

SVHE News: Views & Values



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Have you Heard?
The 83rd Annual Fellows
Meeting
is coming!

Where is this year's Fellows Meeting.

The meeting this year will be held at the College of Notre Dame of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland. The conference will begin on the evening of Wednesday, July 25, 2007 and will end at noon on Sunday, July 28.

What is the campus like?

This is among one of the many excellent campus meeting sites in SVHE history. The dorms are in an old and beautiful building which has been completely renovated. The rooms are roomy, nice, and air conditioned with one bathroom for two rooms. The social hours and many of the meetings will be held in the same building. The campus is quite compact and the cafeteria and classroom building are very close to the dorm. The campus is surrounded by a park-like setting within a neighborhood designed by Frederick Olmstead.

Will there be a hotel available?

Yes, we have arranged special rates at the Radisson at Cross Keys. This hotel is a 20 minute drive from campus.

Will the fellows meeting have a theme?

The fellows meeting will focus on the Wingspread Declaration on religion in higher education, an outgrowth of the Society's Democracy Project. We will have plenaries on the three topics of Wingspread--Religion and Academic Freedom, Religious Literacy, and the student's spiritual quest. The plenaries will take place in the morning and will be followed by work groups facilitated by Society Fellows who will have received special training. At the end of the meeting the facilitators will report on the discussions and will begin the process of developing an

action plan for the Society to follow up on the conclusions of the fellows meeting. We are in the process of getting commitments from speakers and we hope to announce the speakers very shortly. Please check our website for updates.

Will you need volunteers to be facilitators?

Yes, we will need 15-20 persons to be facilitators. We will provide materials and some training for the facilitators who will perform an important role in making our program work. If you are interested please contact the SVHE office to volunteer.

What else is new about the fellows meeting?

The Morning Groups will no longer be in the morning. They are being renamed core seminars and will take place in the afternoon. This will leave the evenings of the conference free.

Can I lead a core seminar or make a presentation?

We are always looking for new core seminars and new presentations. If you have wish to make a presentation please check the society website for a listing of groups.

What will we do in the evenings?

We will still have our social hours and worship every evening. We will also have a short plenary and orientation on Wednesday night. On Saturday night we will have the auction and we will be reviving the Joyful Evening. If there is sufficient interest we will have SVHE night at Camden Yards to see the Orioles play the Yankees on Friday night. Otherwise you may do as you please.

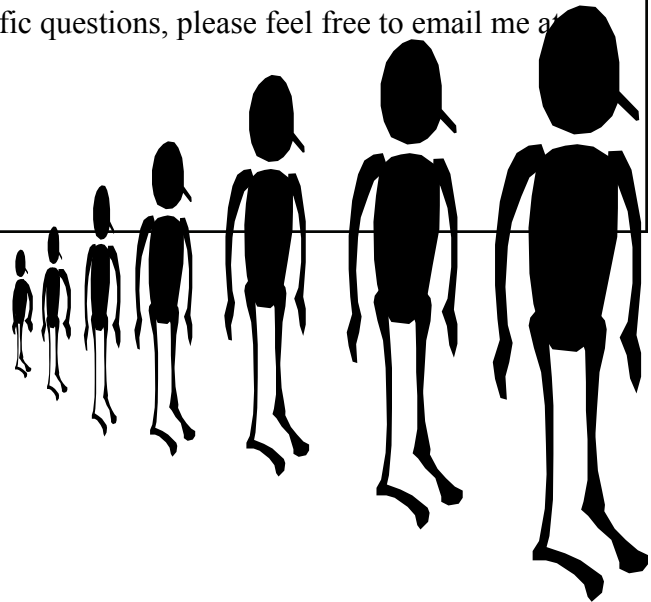
Will there be a youth program?

We hope to be doing some new things this year including some excursions. We will have more details later this spring.

Where do I get additional information?

We will be posting regular updates and registration information on the SVHE website. Additionally if you wish to volunteer or have specific questions, please feel free to email me at stephen@sfekaslaw.com.

Steve Sfekas
Program Committee Chair



From our Executive Director

Dear Fellows,

Let me begin by wishing you all a blessed and happy new year. Your continued generosity and commitment to the Society's vision and activities are having an impact. Support for the annual fund is strong and insures that the Society can continue to influence the national conversation on higher education. Though there is still concern about membership, new and renewed memberships continue to arrive. Let me elaborate.

Several years ago, building on our strategic vision, the Society assumed a national leadership position to advance the knowledge essential to the rigorous practice of democratic dialogue on our campuses. This initiative was built on our traditional mission of bringing people together to address values issues relevant to higher education and other professional communities. Our initiative gained national attention for the Society as universities and colleges understood the need to develop those skills both for pedagogical and civic reasons. Such leadership served as a basis for democratic dialogue and community engagement work with many campuses and with a national community of practice.

Two years ago, the Society saw the need to use its dialogical resources to address a growing debate on religion and public life. At the invitation and support of the Johnson Foundation, SVHE sponsored and convened a nationally recognized group of scholars to identify the major issues on this topic. The outcome of their conversation was the Wingspread Declaration on Religion and Public Life: Engaging Higher Education. We are very pleased that through this Declaration and its framework questions, the Society has enabled fruitful discussions on questions about religious literacy in the curriculum and the nature of public reason. Subsequent conversations have responded to students' wish to obtain some personal or spiritual, not merely instrumental value from their education.

With the continued leadership of Nancy Thomas, the Society's agenda on religion and public life has attracted large audiences at several national meetings, the publication of several journal articles and consultation with several colleges and universities. A participant at one session, conducted by Gene Rice and Nancy Thomas at a recent AAC& U meeting, wrote to say how much he valued the "thought-provoking" round table discussion, especially at a time when he was beginning to examine "the role of spirituality in my work as an academic [and] its place in the classroom,"

We pleased that "Religion, Public Life and Higher Education" will be the guiding theme of our 83rd Annual Fellows Meeting this summer. As we have reached out to engage diverse higher education communities, it is appropriate that we immerse ourselves, through our tradition of dialogue, in better understanding and acting on this agenda. In addition, we continue our commitment to national leadership by developing a proposal to design a community of practice and faculty development workshops. Their goals will be ambitious: to help educators share the knowledge and skills necessary to implement curricular reform, to develop pedagogical and student life practices to enhance religious literacy, to promote academic inquiry, and to assist students' spiritual search. These goals and activities signal the Society's continued commitment to values dialogue and hearken to its ancestral roots in religious studies.

We look forward to seeing you in Baltimore for what promises to be an energizing and nurturing gathering.

Marvin A. Kaiser
Executive Director

Fellow's Meeting Core Seminars FAQ

What happened to Morning Groups?

The conversation and presentation groups that previously met each morning have been moved to the afternoon to accommodate the shortened format of the 2007 Fellow's Meeting.

What are Fellow's Meeting Core Seminars?

Core seminars are groups that meet for four three-hour sessions for in-depth discussion of topics that have been proposed by fellows. These topics range from specific (e.g., works of a particular philosopher) to general (e.g., popular culture, environmental issues). Core seminars may be structured around paper presentations, shared readings, field trips, or in any way that suits the topic under consideration.

How do I select a core seminar?

Core seminar descriptions are included in registration materials. Core seminar conveners will be happy to provide additional information to help you make a choice. You can e-mail them at the addresses included in the registration material before the meeting or ask an SVHE fellow to introduce you to them at the fellow's meeting.

Once I select a core seminar, am I committed for all four sessions?

Typically, participants attend all four core seminar sessions. This facilitates group cohesion and contributes to the breadth and depth of core seminar conversations. However, newcomers may find it helpful to sample several core seminars to find one that is most satisfying. As a courtesy to core seminar conveners, we ask that you inform the conveners of the old and new core seminars before making a switch.

Can I present my work at a core seminar?

In the months leading up to the annual meeting, core seminar conveners solicit presentations through announcements in the SVHE newsletter. Although many core seminars are fully scheduled by the time of the meeting, some may have time available for last-minute additions. If your work cannot be included in this year's schedule, speak to your convener about presenting it next year.

How are core seminars formed?

At the end of each fellow's meeting, participants are asked to offer suggestions for the following year's core seminars and other activities. The Program Committee reviews these proposals and contacts prospective conveners. The process is fluid and flexible.

If I am a newcomer to this conference, may I propose and host a core seminar?

Yes, newcomers are welcome to host core seminars. We try to balance the number of core seminars with the number of meeting attendees, but so long as an interested group can be gathered, a core seminar is likely to succeed. Contact Cynthia Magistro (magistro@setonhill.edu) for additional information

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How do I reach out to others who might attend my core seminar, particularly those who might have papers to present that are relevant to my topic?

The SVHE newsletter will publish your core seminar description and “all for papers,” but you should also use a variety of networking tools to recruit presenters, including list serves, informal network, professional organization newsletters, etc. You can use the flyer provided by SVHE to convey the nature of the July meeting and add your own invitation for attendees and presenters.

What core seminars will be presented at the 2007 meeting?

The core seminars listed below plan to meet. Additional core seminars, especially those related to the theme of the meeting, **Teaching and Learning in a Religiously Pluralistic World**, are enthusiastically invited. Please contact Cynthia Magistro (magistro@setonhill.edu) or the office (svhe@pdx.edu) with any question or to submit an idea for a new core seminar.

SVHE CORE SEMINARS 2007

Environmental Values

The Environmental Values group will convene for the seventeenth consecutive year at the 2007 SVHE Fellows Meeting. This year we will take advantage of the Baltimore location to look at issues of environmental planning and decision-making in the current political climate. Baltimore has been an important leader in innovative planning for many decades, and Maryland a leader in “smart growth” initiatives, providing an ideal place for considering the past and present of conflicting political and planning agendas. We are planning a field trip focusing on a local environmental and planning issue.

Participants are encouraged to email proposed presentations and readings to us by April 1. We welcome newcomers and friends to share in our tradition of including diverse perspectives and shared concerns. We look forward to seeing you!

Conveners:

Jerry Berberet (wgberberet@aol.com)
Jo Margaret Mano (manoj@newpaltz.edu)

Forms of Autobiography – 2007

For our 2007 meeting our chosen theme will be “Autobiography as the Story of a Calling.” Past presenters have given us scholarly articles, excerpts from personal journals, poetry, memoirs, videos, photographic essays, and/or informal spoken reminiscences—a rich tapestry of possible forms. You might choose any one or a combination of several of them for your presentation, and we leave it to you to determine what the word “calling” may mean to you.

We welcome returning group members and invite new ones. We encourage anyone interested in presenting a paper and/or leading a discussion on some aspect of the general theme to contact us.

Personal autobiographical works as well as studies of such materials by others are welcome.

Conveners:

Marianne Finnegan (mfinnegan@verizon.net or 518-587-7961)
Mary T. Treanor (Mary.Treanor@valpo.edu or 219-464-5128)

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Historical Fiction

Historical Fiction, as critic Dawn Coleman writes, illustrates "how the present continually reinvents the significance of the past," a past that includes ongoing debates about religious freedom, civil rights, and the role of literature in the education of Americans. This summer we will discuss Geraldine Brooks' *March*, E. L. Doctorow's *The March*, Robert Hellenga's *The Sixteen Pleasures*, and either Matthew Pearl's *The Poe Shadow* or Louis Bayard's *The Pale Blue Eye*. In addition, as background for Brooks' book, we suggest that participants read Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*. We look forward to the 2007 meeting and urge interested participants to contact the conveners and to begin reading now for another exciting four-day week of work on historical fiction.

Convener: Mary E. Papke (Papke@utk.edu)

Remembrance of Things Past: the Modernist Era

From about 1880, and gathering strength from 1910 to 1930 as more and more masterworks appeared, Modernism - not easy to define but most of the time we know it when we see it - became the most dominant strain in world culture, appearing in architecture, literature, music, painting and other visual arts, philosophy and theology, theory of society. The esthetic and the overall cultural perspective remained powerful, more than any successor outlook, at least into the 1960's. Partly because several of the great figures were very long lived (Bellow, Boulanger, Bultmann, Milosz, Picasso, Stravinsky, Whitehead, etc.), partly because certain later figures share fully in the modernist outlook (Morrison, Soyinka), partly because post-modernism fragmented so quickly, Modernism remains the definitive cultural shape of the entire twentieth century. I am eager to hear what various Fellows have to say about their engagement with it. Tentatively, it seems likely to be helpful to organize matters thus:

Thursday: the canon ratified; figures that still deserve the high status that they have traditionally enjoyed

Friday: the canon reshaped: figures of that era

that now seem more powerful and meaningful than they once did (Hurston is a rather clear case; but consider also Lonergan's philosophical theology, and Mandelshtam, most of whose work was unavailable until long after his murder under Stalin)

Saturday: the canon extended: figures of later times who contribute vitally to Modernist cultural reality

Sunday: Reconsiderations, perhaps a few dismissals, appreciations, discoveries

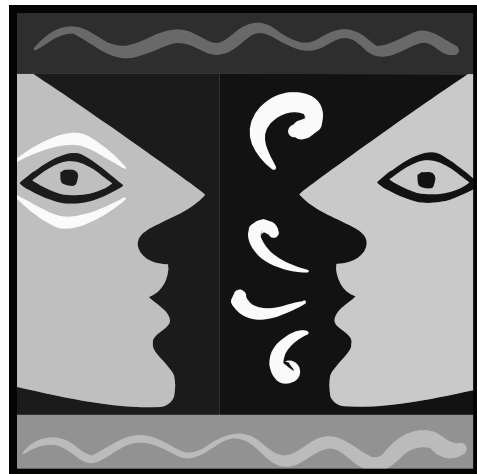
Convener: Phil O'Mara
(pomara@bridgewater.edu)

Teaching and Learning

This seminar offers a series of conversations about the roles of teachers and administrators as we pursue excellence in education. Presentations are invited that address various challenges inherent in teaching and learning. Conversations will range from pragmatic to philosophical as we consider the meanings and outcomes of particular ways of engaging students and relating to colleagues. Ideally, the conversation will be informed by the experiences of educators from primary and secondary, as well as post-secondary, classrooms.

Convener: Cynthia Magistro
(magistro@setonhill.edu)

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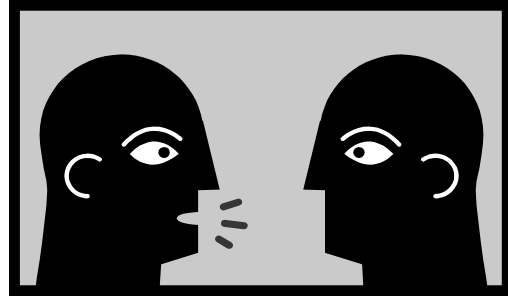
Theorizing Values: Levinas's Ethics of Infinity

Levinas's ethical philosophy has exerted a dramatic influence on continental philosophy and on American humanities disciplines such as cultural studies and literary criticism where it is often touted as an alternative to systems of ethics derived from universal moral principles. In contrast to these systems, Levinas's ethics begins with the claim that the Otherness that each person confronts in her or his experience of any other person confers an absolute obligation that cannot be described in terms of moral systems, and that the recognition of this obligation must be the foundation for any valid philosophical discourse. Our discussion will begin with an overview of some of the most important concepts informing Levinas's philosophy and then look at the way these concepts have been applied in philosophy, social criticism, and cultural analysis. The first three sessions will focus on readings from 'Totality and Infinity' and the final session will consider representative selections of his later work.

Conveners:

Allen Dunn (ardunn@utk.edu)

Eric Bain Selbo (lbo@lvc.edu)



Celebrating the Religious Search

Celebrating the Search has been meeting in one form or another for over 20 years. It is a place where we share our quests, our discoveries, our doubts and our affirmations as we acknowledge the centrality of our spirituality integrated with our reason and integrity.

Each year three or four people informally present their own story and allow us all to find the places their story resonates with our own. A number of people have already offered to present next year but we'd be delighted to hear from some other people as well.

Conveners:

Carol Ochs (cochs@earthlink.net)

Hal Jackson (halamjac@juno.com)

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Looking for Facilitators for the 2007 Summer Workshop for College Teachers (SWCT)

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The Summer Workshop in College Teaching is looking for facilitators for the 2007 Workshop to be held at the College of Notre Dame in Baltimore, MD in conjunction with the annual SVHE Fellow's Meeting, July 25-29. (The SWCT may begin on July 24th with some pre-session planning on July 23rd. A pre-planning video teleconference will be held in mid-March 2007). If you are interested in applying, please forward to David Tabb Stewart at stewartd@southwestern.edu a vita and a short letter of application where you highlight those elements in your vita (and any other information not there) that most prepare you to facilitate early and mid-career college teachers in thinking about their pedagogy, its intersection with "values," and the proposals of the "Wingspread Declaration"? This latter can be found on the SVHE website at URL: <http://www.svhe.org/node/156?PHPSESSID=8afe00453df6e2eafa3227baa1858124>

If you sent in a vita last year, it would be sufficient to update your application by stating your availability, and addressing the connections you might make between the workshop and "Wingspread."

The deadline for a new or renewed application is February 28, 2007.

News from the Democracy Project

The Democracy Project continues to promote education that advances public dialogue, values inquiry, and action. Religion and public life matters continue to provoke the kind of dialogue and inquiry we are talking about, and I am honored to be working with one campus in particular that is a true exemplar.

LaGuardia Community College in Queens, NY received a Ford Foundation Difficult Dialogues grant last year, and it has inspired crosscutting efforts on campus. LaGuardia has long been known nationally as an incubator for education innovation. It is blessed with a visionary president, a passionate faculty, a diverse student population (students come from more than 150 countries and speak more than 100 languages), and a smart, dedicated team of Difficult Dialogues organizers. Rosemary Talmadge, special assistant to the president, was plucked from her work as a community organizer. She brings to the project experience in Study Circles, Appreciative Inquiry, Open Space, and Community Conversations on Race for the National Conference for Community and Justice (NCCJ). Having a seasoned facilitator of intergroup dialogues on the planning team is an invaluable asset.

The project has three components:

- A year-long faculty development seminar: Fifteen faculty members have been meeting since last June to study and discuss different faith and secular perspectives, and to brainstorm classroom challenges, new courses and programs, and classroom activities. The project has been so successful that it will be continued next year, and more than 60 faculty members have expressed an interest in participating.
- In February 2007, the College launched community Conversation Circles after more than eight months of study, reflection, training, and drafting. The College trained more than 40 facilitators, mostly faculty and staff, who will work from a discussion guide – a study circles process – that was written by a small team on campus. The President has hosted two breakfasts for local faith leaders. Volunteers visited more than 25 local houses of worship to discuss the project and seek participants. The goal is 20 Conversation Circles by May 1. This part of the project will culminate in a community-wide action forum where the Circles can share their ideas and identify next steps.
- For a year, specially trained faculty members have been working with students to help them develop personal narratives about their faith and beliefs. The College set aside physical spaces for this work. The plan is to organize these narratives and then disseminate them to provoke more discussion and participation.

Innovation begets innovation! Lots more is now happening on campus: brown bags on religious holidays, Conversation Circles among student leaders, a new radio program on religion, and a host of commemorative activities on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. LaGuardia faculty member Gordon Tapper was a presenter in a session on religion and public life that I organized for AACU's annual meeting in January 2007.

My role at LaGuardia Community College has been very modest – I trained facilitators and helped write the discussion guide, and I am available to the leadership team to troubleshoot problems. The credit for this amazing initiative goes to the organizers on campus and to the faculty, staff, students, local faith community, and to the Ford Foundation. It is a program that could be studied and replicated on other campuses. For more information, see www.lagcc.cuny.edu/difficultdialogues.

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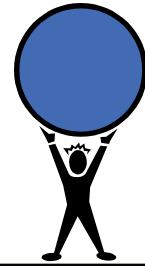
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If your campus would like to start faculty dialogues on religion and public life, please consider working with the Wingspread Declaration and some well received “table topics” SVHE member Gene Rice and I used at a conference in November 2006. (You can download the Table Topics – short discussion guides for faculty dialogues – at www.svhe.org).

Ah, so much is going on, and so little space to write! Other DP activities include helping campuses get “unstuck” when sticky values conflicts are at stake, running faculty development workshops on Educating for a More Deliberative Democracy, presentations, publications, and multi-campus workshops. I don’t operate alone – I usually pull in someone from SVHE or from the Democracy Project advisory group or from Study Circles Resource Center to work with me.

As always, the DP is a lean operation. If SVHE had the financial resources, we could expand the network, as has always been the intention. But for now, we seem to be making an impact, even if it is primarily one dialogue at a time.

Best wishes, Nancy Thomas



Think it over...



Most of us are highly suspicious of colleagues who consider a concern with their students’ overall well-being an integral part of their education.

Mark R. Schwehn Exiles from Eden: Religion and Academic Vocation in America

Professors are trained to transmit knowledge and skills within their chosen discipline, not to help students become more mature, morally perceptive human beings.

Derek Bok, former President, Harvard University

THE SVHE FM /FINANCIAL POP QUIZ

By Pamela Montgomery

Test your knowledge about SVHE Fellows Meeting and its Finances.

<p>1. The last FM to have official a SVHE Excursions. A. Maine '03 B. Hampton '04 C. Portland State '05.</p> <p>2. Excursion attractions in Baltimore will be A. Harbor Sailing Lessons B. Orioles vs. the Yankees at Camden Yard C. Trip to the Great Barrier Reef. D. All of the above.</p> <p>3. The Auction Treasure, The Rock, was projected to go into outer space in 2006! It's always been a little spacey, but it seems going to the island of Lesbos last year was as far out as the rock has made it. How much green did this rolling stone gather at the 2007 auction? A. \$300 B. \$50 C. \$100</p> <p>4. Cost of a tent for President's Reception A. \$425 B. \$250 C. \$650</p> <p>5. Thanks to ticket sales by SVHE kids, the Bean Pot lottery begun in 1992, had it's biggest "pot" in 2005 for A. \$570 B. \$810 C. \$1190</p> <p>6. Cost of coffee breaks per person/per day A. \$1.00 B. \$2.50 C. \$3.95</p>	<p>7. Average cost of a single dorm room per night over last three years A. \$50 B. \$60 C. \$30</p> <p>8. The cost of 14 meeting rooms needed by FM? A. \$2422 B. \$5772 C. \$8885 D. All of the above</p> <p>9. What is the 3 year average of Travel Pool Donations from Generous Fellows? A. \$500 B. \$800 C. \$1000 D. More</p> <p>10. 2007 cost of a small auditorium or plenary space for 3 hrs or more? A. \$200 B. \$400 C. \$600</p> <p>11. What was the FM cost to SVHE for accepting Credit Card payments from Fellows? A. \$257 B. \$489 C. \$626.</p> <p>12. What Percentage of Fellows and Guests take advantage of the Early Bird Registration Discount? A. 77% B. 33% C. 50%</p>
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Answers: 1. A, 2. D, 3. A, 4. C, 5. C, 6. C, 7. B, 8. D—Hampton \$2422, PSU \$5663, NCG \$8885, 9. D—\$1153 for 3 years running, 10. C, 11. C, 12. A

SVHE FM /FINANCIAL continued...

I've heard rumor that most members of organizations like ours take little interest in the financial details of its operation. As SVHE's Business Manager, I refuse to believe such a rumor because I know how many of you do pay attention to such matters. So it's wonderful to be able to say that the *fellows meeting dormitory rates for 2007 are the lowest* in recent memory:

Notre Dame's is charging SVHE \$120 per person for 5 days of Meals. Their flat room rate is \$50 per day for Single and \$60 per day for Double. Therefore the 2007 SVHE R&B Rates are:
 Single Rate per person @\$200 & meals @ \$120 for 4 nights & 5 days = \$320.
 Double Rate per person @ \$120 & meals @ \$120 for 4 nights & 5 days and = \$240

We have an excellent site. The Notre Dame Dormitory has been tastefully renovated with high ceilings, air-conditioning, and baths shared with one other dorm room. The atmosphere is gracious and peaceful. Several of the meeting rooms are in this Meletia Dormitory. *Please note:* there is a limit on the availability of these rooms.

For most people this is an average \$ 45 savings over the last three years' rates. These rates signal a decreased rate beyond the subtraction of one less night for those staying on campus.

Why is the R&B rate being reduced beyond the savings of one less night stay?

The 1989 BOD Meeting mandated the Fellows Meeting be financially self sustaining. Quoting the minutes, "the room and board fees were slightly increased beyond the basic institution rate to cover expense of a room and board nature: coffee breaks, late evening social, staff travel and expenses, etc." The registration fee was set "to cover the cost of program committee expense, youth care, morning group & plenary expense, facility rental fees, audio-visual, insurance fees, and printing and office expenses." Naturally, exact staff time and office material costs relating to the FM are difficult to determine, but still effect the organization's overall operations. As a result, the Society decided to "budget \$10,000 each year for Program Recovery to cover administrative expenses in addition to the costs of Room and Board, and Facilities overhead."

Each year, the signing of a new contract with a different institutional site brings new challenges. Happily, most Fellows Meetings meet their budget target. Some years have fallen short as in 2006. Alas, those deficits were absorbed by operations.

Each year volunteers and staff strive to control costs. In fact, with the exception of meal cost last year, basic attendee fees have not changed for 3 years. Inflation makes keeping prices stationary difficult. Another pricing factor has been the increasing public demand for conference sites. Not surprisingly the number of traditionally discounted campus services is shrinking as institutions fully realize the income possibilities for Summer Conferences amenities. Last year linens and made up beds upon arrival cost \$12 extra per bed. Even local site policies like "no alcohol on campus" can increase our expenses to accommodate SVHE traditions, like President's reception, evening social and the auction fund raiser. North Central's "no alcohol" policy increased SVHE rental and catering expenses by \$1989.34

Another financial impact on FM prices is an increasing trend since 2003 of many fellows to forego the luxuries of dorm life and register at nearby hotels. Naturally, we want our Fellows to be able to attend at the comfort level they need. So we continue to negotiate lower rates at local hotels. This year a 20 minute drive from the campus will take off campus residents to the *Radisson Cross Keys Hotel* where

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we have arranged a group rate on a block of 40 rooms. We talked the price down from \$175 to \$125 per night before tax. Radisson's cut off date is June 24th. You must contact them to make your reservation at 410-532-6900. The Yankees will be playing the Orioles and the rooms are going like hotcakes!

However, it is important to note the impact of this trend. Last year 36% of the registered attendees chose hotel accommodations over dorms. Remember, historically, slim profits were built in to R&B rates of singles and double rooms to help defray the entire program expense. The Society does not add any cost to off campus hotel room rates. So the increased percentage of fellows opting out of the dorms has indirectly increased the overall cost of program recovery. Obviously, it would not be just for the fellows who do stay in the dorms to bear a larger portion of expense recovery. So this year the new BOD policy makes all room and meals costs a "pass through expense" to all attendees. As a result, it is solely the Registration Fee for adults which now must capture sufficient income to off set the Fellows Meeting Expenses.

In our continuing effort to keep prices down and Fellows attending....we announce the Registration fees for Baltimore Fellows Meeting.

The eagle eye-best pick--absolute best buy for Registration is: *(A little Stars and Stripes playing softly....)*

Early Bird Registration: (Drop Dead deadline: May 31, 2007)

Fellow \$190 ** Spouse/Guest \$160

AFTER JUNE 1ST

Fellow \$215 ** Guest \$185

FM 2007 Plenary Sessions

Plenary sessions on Wednesday evening, Thursday, Friday and Saturday mornings, will feature speakers on the themes of the Wingspread Declaration.

We'll start where we are: in Baltimore, a city of wide religious diversity. To give us a portrait, of the teaching of religion in area colleges and universities, Dr. **Christopher M. Leighton**, is exceptionally well-equipped. He serves as **Executive Director of the Baltimore-based Institute for Christian-Jewish Studies**, an independent, interfaith, educational institution which, "in a world where religion plays an ever increasing role in public life...works "to disarm religious hostilities and forge new and creative partnerships among peoples of faith." Chris will share his wide knowledge of the Baltimore-area educational approaches—or voids—in the teaching of religion. What Chris represents about the local will echo for us from across the nation: on our own campuses or schools, as professionals in many fields, and as citizens making choices.

How do we locate place and space for the spiritual dimension while maintaining high standards of inquiry and academic freedom? That is perhaps the greatest conundrum about the role of religion in education and public life today. We are fortunate that Dr. Eugene Rice, one of our own members, an author of the Wingspread Declaration, and a leader in American education today, will explore this issue with us. **R. Eugene Rice** is Senior Scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities and is serving as a faculty member in the new Ph.D. Program in Leadership and Change at Antioch University.

Earlier, Gene was Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation engaged in the national study of the scholarly priorities of the American professoriate and collaborating with the late Ernest Boyer on the Carnegie Report *Scholarship Reconsidered*. His work on that topic is available in AAHE's New Pathways Working Paper Series in an essay entitled "Making a Place for the New American Scholar" (Stylus), and will appear in a new book *Faculty Priorities Reconsidered: Encouraging Multiple Forms of Scholarship* edited with Kerry Ann O'Meara (Wiley). Gene is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in Religion and Society. RoundTable discussions consisting of 8-10 participants each will follow each plenary, Together they'll explore their own responses to the issues raised by religious diversity, and imagine together and individually what actions they can take over the coming year. On Sunday morning, we'll convene to hear each other's plans and initiatives.

Bios

Dr. Christopher M. Leighton is a graduate of the Princeton Theological Seminary and Columbia University where he did his doctorate in Philosophy and Education. He has studied at the Baltimore Hebrew University, the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, and Yad Vashem in Jerusalem. An ordained Presbyterian minister, he has served as the Executive Director of the Institute for Christian & Jewish Studies in Baltimore, Maryland since its inception in 1987. In addition to his work at the ICJS, he has been an Adjunct Professor at the Johns Hopkins University and the Ecumenical Institute of Theology at St. Mary's Seminary & University. After co-editing *Talking About Genesis: A Resource Guide* for the Bill Moyers series, he conducted a variety of educational programs which explored the challenges of reading and interpreting Genesis with public and independent high school students, individuals in retirement homes and a maximum security prison, as well as a diverse cross-section of churches and synagogues. Dr. Leighton may be contacted at leighton@icjs.org. (for more information about ICJS, go to www.icjs.org)

R. Eugene Rice is Senior Scholar at the Association of American Colleges and Universities and is serving as a faculty member in the new Ph.D. Program in Leadership and Change at Antioch University. For ten years he served as Director of the Forum on Faculty Roles and Rewards and the New Pathways projects at the American Association for Higher Education. Before moving to AAHE, he was Vice President and Dean of the Faculty at Antioch College, where he held an appointment as Professor of Sociology and Religion. Earlier, Gene was Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation engaged in the national study of the scholarly priorities of the American professoriate and collaborating with the late Ernest Boyer on the Carnegie Report *Scholarship Reconsidered*. His work on that topic is available in AAHE's New Pathways Working Paper Series in an essay entitled "Making a Place for the New American Scholar" (Stylus), and will appear in a new book *Faculty Priorities Reconsidered: Encouraging Multiple Forms of Scholarship* edited with Kerry Ann O'Meara (Wiley). Gene is a graduate of Harvard Divinity School and received his Ph.D. from Harvard University in Religion and Society.

[Nancy Thomas adds:] In 1998, Gene was identified as "one of the ten most influential thinkers in higher education," and he is the only one of the ten still in it. He serves on the Project on the Future of Higher Education (not to be confused with the Spellings Commission), which consists of a select group of about 14 people. He is, without exception, the SVHE member who is making the most difference in the direction of higher education.

Gene Rice
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WELCOME New Members

SVHE welcomes three new members: Jordan Copeland from the University of Iowa, Consuella Lewis from the University of Pittsburgh, and Susanna Rich from Kean University in New Jersey. Each has much to contribute in his/her distinctive way. They represent different areas of scholarship—philosophy, education, and literature and writing—are at different career stages, and teach in different kinds of universities. They share a passion for teaching and learning and for the quality of ethical content in higher education. They were drawn to SVHE through personal contacts: Jordan, with Department of Religion colleagues at U Iowa; Consuella, through e-mail conversations with Hal Jackson; and Susanna, through encouragement by Cathy Bao Bean.

You'll want to get to know them in person at FM '07 in Baltimore. To start the introductions, here are brief summaries of their impressive CVs, along with their statements of interest.

Jordan Copeland, currently completing his Ph.D. in the Department of Religious Studies at the University of Iowa, is exploring "What Friends Have in Common: the Moral Practice of Friendship, the Pursuit of Justice and a Response to Partiality." His research interests include Religious and Philosophical Ethics, Religion and Politics, Ancient-Medieval Philosophy, and Religion and the Arts. He's twice been recognized for excellence in teaching and mentoring, once through the university's Louis Penningroth Scholarship and once by students. He holds a B.A. in religion and philosophy from Northwest University in Kirkland, WA.

Jordan learned of SVHE in conversation with departmental colleagues. After reviewing the website, he wrote us, saying that "the stated interests and goals of the society are strikingly similar to his own. "This is especially true regarding my goals as a teacher. I would consider it a great honor to be associated with the SVHE." He is

"very interested in the relationship between love and justice. I consider the conflicts that arise between the two, as well as those arising between friendship and other moral/social values, to be representative of our attempts as social beings to balance and coordinate our relational spheres. Doing so, in my mind, is a constituent element of a fulfilling human life. There seems no way to exhaust this topic, so I am always excited to hear about the work others are doing, or have done, in this area."

Many of us met **Consuella Lewis** at FM'06 at North Central College, where, as a panelist on "honor in the professions," she traced the historical struggle of minorities for democratic classrooms. She called on teachers to seek creative solutions to the conflict between the authoritarian classroom (teacher chooses what materials students will learn), and the democratic classroom (gives students a voice in shaping their own curricula). Discussion was intense!

Consuella teaches in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh; her Ph.D. comes from Claremont Graduate University's School for Educational Studies (2000). Among her research interests are access, faculty tenure and socialization, and diversity in higher education. As head of *Transformations, Inc.*, she consults on projects, including reform of education for professional development in Egypt and the development of higher education in Zanzibar. In 2005-06 she was named an associate of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. Her many publications and conference presentations include "The Agency of Race and Gender in Shaping Organizational Culture in Higher Education," in *Intersections: Race, gender, organizational culture and leadership in higher education*, in a volume edited by C. Lewis & V. B. Bush (2006.)

Wishing to understand SVHE's organizational culture, Consuella deferred her application statement "until after I attended my first SVHE... I found the experience to be both intellectually stimulating and unique. SVHE['s] strong ethos of caring as a value...is illustrated in how members support one another and demonstrate con-

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cern for the well being of everyone in the organization. Moreover SHVE has an interdisciplinary focus on caring as a core value which was embedded in the conference program and the discussions. The discourse across disciplines was very stimulating intellectually. I found this aspect of the conference to be very exciting and refreshing because professionally I often meet with a narrowly defined field group. . . . The program format was excellent. . . .”

Susanna Rich has been a professor of English at Kean University in New Jersey since 1988. To her teaching and writing, she brings a Ph.D. in Communications, with Distinction, from New York University (1987), a Master’s in Philosophy from UNC-Chapel Hill (1978), and a B.A. in English education and Theater Arts from Montclair State University (1974). In 2005 – 5, she was in Hungary on a Fulbright Research Fellowship in Creative Writing and a Collegium Budapest Fellowship in Creative Writing. In May 2001, she was awarded the Kean University Presidential Excellence Award for Distinguished Teaching. Susanna is the author of *The Flexible Writer: A Basic Guide, and Instructor’s Manual*, now in 4th edition, as well as a memoir, “Still Hungary.” Her many published poems frequently interface with dance and photography. In “ashes, ashes: An Artist and a Poet Respond to the Holocaust,” she as a female lapsed Catholic poet explores with a male Jewish artist how the arts enable us to bridge differences to find our common humanity. She serves as founding host and producer of *Poets on Air*, an educational radio series web cast at www.poetsonair.org.

Her current philosophy focuses on teaching as it relates to research and creativity. She perceives “three main roles that a professor plays with her students—scholar, writer, teacher. Each...requires separate skills and arts. Without conscious and continuous development as a teacher, however, a scholar is likely to treat his students as mere receptacles for his knowledge. The writer is likely to treat her students as an audience or clones for her aesthetics. Worse, the mere scholar or writer may treat teaching as mostly *making a living*, thus, in effect, living the lie that they are teachers. Yes, to be a professor, it is crucial to be a scholar and/or writer, but not to the exclusion of the most important and, I believe, exalted of the three roles: teacher. Students learn not WHAT we say but rather HOW we are—with the materials of study and with them. . . . As a scholar and writer, I strive to be active, risk-taking, and true so that HOW I am in those roles is worthy of emulating to a degree that empowers students. I hope you will include me in your conversations so I might elaborate on that most difficult of disciplines from *The Nag Hammadi Library* that I practice to combine the roles of scholar, creative writer, teacher: “Do not do what you hate, and tell no lies.”

Please join Membership committee chair Janet Edwards, and committee members Walter Blass and Meg Wiant in welcoming Consuella, Susanna, and Jordan as SVHE Fellows!

We’re also pleased to welcome a new Institutional Member, **California State University Channel Island**. CSU-Chanel Island sees SWCT, our workshop for teachers, as a great opportunity for professional development for their teachers.

SVHE **Statistical News** is good news, too! On October 17, 2006, the SVHE office sent 494 letters to members reminding them that dues were due. (Currently we have 594 total Members, 100 Life Members, 15 Institutional Affiliates, and 24 Institutional Representatives. To date, January 24, 2007, 168 Fellows have paid dues. In addition, 65 total members have contributed to the Annual Fund, of whom 26 are life members. We’re glad to report that 27 members who did not pay last year have paid this year. Dues and contributions to the Annual Fund continue to arrive almost daily: why not add yours to the list?

In Memoriam

KENNETH RHODES

When Kenneth Rhodes, Emeritus Trustee of Claremont Graduate University, died at age 93 at his Pasadena home just more than a year ago, the world lost a brilliant, dedicated, generous gentleman. Rhodes, a World War II veteran and accomplished lawyer, served on CGU's Board of Trustees from his election in 1975 until becoming an emeritus trustee in 1993. He served as chair of the board and was an active member of the then-named Committee on the Graduate School, Committee on Nominations, and Academic Affairs Committee.

For his extraordinary commitment of time and resources, CGU awarded him an honorary degree and the university's highest honor, a President's Medal. In 1984, his exceptional contributions to trusteeship were honored nationally when he was named "Outstanding Trustee of the Year" by the Association of the Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges.

After attending Stanford University and earning his law degree from Harvard, Rhodes took up probate law and started his own law firm in Los Angeles, which we ran for 30 years before joining Taylor, Kupfer, Summers, and Rhodes in 1979.

At the age of 35, in what friend and CGU President Emeritus John Maguire called a "legendary decision," Rhodes vowed to devote a third of his work time to pro bono work and charity work. "He was a prince of a person," says Maguire. "A most generous man."

EDGAR F. BECKHAM (submitted by Nancy Thomas)

Edgar Beckham, one of higher education's most visionary, influential, and beloved leaders, died on May 24, 2006. Edgar was well known in education circles. He served as an advisor to SVHE's Democracy Project. His efforts to advance diversity to enrich democracy influenced the work we do at Study Circles. Because of Edgar, our ideas are sharper, our work is more effective, and our lives are richer.

I first met Edgar Beckham in the mid-1980s when I was a new lawyer and "Dean Beckham" at Wesleyan University was my client. He wanted to talk about liability for student conduct. When I arrived, he had the full texts of relevant cases laid out on a desk. He shared his interpretations of them, including precedent, competing principles, and conclusions. That was the start of a 22-year partnership. We worked closely together until just a few days before his last, devastating stroke. He started out as my client, but over 22 years became my mentor, colleague, and dear friend.

Edgar Beckham was born in 1933. His father was a waiter in an exclusive, segregated men's club. His mother raised three children. They were hardly wealthy, yet his mother purchased no fewer than four newspapers daily, at least one international, and quizzed the children on their content. He attended the Hartford Public Schools and was a high school valedictorian.

His scholarship to Wesleyan University came after the entire board of trustees had interviewed him repeatedly. The board president told him that he was "being admitted to educate white students." He broke down color lines by joining a fraternity and editing the student newspaper. After graduating, he pursued graduate work in German at Yale University, but instead of a dissertation, returned to Wesleyan to teach and eventually become the first African American dean of the college. He joined the army be-

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tween his junior and senior years of college and served in Germany where he met his wife, Ria. They have a son, Frederick who, like Edgar “F” Beckham, is named after the abolitionist and orator, Frederick Douglass. Edgar left Wesleyan in 1990 and became the program officer for the Ford Foundation’s Campus Diversity Initiative, a position he held until 1998 when he joined the Association of American Colleges and Universities as a senior scholar.

Edgar addressed not only issues of equal access, but how we get the job done. The *results* are better when people with diverse lived experiences collectively assume responsibility. He understood that diversity serves our aspirational democracy. Edgar’s messages were not the only things that made him special. His eloquence and how he made all of us feel when we were around him told us our lived experiences counted. That we too had something valuable to contribute. He inspired hundreds, probably thousands, of people just as he inspired me. Edgar Beckham changed education, and in doing so, he changed the world.

FELLOWS CONTRIBUTE TO REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

Many of us recall the brief presentation by Rick Guzman at North Central College during last year’s FM. Rick is a North Central alumnus, Board Chair and Founder of Tolbert Refugee Assistance Foundation in Aurora, Illinois. During our traditional simple supper, SVHE Fellows collected over \$400.00 in contributions to this Foundation. Rick and his wife Desiree, President of the Foundation, wish to express their gratitude for this contribution

Sadly, Rick’s youngest brother, Bryan, died just before the holidays. The Guzman Family, together with the Tolbert Foundation, has established a memorial fund to honor Bryan’s memory and his contributions to helping others. The funds will establish Bryan House, a multi-family residence which will enable families to have their entire first year’s rent invested on a down payment for a home of their own. Contributions may be sent to: The Tolbert Refugee Assistance Foundation, 236 Plum St., Aurora, Illinois 60506. More information is available at www.trafonline.com.

2007 SUMMER WORKSHOP FOR COLLEGE TEACHERS (SWCT)

The Society’s 2007 workshop for faculty teaching will again be held in connection with the Annual Meeting – Wednesday, July 25 – Sunday, July 29, at the College of Notre Dame, Baltimore, MD.

This year’s workshop, in addition to features such as mini-teaching sessions, will focus on the annual meeting’s overall theme, “Inquiry and Action: Teaching and Learning in a Religiously Pluralistic World.”

David Stewart, (stewartd@southwestern.edu) director of this year’s effort is in the process of selecting faculty facilitators for the workshop and welcomes expressions of interest – before the middle of February.

Fellows of the Society are urged to encourage applicants for the summer workshop. Again the overall charge for participation will be \$600 (registration plus room and board) plus travel. Normally participants are nominated and subsidized by their respective colleges or universities.

For further information, please contact David Stewart directly or Renee Devereux at the SVHE office (society@pdx.edu).

FELLOWS NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

Thanks to all who have responded to our request for news about you.
Keep us up-to-date on what's been happening!
Email us at society@pdx.edu



What's been happening?

Richard Gelwick, specialist on scientist philosopher Michael Polanyi, has published two papers on the "Intelligent Design" Project's misuse and misunderstanding of Polanyi's work. See *National Center for Science Education Reports*, Jan.-April, 2006.

In November, **Mary Jo and Art Small** moved to a very nice environment in Iowa City where many friends from the University live.

David G. Trickett, has recently assumed the presidency of the Iliff School of Theology in Denver where he has also been named the Henry Warren Professor of Ethics and leadership.

Karl Hartzell of Ponte Verde Beach, Florida writes that he is 100 years old and looks forward to attending the Baltimore meeting. His 2005 book, *The Laws of Living: America's Values in Action*, will be available in the College of Notre Dame bookstore

In Riverton, New Jersey, **Rusty Conroy** is the contributing author, with family members, including Allison Hayes-Conroy, of *South Jersey Under the Stars: Essays on Culture, Agriculture, and Place* (2005), and the forthcoming *Reconnecting Lives to the*

Land: An Agenda for Critical Dialogue, and, with Father Hilary Conroy, *East Across the Pacific: American Involvement in East Asia from the Open Door to the Vietnam War*, (Cambria Press).

Robert Wenger of Green Bay, Wisconsin completed a fifth trip to China where he lectured at Beijing Normal University and Tongji University, Shanghai.

Fredrick Coleman of Madison, Wisconsin, continues his work with Mental Health Services to Refugees Conference on Ethics and Cross-Cultural Work. He is also developing a state-wide Conference on Mental Health and Cultural Diversity.

Alfred P. McQueen, Sr. of Hampton, Va. Recalls his "mountain top experience" of meeting Nelson Mandela during his three week visit to South Africa, traveling to Johannesburg, Capetown, as well as to Zimbabwe and Zambia and Langa, experiencing conversations with the black and white population.

Gregory Robbins of Denver, Colorado has contributed several entries to Abington Press's 2006-7 edition of *the New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*.

Kurt Schmeller of Glen Cove, NY retired in 1999 after 32 years as President of Queensborough Community College and finds his current role on the Glen Cove school board "quite an experience!"

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Rocky Mount North Carolina's **David Jones** has published *My Father's House*, a book on adoption which is receiving good reviews. David has also spoken to several groups about the book and its subject.

Congratulations to **Gloria Pitts-Bemis** of Tallahassee, Florida who gave birth to a baby girl in June after completing her Masters Degree in nursing and education at Florida State in April. She is in the process of publishing her pilot study on cultural differences in childbearing practices, and will be teaching locally at Keiser College beginning in January, 2007.

Mary Evelyn Tucker of New Haven, Conn. informs us that she and her husband founded the Forum on Religion and Ecology (1998) which has completed a series of ten conference volumes on world religions and ecology available from Harvard University Press. The website for research and teaching in this area is: environment.harvard.edu/religion. For more information, go to: www.religionandecology.org.

Ralph Norman of Knoxville, Tennessee retired from the University of Tennessee's religious Studies Department in 2003 but continues in the *Soundings* editorial board after retiring as its editor. He perseveres on manuscripts, *The Sense of an Argument*, *The Logic of Reconciliation*, and *Caring for Connie* (a victim of Progressive Supernuclear Palsey).

Former SVHE President **Bob Spivey** of Tallahassee, Fla. has co-authored a 6th edition of *Anatomy of the New Testament* (Prentice-Hall).

Marianne Finnegan of Saratoga Springs, NY will have a German translation of her *Memories of a Mischling: Becoming an American* published in 2007 by Diogenes Verlag, Zurich.

Dan Shoemaker of Bowling Green, Ohio "dearly loves SVHE (even more than writing about himself in the third person)." He was rehired at BGSU by the Department of Popular Culture on a three year contract as he searches for a tenure-track job, circumstances that force him to focus on publications rather than conferences. He sends his greetings to all.

Estella and Chuck Lauter of Appleton, Wisconsin taught at Kurgan State University in Kurgan, Russia in April and May, 2006 as part of a sister city exchange program with Lawrence University. They are developing a presentation on life in Kurgan, and in April Estella will publish her first chapbook of poems, *Pressing a Life Together by Hand*. (Finishing Line Press).

Former SVHE Executive Director **Kathleen McGrory** of Holland, Mass. has taken time out from teaching at the University of Hartford to lecture, and to finish *Holy Grail: the Spanish Connection*. She conducted two workshops in New England on "the 'real' fictional grail as opposed to the *Da Vinci Code* version." In May she led a literary tour of Ireland and attended a week-long writers' retreat on Block Island.



When in doubt, donate!
When in no doubt, donate.
When hungry for good conversation, donate.
When remembering Joyful Evenings, donate.
When expecting to whoop it up at the Orioles game, donate.
When grateful for all SVHE means to you, make a donation
as your promise to our future.



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