

AGONDONTER



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FIRST URANTIA SOCIETY OF LOS ANGELES

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MEMBERS on the MOVE

The membership of FUSLA contains many talented and dedicated individuals from all walks of life. Beverly J. Wold from Hemet, California is just one such individual. She is an accomplished photographer and is one of fifty photographers from the U.S.A. who is going to participate in the first photographic cultural exchange with the Soviet Union. Beverly will be spending time in Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev and Sochi between June 26 and July 10, 1974. We hope to get a first hand report from her as soon as she returns. Congratulations Beverly!

Bob and Cheryl Boden, FUSLA Members since December, 1971, have just recently moved from their home in Fullerton to Lolita, California, a journey of over 300 miles. Bob has served as chairman of the FUSLA Goals Committee and Cheryl has been an active volunteer in many society activities.

In the past few years, the travelling bug has also hit former FUSLA President Holte Caston who has moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Elizabeth Schiavo, former editor of the "Agondonter", has taken up residence in Fresno, California while David Saunders is now living in Hawaii with his wife and four children.

Another FUSLA member on the move is Fred Shupp, co-founder of the Lending Library and active member. Fred has moved from the Orange County area to Berkeley to work with Vern Grimsley and the Family of God Foundation. Fred is employed by a large grocery chain and volunteers his efforts in his spare time in Vern's busy group.

Three other FUSLA members, Jo Ann Eichman, Mary Strahan and Terry McCade have also previously moved to Berkeley to join Vern. While we hope only the best for our FUSLA brothers and sisters, we hope the trend slows down a bit in the future, or we'll eventually lose our entire membership to Vern. Best of spiritual luck and all of our prayers from the "Agondonter" staff and FUSLA.

NEW CONCORDEX

Clyde Edell has just published a new and revised edition of his Concordex of the URANTIA Book. The new edition includes a handy "A-B-C-D" reference guide to enable readers to better locate a particular passage on the page as well as having thousands of new references.

The new Concordex is available through your local bookstore for \$12.50. They can also be ordered by mail from the URANTIA Brotherhood in Chicago or from Clyde directly at 129 Camino Alto, Santa Barbara, California 93103. Postage may be necessary when ordering by mail. Many readers of the URANTIA Book comment that the Concordex is most helpful in locating quotes and information in their URANTIA Books.

FUSLA LENDING LIBRARY

Very few persons who study the URANTIA Book feel that the cost of their first book was a poor investment. But when it comes to purchasing extra books for friends to borrow or for a growing study group of new readers, the \$10.50 can start to have adverse effects on the family budget.

To overcome this problem, necessity being the mother of invention, some of the less wealthy members of the society have created the URANTIA Lending Library. An other factor in the effort to generate a stock of books to loan in that the wisdom it takes to accept a significant work such as the URANTIA Revelation is the same wisdom that might not readily spend \$23.00 on something that is a great unknown.

Beginning with investments of their own, from the Fred Equire Memorial Library, and from many other members, Fred Shupp, Jim Newelly and Leonard Kidd organized what is now over thirty books into the library.

Any member of FUSLA can sponsor a book, subject to their availability, and is responsible for that book for a period of two months. Renewals are possible for one extra month except when there is a pressing waiting list.

According to Leonard Kidd, FUSLA Member and head of the library, the number of available books will increase as more and more individuals recognize the effectiveness of the library concept as a means of service for those Urantians who are unable to serve in other ways. It also serves to compensate for problems of geographic isolation that exist in an evolving society such as our own. If you wish to become involved in the library, contact Leonard Kidd at one of the monthly meetings or through the "Agondonter" F.O.B. box.

URANTIA FOUNDATION PRESEDENT TO VISIT FUSLA ON JULY SEVENTH

Thomas Kendall, President of the URANTIA Foundation in Chicago, will address the monthly meeting of FUSLA on Sunday, July 7 at 2:00 p.m. at Brentwood School. Plans are for an all day gathering with a pot-luck supper in the evening. Tom and his wife, Carolyn, are visiting the west coast on vacation with their four teenage children and have recently confirmed their participation at the July meeting. All friends of the Los Angeles Society are invited to hear Mr. Kendall speak but are requested to bring food for the dinner. It is a rare opportunity for FUSLA to have such an honored guest and the meeting promises to be one of the highlights of the year.

NEWS FROM CHICAGO

The URANTIA Brotherhood in Chicago is currently in the process of sponsoring the 1974 Summer Study Session to be held in Evanston on the weekend of July 26 and 27. Open to URANTIA Brotherhood members and invited guests, the 1974 session promises to be the largest gathering of its kind in the Brotherhood's brief nineteen year history.

Up to three hundred persons are expected to attend the series of lectures, presentations, study sessions and social gatherings. The Evanston, Illinois location was selected due to the problem of limited space at the Brotherhood headquarters.

In the morning of Friday, July 26, Keston Stevens will open the session and orientate the assembly. Paul Snider will follow with a welcome entitled, "I Have Shown You the Way" after which Christy will talk on "Loyalty and Service". Mo Siegel will then present "Friendship With God" with Vern Grimsley ending the morning with "Honor is the URANTIA Book".

In the afternoon, Julia Fenderson will talk on "Teaching Children With the Teachings" to be followed by Martin Myers speaking on "Human Justice vs. Urantian Justice". Barbara Mewson will then talk on "Lifelong Learning and the URANTIA Book" leading into "Preparing for Marriage" by John Hales. Before the break, Bob Hunt will present a talk entitled, "I Promise To Go With You".

The evening program has Charles Disconceiling on "Perspectives on Race" followed by David Gray talking on "What Jesus Taught at Urantia". The Family of God group will then provide music and Barney Burton will offer a Remembrance Supper.

On Saturday, July 27, Lew and Alice Clark begin the morning activities with "Marriage and Family Life" followed by Steven Dreier speaking on "Instructions to Teachers and Believers". Jim Mills will then present a talk on "Mercy and Forgiveness" with Heles Butler giving her ideas on "Vocation and Avocation of Jesus".

The afternoon gathering will be led off by Peter Sarfity on "Organizing Study Groups" leading into "Prayer and Worship" by Dave Schlant. Vern Grimsley then returns to present a talk entitled, "The Spiritually Challenging Future of the URANTIA Movement."

Saturday Evening will witness a social gathering directed by Mary Lou Helen, assisted by Claire Stephens, Mary Snider and Christy. Persons wishing to attend who have not yet registered are reminded that they must register through the URANTIA Brotherhood headquarters, located at 531 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, Illinois, 40614.

Other news from Chicago reports that John Hales of Brooklyn, New York has accepted a full-time position as Resident Director of URANTIA Brotherhood. The April let appointment will find John moving to the windy city within a few months.

On May 8th the Executive Committee of the URANTIA Brotherhood asked Steven Dreier of Teaneck, New Jersey, to serve as Field Representative of the URANTIA Brotherhood for New England, Pennsylvania, and the Atlantic States.

Steve will serve in the position vacated by John Hales and his acceptance of the appointment means he will work closely with John in the next few months to ensure an orderly transition of responsibilities.

President of the URANTIA Brotherhood, Paul Snider, in a memorandum to URANTIA Societies, Field Representatives and selected study groups, stated, "All who have come to know John and Steve will share our deep satisfaction that men of their capabilities are representing the Executive Committee in the vital task at headquarters and in the field—disseminating the teachings of the URANTIA Book through an ever-enlarging network of study groups. This is our fundamental mission."

As a continuing policy, the Foundation and the Brotherhood remind all persons interested in URANTIA activities and the dissemination of Urantian teachings that the word "URANTIA" is a registered trade mark as is the symbol, the three concentric green blue circles. Use of the word "URANTIA" is strictly limited as in the symbol but that the Foundation and the Brotherhood will agree to extend all of the help possible to any one who desires to teach and disseminate the URANTIA Book in good faith.

FUSLA (First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles) had no regular monthly meeting in April. The members of the Assembly did meet however, on April 21st to discuss many important society matters which were brought up on the agenda of previous Governing Board meetings.

Julia Fenderson spoke to the gathering about some thoughts on priorities for the URANTIA movement and taps on her list was the importance of study group meetings as the focal point of URANTIA activities.

FUSLA now fosters at least six study groups which meet regularly with an average of seven to twelve participants each.

After Julia spoke, our current President and member of the URANTIA Brotherhood General Council of 36, Scott Foraythe presented a four element plan of action for the Society. Scott reiterated Julia's comments on the propagation and maintenance of study groups and solicited comments from the group on means of discovering and getting to know new readers. The Book Committee was assigned the task of determining which libraries now have URANTIA Books and which book stores carry the book as an "in stock" item. A progress report on this activity can be found in this month's issue of the "Agondonter".

On Sunday, May 19, FUSLA hosted our good friend and "Doc" Dr. Robert W. Hunt, former Mathematics Department Chairman at California State College, Bakersfield. Bob's talk was entitled "The URANTIA Book: A Guide to the Future and Beyond." He had previously given the talk to the World Future Society, whose President, Virgil Meeds is an avid student of the URANTIA Book here in Los Angeles.

Bob is awaiting word from the URANTIA Foundation concerning his request to print his paper for dissemination. Requests for this most enlightening presentation may be addressed to the "Agondonter" post office box. We hope to have more information on this subject in the August issue.

On Sunday, June 2nd, Julia presented a progress report on work she has in progress on the very important task of developing a parent/child study guide of the URANTIA Teachings. Julia is preparing a report to be given before the URANTIA Summer Study Session coming up on July 26, 27, and 28 in Chicago.

Included in her talk were some projects already completed by Urantian parents with numerous ideas and hints on specific age groups from toddlers to teenagers. "Agondonter" readers who are also parents are asked to help with their own experiences in teaching Urantian ideals to their children.

BOOK COMMITTEE UPDATE

The FUSLA Book Committee, under the chairmanship of Pat Mcnelly, is currently working with information and activities which will aid all FUSLA members in their ability to help new readers and interested persons to find URANTIA Books in libraries and book stores in their area.

A list of all of the major book stores in the Southern California that carry the URANTIA Book is being compiled so that people who either call Julia Fenderson on the official URANTIA line or contact other members and readers will be able to know just where in their geographical vicinity they can find a book on the shelves.

Julia says that she receives so many calls from people asking where they can get a book in a hurry, that without an accurate and up to date list on hand, she can offer only helpful suggestions.

The Book Committee is also canvassing all of the libraries in the 7,000,000 population metropolis of Los Angeles. FUSLA hopes to donate 50 books this year to libraries who currently do not have copies on hand.

To make the job of getting a URANTIA Book a simpler and easier task for the Southern California Society is the purpose of the Book Committee and along with the thirty books now in the Lending Library and the co-operation of all of the local readers, we will all have progressed in this important work in our Father's Kingdom.

A DREAM and REFLECTIONS

Most humans live in a state of opacity. Like minnows in a pond we are only conscious of our small, cramped environment within which we poke about for edibles. On great occasion some of us may catch a shimmering reflection from the surface, suggesting a brighter world beyond our own damp, diluted marsh. These ripples fade quickly, however, as our attention is diverted toward the more real dangers lurking innocuously in the shadows beneath.

We Urantians live in a more enlightened area of the pool. But we must carefully guard our eyes from too much aqueous surface glare, lest we lose the ability to discern the depths of the liquid reality with clarity and perspicacity. None of us will ever be fully cognizant of the obstacles ahead of our mission to manifest brotherhood on this world. But we can frame our consciousness into being aware of the potential problems that will confront us, within and without, as we struggle to bring truth to URANTIA. Only in this way will we be able to develop a mature faith that will be strong enough to withstand the storms of time.

Being human, it is easy to attach our loyalties and hopes to transient phenomena. But, remember, our watery world is illusive. Waves of emotion and shadowy objects can distort the light of revelation. With quixotic idealism and immature exposure to truth, we invite disappointment. If we attach our faith to anything short of the Father we are bound to be disillusioned.

Dreams are great transcendentalizers. Through dreams we can escape our rome and grow beyond the clouds of reality. With stinging clarity, dreams can strip us naked before our inner eyes.

I once had a dream in which I was asked, "if given the opportunity to envision one thing, what would you most wish to see?" Without hesitation I answered, "Show me my beloved URANTIA in light and life, where love is lived and peace a reality!" I was told I could have my vision, and when I did I would never again doubt the mortal evolutionary scheme: all human adversity and pain would be justified. But first, I was told, I must walk the evolutionary path; to discern light and life, I must open my eyes.

Suddenly, I found myself staring down a long empty road. With great anticipation I began running toward the first horizon. But when I got there I did not find light and life. Instead, I saw violence, selfishness and hostility. Colors were clashing against one another, crosses were stabbing each other and banners were twisting themselves threadbare. After anxiously finding the next horizon, I was again disappointed. I saw piles of fat starving bodies. The air was so thick with inertia that I could hardly move. Everywhere I looked walls were crumbling from lack of support and the people too weak to replace the stones.

Upon reaching the third horizon there were rushings and rages of lightning. Torrents of rain were sweeping me into a river and I felt pushed and uncontrolled. Beneath me the currents were dark and deadly, yet above me the rains were illuminating and cleansing. I felt I must be close to my vision. But my heart sank as the next horizon turned out to be the most painful of all. I saw people bowing down to printed pages making idols of words. Their hands were red with the blood of blue circles, as they fervently built golden temples to house their unrighteousness.

Soon everything began condensing; the struggle of the ages was accumulating before me. Finally, I couldn't bear any more. The air was like concrete. As I closed my eyes I felt drained and suffocated.

The next morning when my eyes opened they were filled with plants and sunshine; my ears with bird chirps and oat parts. I felt warm and snug as my numb body prickled with life. The first thing that caught my attention was not the jungle outside my window, but a sunbeam coming in. A new ray of light, a vibrant beam of energy that would gradually diffuse to warm this existence. I remembered my dream, but its intensity was gone. Instead of feeling frightened, I felt strangely glorious. My thoughts drifted back to the sunbeam; it reminded me of Jesus of his promise and his life.

The URANTIA Book will be a mighty lever which can provide the energy to lift our world to a higher level, but it is not the answer. The answer lies with our faith in God and our progressing oneness with him. Our lives flash on and off this world, we can agitate the flow, but so one of us can control its destiny. We can only make a joyful, dedicated statement of faith by showing God's triumph in our own lives, thus revealing his eventual triumph on URANTIA. This is the essence of Jesus' life. Through full and intelligent faith, he conquered all obstacles and all fears for all time. By our faith in God, through Jesus, we can do likewise.

By Cheryl McCade, Member FUSIA

URANTIA SCHOLAR'S QUIZ

Many of us have read the URANTIA Book one, two or even three or more times but nevertheless, even after so many readings and hours of study and reflection, there always seems to be a few details that avoid finding a home in the protoplasmic sensory material of our brain circuits.

The "Agondonter" staff thought it might be fun to pick our readers minds with a few of the more obscure quotes that are hidden in the folds of the cloth of the most beautiful garment, the URANTIA Book.

Before consulting your Concorder, see if you can answer the following questions from memory alone. We'll print the answers in the next issue.

1. Name at least five other Local Universes.
2. Who is Malveolian?
3. What was the House of Pad?
4. How many Circuit Regulators are associated with every Combined Controller?
5. How is pure energy referred to on Overas?
6. Who occupies the vacant place in each 1000 member Finalist Company?
7. Where is Grandfanda from?
8. A Universal Censor writes four of the URANTIA Papers. How many of these Coordinate Trinity-origin beings are in existence?
9. What is the center of attraction to all new arrivals on Jerusem?
10. What unique structure occupies the central area of the 519 planetary memorials in the circles of the ascending mortals on Jerusem?
11. Who is Harble?
12. Who is Ellanora and why is she well known in Satanias?
13. What unique credentials does Lonsforge bring with him to the System of Satanias?
14. How many symbols in the Overas alphabet? How many characters in the Dalamatia alphabet? How many letters in the language of Eden?
15. How many children had Adamson and Satta? Why were 16 of these of special significance?
16. Which of the twelve apostles was known as the poet-philosopher of the group?
17. Who was the first truth teacher on URANTIA?
18. What is the motto of the United Midwayers?
19. If intelligent creatures should live on a planet with an atmosphere like Venus, what physical type would they belong to?
20. Betrayal of governmental trust carries what penalty on the neighboring planet?

The Lord our God is always near,
He watches through a billion eyes.
One pair that sees is yours.

He smells and hears a billion times,
He smiles and feels and guides and cares;
The universes, galaxies, stars, worlds,
They all obey and follow his directions.

The Lord our God is always here,
He loves a billion lives and more.
So loves YOU very, very much.

By Eva Sepp, Member at large

Julia Fenderson, West Coast Field Representative and active member of FUSIA, is preparing a booklet on the many ways individuals have come in touch with the URANTIA Book. To help her in her task, all "Agondonter" readers are asked to share their experiences with others.

To do this, one would simply have to write a brief scenario on the events and persons involved in their introduction to the Book. This information should then be mailed to the "Agondonter", P.O. Box 5488, Fullerton, California 92635.

A few of the more interesting experiences will be printed in the next issue of the "Agondonter" for the mutual edification of believers. The final booklet, being prepared by Julia, will be available as soon as it is finished.

Julia is also working on a book on birds for children which will be in the bookstores in the near future. Her book will contain songs, drawings and pictures. Julia is well known for her writing talents within and outside the URANTIA organizations, having published several major works, of which the bird book is the most recent.

Having recently retired as a teacher of persons planning to go on into teaching, Julia is an expert on education techniques. Her experience at the School of Education at the University of Southern California, as well as her particular work with young children, has led the URANTIA Foundation to request that she be the first to prepare material based upon the URANTIA Book for young people. She will discuss the topic in great detail at the Summer Study Session to be held in Chicago.

*Excerpt from the URANTIA Book, Copyright © 1955 URANTIA Foundation—Used by permission.

THE VENERABLE FROG

For hundreds of years, children have been raised on a fairy tale that has crossed many cultural boundaries. It is known by psychologists that myths can often be expressive of profound truths, but one myth in particular should arouse the interest of Urantians. The fable I am referring to is the one whereby a frog is magically transformed into a handsome prince.

This story has deep significance due to the fact that the URANTIA Book tells us that mankind evolved through the frog species and that our Beatiful Son, even the Sovereign Creator of a Universe appeared as a normal member of that race. We learn at last that the "magic" is nothing more than the evolutionary technique.

It requires no great leap of faith to see the similarities between "any of various smooth skinned web footed largely aquatic tailless agile leaping amphibians" and the human species. Only a cursory glance at the faces and habits of your friends and acquaintances will reveal many frog-like characteristics. Are we not plagued with warts? We all know at least one thick skinned individual who we expect to croak at any moment.

We have learned that the best way for a tadpole to become a frog is to live loyally as a tadpole. And to think that some one had to come halfway across a galaxy for us to find that out!

FUSIA has the jump on the rest of the URANTIA Societies. We are in the process of naming the venerable frog as our official society animal. February 29 of leap year will soon become interplanetary frog day!

Indeed, the phrase, "Look before you leap" has taken on new significance. Our Brothers in Space remind us that even man learns by leaping. The singular frog of our past almost failed to leap at one point (see drawing) and would have sent our evolutionary development mushrooming (toadstooling?) down another path.

As we travel by leaps and bounds toward that great lily pad in the sky, keep in mind the ancestral frog, who by leaping, not by staying at his pad, changed the destiny of the planet and will eventually find a place in the cosmic star ponds of Nebadon.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The "Agondonter" has received many letters from Urantians all over the world commenting on the subject material and format. This one from Phil Calabrese was so especially nice that we decided to share it with the rest of our readers.

Dear Jim and the "Agondonter" Staff,

It was with excitement, nay exhilaration, that I read the March 1974 issue of the "Agondonter"—your lucid comments on communication within the URANTIA community, your flesh-brother's succinct synopsis of FUSIA activities, the account of Paul Snider's inspiring call for grand ideas and strategic suggestions for URANTIA's far-flung future, Jim English's wondrous houses of light, Mo Singer's vision of spiritual unity and social uplift (not to mention his trail), Julia's delightful Brehlo and Bonnie bravos, Cheryl McCade's cheery but studious guidelines on study groups, Edh Eden's expressive copyright and study group guidelines, the call of Scott McHub (. . . McHub??) for inner illumination by way of outward study group socializing, news of the Kansas Rick, the harmony of the "Cycle of Circles", the Soledad Prison Library, the S.O. ——— thanks to you all. Why, being a part of a great big beautiful family like this is enough to keep a fellow forever young!

Yours in the Unity of the Father,
Phil Calabrese

THE AGONDONTER

The Agondonter is published bi-monthly by the First URANTIA Society of Los Angeles (FUSIA). Articles from societies, study groups and individuals are welcomed. If you wish to have your name placed on the mailing list or desire to submit a news item or article, address your letters to the "Agondonter", P.O. Box 5488, Fullerton, California 92635. Contributions to cover the cost of printing and postage should be in the form of a check (tax deductible) made out to FUSIA. Articles of opinion should be limited to approximately 500 words. Editor: Jim Mcnelly
Staff: Pat Mcnelly, Julia Fenderson, Jim English, Gerry Ricci, and Vicki Mcnelly. On Jerusem, the ascenders from isolated worlds such as URANTIA "are known as the agondonters, meaning evolutionary will creatures who can believe without seeing, persevere when isolated, and triumph over insuperable difficulties even when alone." p.579

