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give
up

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Vol. 6, Issue 1

Spring 2008

Hot Salsa at the UBLA Chili Party!

Live music, spicy chili with all the trimmings, the company of fellow religionists ... what more can you ask?

Well, maybe you'd like to be the winning bidder on a fabulous custom succulent garden for your yard, or a weekend at a beachside apartment. Or perhaps you'd like to know that you can have fun and help support UBLA's ongoing outreach activities at the same time! Whatever your reason, mark your calendar to put on your Stetson and join the round up!



Saturday, May 17, from 4 to 9 PM at the home of Jackie and Kermit Anderson in Westminster, UBLA will celebrate Western style with a Chili Cook-Off party. Cast your vote for the chili of your choice! Top your favorite with hot peppers, cheese, salsa ... make it your way! Dig into crisp salad and hot cornbread as you please, but save room for something sweet at the end!

Our artisans that day will be the LBP Band with Pierre Chicoine and Robert Burns, music to set your cowboy boots tapping and your heart laughing. Just don't lose track of your bids!

You'll want to keep an eye on the progress of our special Silent Auction, where some the items are custom, one-of-a-kind services. How about a gourmet dining experience for you and your friends at your house? Or maybe you have a corner of your yard that would look smashing in succulents. Other deals too good to mention will be on the auctioneer's block, you'll just have to attend to find out!

All this plus the pleasure of being among Urantia Book readers is offered for only \$20 per adult, or \$5 for children 12 and under. RSVP the number of people attending to UBLA President Dianne Bishop at (310) 547-0602 or the Andersons at (714) 894-5417. Or email dbishop310@aol.com

More information, including directions, map and parking information on the back page. See you pronto!



Notes from All Over



Hearing from old friends is always music to our ears. This edition we say hello to two UBLA members who have moved out of California, Hamid Mazdeh in the Seattle area, and Dennis Nicomede in Medford, Oregon:

Hi Pat, yes we moved again. I have been here in Seattle area for nearly two months now. This is the second time that I have lived in Seattle. Last time was in 1997, when I met my wife Fataneh.

My job location is actually the Boeing Frederickson site, which is about 37 miles south of Seattle. We live in a nearby city, Puyallup. At this point we are renting a two bedroom condo.

I did not sell my house in California, in anticipation of going back in the near future. I am not planning to be here for long. After one to two years I will try to transfer to one of Boeing's southern California divisions, depending on what will be available then. Please say hello to my Urantian friends over there and give them my new email address:
hamid.r.mazdeh@boeing.com

Hey Dianne thanks for keeping me on the UBLA list because it allows me to still feel connected to the group. We've got a small Study group (10 to 14 people) up here in Southern Oregon, doing what we can to keep the Spirit of God Alive and Well!

Hope to see you all at the Conference, God Bless Us All! -Dennis Nicomede

Dear Urantian Brothers and Sisters,

We had a successful weekend at the Body, Mind & Spirit Expo, which took place at the LAX Hilton on Saturday and Sunday, January 12-13, 2008. I first want to thank everyone who participated in the event. Thank you to my wife Donna and our Spiritual Brothers: Norman Ingram, David Abele, Michael DiMattia, George Benavides w/video camera, Bob Lawson and Richard Omura.

Our booth had a large poster of the Urantia Book and the Urantia Flag on the curtain behind us. We also had a poster of The Living Universe on our table along with stacks of Urantia Books. We gave out 404 Spiritual Vitamins and 218 Table of Contents handouts.

Ten people attended the talk I gave, "Discover The Urantia Book, Read the Revelation!" I spoke for thirty minutes and answered questions for fifteen minutes after the presentation.

Many of the people we talked to had not heard of The Urantia Book, I would say about 60% of our contacts and most of the people showed a great interest in hearing what we had to say.

We sold thirteen Urantia Books. Mel Selway of Amado, Arizona won the drawing for the free Urantia Book. All in all I felt that the event was very successful.

Thank you to the Fellowship for paying our registration fee, to UBLA and everyone who assisted us.

We will also be at the Body, Mind & Spirit Expo in Pasadena on September 12, 13 & 14th, 2008. Please contact me at lwhelan@sbcglobal.net if you would like to help us at the booth!

Larry Whelan

Current UBLA Officers and Committee Chairs

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



Beyond Kant: Gordon Pipes Makes The Connection

Gordon Pipes is a long-time reader of the Urantia Book and also a scholar of philosophy, particularly Immanuel Kant. On Saturday evening, March 22, UBLA members gathered at the Whittier Art Gallery to enjoy fellowship and to learn of many fascinating connections between the work of the historic German author and the papers in the Urantia Book.

“In particular,” Gordon wrote, “sections six through nine in Paper 16, beginning with ‘The Cosmic Mind,’ where the Universal Censor explains the characteristics of the Seven Master Spirits, these contain much that is the essence of Kant.”

In his work, Immanuel Kant believed that reason had to make room for faith. He believed that theoretical reason can't reach beyond the world of experience, and so he disliked the traditional "proofs" of the existence of God. He wanted instead to make religious belief a matter of "practical reason."

Kant posits “innate categories” that, together with intuition and understanding, enable humans to have knowledge of the world by means other than the physical senses.

In Paper 16, a Universal Censor calls them “intellectual and spiritual potentials,” the reality response that is innate in the cosmic mind, endowed in all will creatures. It is how we can recognize cosmic reality.



Gordon Pipes (L) with Education Committee Chair Kermit Anderson

Kant also postulates a universal moral law that free-will human beings follow voluntarily: that one must treat humanity — understood as rational agency, and represented through oneself as well as others — as an end in itself rather than (merely) as a means.

“Morality,” writes the same Censor, “is a personal and freewill matter. P16, S7 And what is Kant’s universal law but the Brotherhood of Man?”

“The Urantia Book takes the next step after Kant,” said Gordon. “But Kant was the human springboard from which some of the Urantia Book authors attempted to explain cosmic reality and human consciousness.”

Kant references from Wikipedia: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immanuel_Kant



In Memoriam

We bid good-bye to Duane Faw, fellow Urantia Book reader, beloved husband and father, loyal friend, former Brigadier General, distinguished scholar, author of the Paromony and longtime servant of God and the Fifth Epochal Revelation, who graduated this world and departed for Mansonia on March 26, 2008. Until we meet again.



Duane and Lucille Faw in 1978

A New UB: Hypertext Urantia Book is Online

<http://urantiabook.org/newbook/> is just what it says: a new Urantia Book. The text of the FER is now hypertext, with links to a topical index embedded in words or phrases in the text, plus links for other formats and secondary works.

This writer agrees with Paula Thompson's recent SocAdmin message: the mp3 files with Merritt Horn's reading plus the Media Player displays are over the top! A very nice addition to the text, for those times when you just want to hear the words.

The cross referencing index, which was developed by the late Dr. Faw, is also hypertext. You can select from a list to view either the Bible text or the corresponding references in the Urantia Book. Again, a wonderful tool for readers of either book.

I enjoy reading Michelle Klimesh's condensed version under the "Synopsis" link. Sometimes when I'm looking for something in particular, it's convenient to scan that text for a keyword. And she has a nice touch in leaving the flavor of the original text intact.

The hypertext online Urantia Book has been a goal of its architect, David Kantor, for many years. An ambitious goal, we think, one well worth the loving labor he has so obviously poured into it. The marvelous tools he has built for us will be used again and again by readers from now on. And who knows where it will go from there?

Bravo! And our thanks, David, for your work on our behalf.

New Urantia Book Study Group at Local Unity Church

UBLA members Larry and Donna Whelan have launched, with permission from Pastor Marilyn Roth, a new Urantia Book study group at the Pasadena Unity Church on Del Mar in that city. This will be an experimental, six-week group.

The first meeting was on April 13th with ten people attending. The group meets from 1 – 3 PM every Sunday afternoon at the church. We began with Part IV of the Urantia Book, the Jesus Papers.

There were very favorable comments after the first meeting, our group found the Urantia Book story of the Master to be exhilarating!

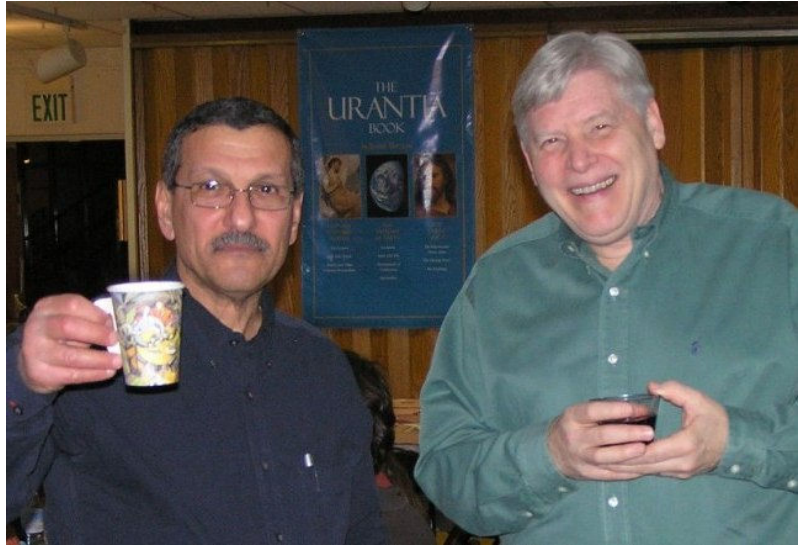
Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome. It is the Whelans' hope that interest will remain high and the group will be able to extend its time frame for many more weeks. If you would be interested in attending, please call Larry or Donna at (626) 287-7775. Or email xyxyz@sbcglobal.net



Fellowship General Council Members Enjoy an Evening with UBLA

On Saturday evening, January 26, UBLA members hosted a dinner reception for the Fellowship General Council members, who were in Los Angeles for their scheduled meeting. Despite torrential rains and flooding, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Monica rang with the sounds of good friends and good food.

General Council members rode a UBLA-chartered bus to Santa Monica, where they took advantage of a little social time to visit with UBLA members. Special thanks to UBLA Hospitality Committee chair Kim Goddard, who donated time and decorations to make the event memorable.



Avi Dogim (L) and Robert Bryn



Aurora Hill (L) and Charlene Morrow



David Kantor and Svetlana Vraziene offer a toast

L to R facing the camera:
John Hales,
Patrick McNelly,
Paula Thompson

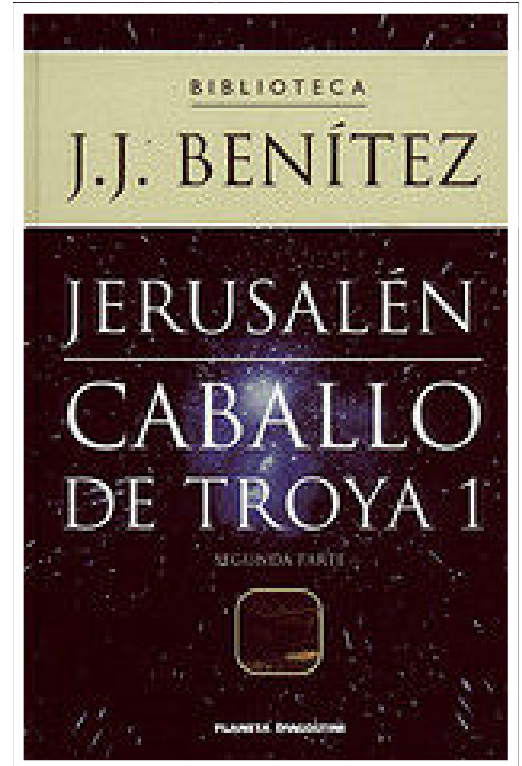


Benitez's "Trojan Horse" Series To Be Published In English

In 1984, Juan José Benítez's first book in the famous "Caballo De Troya," or Trojan Horse series was published. Since that time, seven sequels have found their way to print, and millions of copies have been sold in Spanish-speaking countries around the world. Although Benitez does not state that his books are based on the Urantia Book, those who have read both recognize that his writings are definitely inspired by the Papers and in fact contain verbatim extracts.

In the first book, *Jerusalem*, "Caballo De Troya" is a code name for a US Air Force project that resulted in a man being sent back to Jerusalem during Jesus' lifetime. Many details of the Master's life are included, and the books have a huge following among Spanish-speaking science fiction readers. Countless readers of *El Libro de Urantia* credit their introduction to the Fifth Epochal Revelation to Benitez's books, and Benitez acknowledges the inspirational value of the Urantia Book to the Trojan Horse stories on his website.

In the past few years, Benitez has awarded the publishing rights to the English translation of this series of books to a company based in Florida, Maxima Publishing. The first book has been translated, and Maxima is now negotiating with Byron Belitsos and his co-agent Jonah Straus to handle the marketing for them. Belitsos, owner of the publishing company Origin Press, is a long-time Urantia Book reader. He and Jerry Dalton, who reads the Urantia Book in both English and Spanish and is currently chair of a special Outreach committee for UBLA, have been pursuing this project for several years. When Dalton, who has read the Benitez books, heard that the series was to be translated and published in English, he alerted Belitsos and together with a third investor, Costas Diamantopoulos, they made an offer to purchase the publishing rights. Their initial offer was refused, but negotiations are still under way.



UBLA member and committee chair Jerry Dalton

The English translation of this series promises to be very popular, and may even bring awareness of the Urantia Book to its readers the same way the Spanish version has. Many consider the books of Benitez to be largely responsible for the amazing increase in sales of the Urantia Book in Spanish. "El Libro de Urantia" is now being sold in the same numbers as the original English text, and may even exceed those numbers in the near future.

When *Trojan Horse I* is available, a notice will be sent to Urantia Book reader lists. In the meantime, if you would like more information on the English version of the Caballo De Troya series, please contact Jerry Dalton at gsdalton@mail.com





Upcoming EVENTS - Mark Your Calendar!

Saturday, May 17, 4-9 PM @ 7321 Judson Avenue, Westminster
UBLA Chili Cook-Off party
 Contact Dianne Bishop, dbishop310@aol.com to RSVP

Saturday, June 14, 6-9 PM @ the Whittier Art Gallery
Quarterly Program Meeting
 Presenters: Jim English, Pat McNelly, Kermit Anderson

Tuesday, July 1, 7-9 PM @ Covel Commons on the UCLA Campus
ICo8 Preconference Reception hosted by UBLA

Wednesday through Sunday, July 2-6, on campus at UCLA
Fellowship of the Urantia Book International Conference 2008
 Conference website: <http://www.ico8.org/>

Saturday, August 23, time and place TBA
Jesus Birthday Party

Saturday, September 6, 6-9 PM @ the Whittier Art Gallery
Quarterly Program Meeting
 Presenter TBA

Saturday & Sunday, September 12-13, @ the Pasadena Masonic Temple
Urantia Book outreach at the Body, Mind & Spirit Expo
 Contact Larry Whelan at lwhelan@sbcglobal.net for more information

Saturday, November 15, 6-9 PM @ the Whittier Art Gallery
Quarterly Program Meeting and Thanksgiving Celebration
 Presenter TBA

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

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 (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.





Urantia Book Society Los Angeles
 306 Dave Drive
 San Pedro, CA 90732

Return Service Requested

UBLA Chili Cook-Off Party: Saturday, May 17, 4-9 PM 7321 Judson Ave, Westminster

Jackie and Kermit Anderson live on a cul-de-sac near the intersection of Beach Boulevard (SR 39) and the 405. From the south, exit the 405 to northbound Beach. Turn left on McFadden, cross the 405 and turn right on Vassar Street. Judson is the fourth street on the right.

From the north, exit at Bolsa Avenue westbound and turn left onto Goldenwest Street. Travel south to McFadden and turn left, then left again onto Vassar.

Parking in the cul-de-sac is limited, so you may need to park on Vassar or one of the other residential streets nearby and walk a block or so.

RSVP Dianne Bishop at (310) 547-0602, or the Andersons at (714) 894-5417

