhana Fuchs and Victoria Clark. Contact Nathan Clukey for more details.

Loving service is the name of the game, folks. If not here, then where? If not now, then when?



## Chris Halvorson Sparks New UB Discussions

Once upon a time long ago, there was the Boulder School, where eager students delved into cosmic concepts through the pages of the Urantia Book. It was the quintessential grad school course, where truth seekers panned for golden understanding in streams of consciousness. But it disappeared from Boulder many years ago, and UB readers have had to make do with memories ... until now.

Enter the New Boulder School, the unofficial name of the Friday night study group of Chris and Cady Halvorson. Chris, a physicist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, studies (among other things) cosmic patterns of threes in the Urantia Book, and recently visited SoCal to speak to the Urantia Book Society Los Angeles about matter, mind and spirit.



In Dr. Halvorson's chart, "Threefold Actuality with Unity," the trifold pattern of the universe becomes clear. Matter, mind and spirit are the three forms of finite energy in the universe. Each form of energy has a characteristic quality: matter is characterized by things, mind by meanings, and spirit by values. Each of these characteristic qualities presents choices. Regarding things, humans can choose facts or figments (a husband or Prince Charming, for example); meanings can be true or erroneous, as in literary interpretations; and the choice in the realm of values can be good or evil.

Each of the three forms of energy – matter, mind and spirit – is associated with one of the three universal realms of science, philosophy and religion. Matter is associated with the realm of science, where humans seek reflections of God in beauty. The realm of philosophy gives us truth, the revelation of God in mind energy. And religion is one's personal relationship to God in the spirit realm – goodness.

This threefold pattern appears again as a reality response on three levels: **causation**, the domain of the physical senses in the scientific realm (matter); **duty**, the domain of morals in the philosophic realm (mind); and **worship**, the spiritual domain of the reality of religious experience. The author of Paper 16 goes on to tell us that these three cosmic responses are innate in the cosmic mind, and may be unified and coordinated in personality development. These cosmic intuitions are constitutive in the self-consciousness of reflective thinking, and are proof of spiritual progress.

Dr. Halvorson has made available other articles that reflect his deep study of the Urantia Book, including "History of Life," "Fundamental Patterns of Reality," "Conception and Birth of a Mortal Ascender," "Etymology of Coined Words in The Urantia Book," and several files in mp3 format on Paper 59, "The Marine-Life Era On Urantia." Look for them at <http://www.urantiapapers.us> or <http://urantiabook.org/whatsnew.htm> Skypecasts of the Friday evening study group in Boulder are currently available, go to <https://skypecasts.skype.com/skypecasts/home/> and search on the keyword "Urantia." Here's one UB reader who will be listening in!



# Looking Forward, Looking Back: UBLA Members Raise the Bar

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As the end of 2007 approaches, UBLA members are looking back at last year's events and making plans for 2008. The 2006 holiday season was kicked off with a Holiday Open House and Jam Session at the home of Patrick McNelly and Theresa Ransbottom, with special guest Cristina Seaborn. This year the gig takes place on Saturday, December 29: contact Pat McNelly at [pmcnelly@roadrunner.com](mailto:pmcnelly@roadrunner.com) for details.

Larry Whelan continued his great work as chair of the Book Committee. Together with UBLA Secretary Donna Whelan and a group of enthusiastic volunteers, they staffed a table at the 2007 Conscious Life Expo at the LAX Hilton February 9-12. Special thanks to both Donna and Larry for this and all the other years of service on UBLA's behalf.



Our program meetings have been fabulous! Kudos go to Stella Religa, the chair of the Hospitality Committee, for her fine hand in making people feel welcome. And Education Committee chair Kermit Anderson has been at the top of his form, arranging for speakers Chris Halvorson, Behz Sarmast, Phil Geiger and Richard Omura.

Thanks also to Jennifer Stockland and Marlene Chicoine for their work on the Special Events Committee. On June 2, UBLA members enjoyed an Italian Extravaganza at the home of Hamid Mazdeh in La Palma. The food was great, the company was congenial, and a good time was had by

L to R: Dianne Bishop, Phil Geiger, Phil Calabrese, Nathan Clukey at the wedding of Charles (Chick) Montgomery and Reverend Pamela Tyler

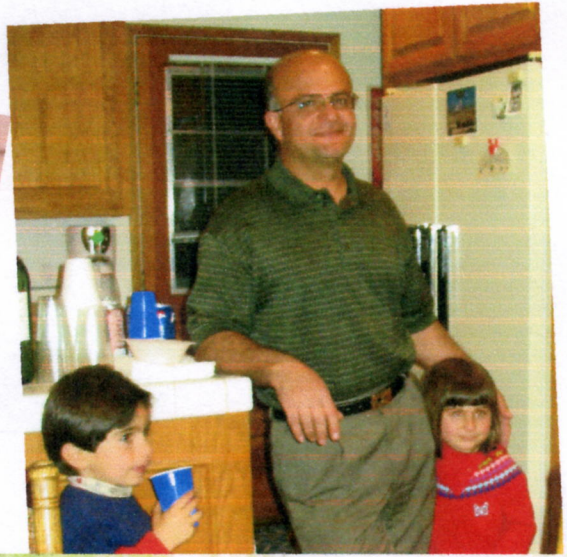
all. Bravo! Then on August 18, a Jesus Birthday party celebration was held at Irvine Terrace Park. UBLA members celebrated the beginning of the seventh bestowal mission of Michael of Nebadon with food, fellowship and fun.

An extra special gathering was held on September 6 at the Cathedral Center of Saint Paul in Los Angeles: the wedding of long-time UBLA member Charles Montgomery and Pamela Tyler, an Episcopalian minister. Congratulations to the newlyweds!

Outreach Committee chair Jerry Dalton has been busy with his efforts to bring the Trojan Horse series, originally written in Spanish by JJ Benitez, to the English-reading world. Benitez' books have been introducing Urantia Book concepts to people in Spanish-speaking countries for decades, and Dalton sees no reason why they cannot serve the same purpose here. For more details, please email [gsdalton@mail.com](mailto:gsdalton@mail.com)

Our heartfelt thanks go out to Robert Burns, who has served as UBLA's Treasurer for lo these many years. You're a tough act to follow, Robert! And of course, we couldn't go forward without our organizational leadership — thanks to our President, Dianne Bishop, and our Vice-President, Fred Smith. We're looking forward to bigger and better things next year!





## Faces of UBLA 2007



# UBLA Thanksgiving Celebration 2007

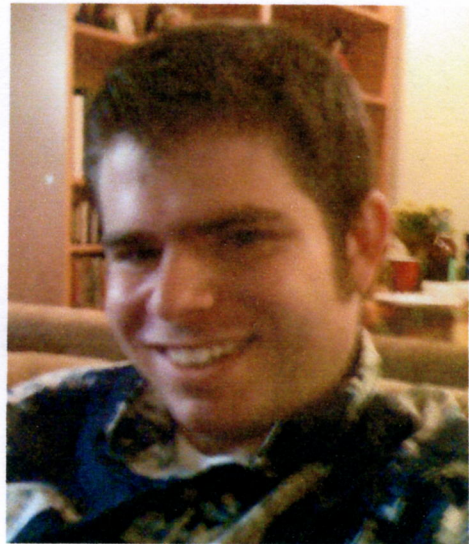
By Joe Farar

As a new member of UBLA, I am delighted to write my first article for the Agondonter. Recently, I had the pleasure of attending our annual Thanksgiving potluck meeting and celebration which was held on November 17<sup>th</sup>. I enjoyed the camaraderie, sincere contribution, and unique expressiveness of each of our members and guests. I had many conversations with readers from far and wide, each with an interesting story to tell. I particularly enjoyed Richard Omura and Ryan Barrett's ensemble and commentary of various Urantia Book concepts. I have never heard anyone play a harmonica quite the way Richard does!

I also enjoyed the Cosmic Café, which was held at the end of our meeting. For me, the Cosmic Café is one of the most rewarding experiences during each meeting because it allows us to understand and share with each other.

I found Pat McNelly's closing remarks of thanksgiving to be truly touching and fitting for the holiday season. As Pat mentioned, there is nothing greater than the gift of life itself. There is something beyond sublime about the individuality and opportunity for fellowship each of us possess; no amount of inequity, difference, or experience can break our common bonds.

I am most thankful for the friendship and warm environment of UBLA; they are a diverse and compassionate group of people who live in the spirit of loving service. I am honored to be a new member of this organization and look forward to the time we will share together. Many thanks to all of you!



UBLA member Joe Farar

## Current UBLA Officers and Committee Chairs

<i>President</i> . . . . .	<b>Dianne Bishop</b>	<i>Secretary</i> . . . . .	<b>Donna Whelan</b>
<i>Vice President</i> . . . .	<b>Fred Smith</b>	<i>Treasurer</i> . . . . .	<b>Kevin Nelson</b>
<i>Hospitality</i> . . . . .	<b>Kim Goddard</b>	<i>Book</i> . . . . .	<b>Larry Whelan</b>
<i>Membership</i> . . . . .	<b>Richard Omura</b>	<i>Education</i> . . . . .	<b>Kermit Anderson</b>
<i>Publications</i> . . . . .	<b>Theresa Ransbottom</b>	<i>Outreach</i> . . . . .	<b>Gerald Dalton</b>
<i>Special Events</i> . . . .	<b>Jennifer Stockland and Marlene Chicoine</b>		



## Urantia Book Outreach On The Beach



Left to Right: Nathan Clukey, Norman Ingram, Pato Banton, David Abele and John Montchalin at Venice Beach

Beaches are borders between earth and water, transition places where we stand on the sand and look out to the mysterious liquid realm. Maybe that's why people on the beach are open to new ideas, because lapping at their feet is the source of many a marvelously strange thing. Trust Norman Ingram to recognize that air of interest and position himself to offer spiritual food for hungry seekers.

Together with UBLA members Rob Estrada, Nathan Clukey and Wes Parker, Norman has organized an outreach effort on Venice Beach, south of Rose Drive on the boardwalk. Every Sunday from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m., you'll find one of them staffing a table displaying Urantia Books and literature, hanging out and talking to passers-by about God and the universe. You never know who might show up! For more information, please contact Norman at (562) 698-2122, Rob at (805) 501-4768, or Nathan at (310) 430-2972.

One of the hottest new Urantia Book outreach venues is YouTube. UBLA member Nathan Clukey has done several pieces using UB text with sound and video. Plus there's an outstanding interview by former UBLA member Polly Friedman, in which Pato Banton speaks extensively of how the Urantia Book has changed his life. Great work, Polly! Point your browser at <http://www.youtube.com> and search on the keyword, "Urantia."

Other outreach efforts by UBLA members include UNO, Urantia Nations Outreach [ubla.org/uno](http://ubla.org/uno), part of Norman Ingram's ministry to disseminate news of the Fifth Epochal Revelation around the world. UNO maintains contact with Urantia Book readers internationally, including individuals in Argentina, Chile, Ghana, Senegal and Guinea.





## Upcoming EVENTS - Mark Your Calendar!

Sundays 11-4 Venice Beach Boardwalk (weather permitting)  
**Urantia Book Outreach - See page 7 for details and contact info**

January 12-13 and September 12-14, 2008: Los Angeles and Pasadena  
**Body Mind Spirit Expo - Urantia Book outreach booth**  
 Contact Larry Whelan at [lwhelan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lwhelan@sbcglobal.net)

January 24-27, 2008, at the LAX Hilton  
**Urantia Book Fellowship General Council Meeting**

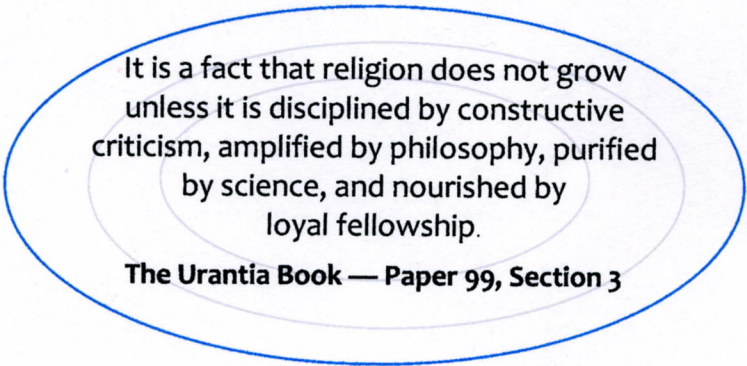
Saturday, May 17, 2008, time and location TBA  
**Second Annual UBLA Italian Extravaganza**

July 2-6, 2008 (Wednesday through Sunday), on campus at UCLA  
**Fellowship of the Urantia Book International Conference 2008**  
 Conference website: <http://www.ic08.org/>

Quarterly Program Meetings begin with a potluck at 6 PM. Please bring a salad, vegetable or dessert to share; UBLA provides an entrée and beverage.

Presentations begin at 7 PM and are followed by the Cosmic Café, an informal fellowshiping event where UBLA members have an opportunity to get to know one another better. Come join us!

Our venue is the Whittier Art Gallery unless otherwise noted :  
 8035 South Painter Avenue  
 Please contact Kermit Anderson, Education Committee Chair, at [kermita@socal.rr.com](mailto:kermita@socal.rr.com) (714) 894-5417 for information on program presentations.



## UB SoCal Study Groups

- ◆ Arcadia - Lucille Kettell . . . . . Weekly: Monday 7:30 PM . . . . . (626) 447-1403
  - ◆ Irvine - Robert Burns . . . . . Weekly: Thursday 8 PM . . . . . (949) 222-1053
  - ◆ Long Beach - Doug Huntzinger . . . . . Monthly: Call for next date . . . . . (562) 633-2536
  - ◆ Redondo Beach - Jim English . . . . . Monthly: Call for next date . . . . . (310) 373-3349
  - ◆ Santa Barbara - Brendi Poppel . . . . . Monthly: first Wednesday 7:30 PM . . . . . (805) 884-6166
  - ◆ South Bay - Dianne Bishop . . . . . Call for date and time . . . . . (310) 544-1715
  - ◆ Ventura - Elisabeth / John Callahan . . . . . Weekly: Friday 7 PM . . . . . (805) 933-6650
  - ◆ Westminster - Kermit / Jackie Anderson . Bimonthly: first & third Thursdays 7:30 PM . . (714) 894-5417
  - ◆ Whittier - Stella Religa / Norman Ingram . Bimonthly: first & third Fridays 2 PM . . . . . (562) 698-2122
- Area Study Group Contact: Richard Omura . . . . . (310) 306-9789

Please Note: UBLA has no official affiliation with any study group, nor does UBLA endorse or have any authority governing their curriculum or practices.

