Dak Leaves

Newsletter of the ELS Historical Society

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Issue 4

ELS Olympics By Marie Aaberg

The first ELS Olympics were held in Mankato, Minnesota, in the spring of 1969. Christian Day School children from Minnesota and Iowa gathered together in Mankato for what turned out to be a wonderful time and the beginning of a tradition which lasted for many years. Students competed in a variety of track and field events, but the goal was not simply "Going for the Gold!" Students, teachers, parents, and friends benefited by having a special day to come together, visit, make new friends, and enjoy Christian fellowship and fun.



Olympics at Scarville, Iowa, early 1980s Adults pictures (left to right): Brian Brudvig, Melvina Aaberg, Emily Faugstad, and Julie (Sorenson) Faugstad

In early years the Olympics also included a spelling bee and art show. Over the course of time there were special areas of competition like chess, tug-of-war, and awards for "Best Girl Athlete" and "Best Boy Athlete." Even talent shows were part of the festivities for a number of years. Often the day's activities were divided between individual competition in the morning and team competition in the afternoon. In recent years, however, the events were limited to the morning hours, and after lunch was served and ribbons handed out, the families headed for home.



1998 Olympics hosted by Mt. Olive (Mankato, MN). A large crowd gathered at Bethany Field.

Participants and spectators braved wind, knee-shaking cold weather, and rain at a few of these yearly events held early in May. However, there were many years when people went home at day's end with their first evidence of a suntan.

How exciting it was to see the caravans of cars and vans arriving at the Olympics! At the

beginning of the day many students stayed close to their own classmates and buddies, but after a few events they started to mingle and make new friends. Perhaps a number of these friendships have been rekindled at the Youth Convention, Honor Choir, or at Bethany Lutheran College.



The winning 5th-6th grade relay team at the 1998 ELS Olympics: Andy Beilke, Andrew Shoop, Amy Knudson, and Jenna Bukowski

The Olympics even had a rotation that included traveling between states. Every other year a "Big Olympics" was held and Mankato, Minnesota or Madison, Wisconsin hosted the event. Not only did the host plan for the events and meals, many congregation members opened up their homes to provide lodging for the travelers.

Teamwork, planning, and extra effort were necessary ingredients for the congregation and school hosting the event. It required participation from parents, other congregation members, the church youth group, grandparents, and help from the visiting spectators in order to run the day's activities smoothly. I think it is safe to say that when people reflect back on memories: "A good time was had by all!"

In recent years, opportunities for athletic participation at the local level decreased the number of students who participated in the ELS Olympics, and last year the event was not held. The opportunity to come together and spend a day enjoying fellowship and fun is very special, and hopefully, there will be some way to keep this event alive for the future.

Marie Aaberg taught in ELS Christian Day Schools for more than 26 years. She now works with youth programs at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, MN.

ELS Christian Day Schools throughout the US (listed alphabetically) Bethany Lutheran School, Port Orchard, WA

Christ Ev. Lutheran Preschool, Port St. Lucie, FL Concordia Preschool, Eau Claire, WI Heritage Lutheran Little Lambs Preschool and Kindergarten, Apple Valley, MN Holy Cross Lutheran School, Madison, WI Holy Trinity Ev. Lutheran School, Okauchee, WI Hope Lutheran Academic Christian School (Preschool), West Jordan, UT Jesus' Lambs at Peace (Preschool Only), North Mankato, MN King of Grace Lutheran School, Golden Valley, MN Lakewood Lutheran School, Tacoma, WA Mt. Olive Lutheran School, Mankato, MN Our Redeemer Lutheran School, Yelm, WA Our Savior Lutheran Preschool, Naples, Fl Our Saviour Lutheran School, Lake Havasu City, AZ Parkland Lutheran School, Tacoma, WA Peace Lutheran School (Kindergarten), Kissimmee, FL Precious Lambs Preschool, Oregon, WI Princeton Ev. Lutheran School, Princeton, MN Scarville Lutheran School, Scarville, IA St. Timothy Ev. Lutheran (Preschool through Fourth Grade), Lombard, IL Trinity Lutheran School, West Bend, WI Western Koshkonong Lutheran School, Cottage Grove, WI

History of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Saginaw, Michigan By Homer Mosley, Jr.

loria Dei was formed in May of 1985, by 170 souls who had left an ALC congregation in Saginaw, MI, seeking to continue in the old doctrine and practices of the historic Lutheran Church. These faithful members formed an independent Lutheran congregation, which was served by various confessional pastors in the greater area. Soon a pastor was called. Dr. J. K. Smith accepted the Call to become the congregation's first regular and fulltime pastor. After Pastor Smith retired from the ministry in 2000, the congregation extended another divine Call, which was accepted by the Rev. Homer Mosley, Jr. He was installed as pastor on July 30, 2000, and continues to serve the Gloria Dei congregation.

Not having a worship facility of its own, the congregation met in various places, including Michigan Lutheran Seminary, until 1990. Gloria Dei acquired eight acres of ground, located in Saginaw Township, which comprises the western portion of the greater Saginaw metropolitan area. Members began building at the present location on September 17, 1989. In June 2003, the grateful congregation praised and thanked our Lord at a special mortgage burning ceremony. Plans for a new sanctuary have been completed, and construction is planned, God-willing, to begin in the near future.

In 1989 Gloria Dei joined the Evangelical Lutheran Synod, headquartered in Mankato, MN. It is part of a regional district, Circuit #3, which encompasses Michigan, Ohio, and Pennsylvania. The pastors of Circuit #3 meet regularly for study and encouragement. Other groups of men and women meet throughout the year in different settings to grow in their service to the Lord and in their appreciation of the Gospel. The blessings of this larger, orthodox Lutheran fellowship help in facilitating the ministry of the congregation in its outreach, nurture, and confessional practices.

The people who formed Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, have done so because they believe, with other confessional Lutherans, that the Bible is truly the Word of God, that it is without error and infallible in all matters, just as the historic Lutheran Church has always believed, taught, and confessed. In God's Word we find comfort, assurance, and strength, knowing that God, for Jesus' sake, forgives all our sins, gives us eternal life, and salvation. Christ, then, is the central message of God's love for sinners and the heart of Gloria Dei's proclamation and ministry. The congregation regularly gathers to use the Gospel in the Word and in the Sacraments of Holy Baptism and the Lord's Supper. As confessional Lutherans they stand on the three great principles of the Reformation: Scripture Alone, Grace Alone, and Faith Alone. 办

> Homer Mosley, Jr., is pastor of Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Saginaw, Michigan



Anniversaries: Churches and Schools of the ELS

(Please inform the editors of errors and omissions.)

1890: 115 years ago

First Evanger Lutheran Church, Fertile, MN, organized.

Hartland Lutheran Church, Hartland, MN, organized.

1915: 90 years ago

Manchester Lutheran Church, Manchester, MN, organized.

1920: 85 years ago

First Evanger Lutheran Church, Fertile, MN, joined the ELS.

Hartland Lutheran Church, Hartland MN, joined the ELS.

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Trail, MN, joined the ELS.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Princeton, MN, or-ganized.

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, joined the ELS.

Western Koshkonong Lutheran Church, Cottage Grove WI, joined the ELS.

1925: 80 years ago

Rock Dell Lutheran Church, Belview, MN, joined the ELS.

1930: 75 years ago

Concordia Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, joined the ELS.

Immanuel Lutheran Church, Audubon, MN, joined the ELS.

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Belview, MN, joined the ELS.

1940: 65 years ago

Pinehurst Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, joined the ELS.

1945: 60 years ago

Mt. Olive Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN established a Christian Day School.

1950: 55 years ago

Bethany Lutheran Church, Luverne, MN, organized.

1960: 45 years ago

Grace Lutheran Church, Madison, WI, organized. **1965: 40 years ago**

Faith Lutheran Church, East Jordan, MI, organized.

1970: 35 years ago

Grace Lutheran Church, Crookston, MN, organized.

Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, MO, organized.

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Escondido, CA, organized.

1975: 30 years ago

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Bishop, CA, joined the ELS.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Naples, FL, joined the ELS.

1980: 25 years ago

Faith Lutheran Church, Oregon, WI, organized and, joined the ELS.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, Lake Havasu City, AZ, joined the ELS.

1985: 20 years ago

Bethany Lutheran Church, The Dalles, OR, organized and, joined the ELS.

Christ Lutheran Church, Windsor, CA, joined the ELS.

Faith Lutheran Church, Alpena, MI, joined the ELS.

Faith Lutheran Church, Irvine, CA, joined the ELS.

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, organized.

Our Savior Lutheran Church, North Lakeland, FL, organized.

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Scottsdale, AZ, organized.

1990: 15 years ago

Holton Lutheran Church, Holton, MI established a Christian Day School.

Saved By Grace Lutheran Church, Gresham, OR, organized and, joined the ELS.

Scriptural Lutheran Church, Cape Girardeau, MO, joined the ELS.

1995: 10 years ago

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Green Bay, WI, joined the ELS.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Holland, MI, organized and, joined the ELS.

Resurrection Lutheran Church, Winter Haven, FL, joined the ELS.

Trinity Lutheran Church, Rogers City, MI, organized and, joined the ELS.

Zion Lutheran Church, North Huntington, PA, joined the ELS.

2000: 5 years ago

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Indianola, IA, joined the ELS.

History of Manchester Evangelical Lutheran Church Manchester, Minnesota

From the 1991 Anniversary booklet

Tn 1915 the *First Norwegian Evangelical* Lutheran Congregation of Manchester, Freeborn County, Minnesota, was formed. This later changed to Manchester Evangelical Lutheran Congregation. The formation took place largely as a result of the 1880's doctrinal controversy concerning Conversion and Election within the Synod for the Norwegian Ev. Lutheran Church in America. In 1912 a document called the Settlement [Opgiør]. which was a compromise to the controversy, was endorsed by the Norwegian Synod with a minority opposing it. This minority group of pastors and lay people believed their church body was now departing from the paths of pure doctrine. They therefore began to form their own group outside the Norwegian Synod. Manchester Lutheran Church was started by a group of 16 families with Pastor Thor J. Strand serving the congregation jointly with the Hartland Norwegian Ev. Lutheran Church. The congregation joined the newly formed Synod in 1920. The Synod remnant itself had reorganized in 1918 at Lime Creek, near Lake Mills. Iowa on June 14-19.

The first services of the congregation were held at the homes of various members until a permanent building of worship was constructed. In 1916 land on the south side of Manchester village was donated by Mrs. Betsey Ingebritson to build a church for the congregation. A second lot was bought to allow sufficient space. The same year congregational families each donated \$500 for the structure and a contractor was hired. The building was mostly completed by the winter of 1916-1917 and new pews were soon added.

A coal-burning furnace was used to heat the church until 1950 when a fuel-oil furnace was installed. The basement was only large enough for a furnace and coal bin until the 1930' s when a horse and large scraper were used for excavation for the full basement. The original lighting of the church was by kerosene lamps lowered from the ceiling. These served until the 1940's when they were replaced by electric ones. In the early years of the church a shed nearby was used for the pastor's horse while the stable at the town creamery was used for the horses of the members. The original bell developed a crack and had to be replaced at a cost of \$75.



In the 1940's a man from Chicago was hired to paint the picture that now appears above the altar. Remodeling of the church basement in the 1960's brought washrooms into the church building. Another remodeling in the 1970's added kitchen cabinets, fluorescent lighting and a hot water furnace. An electric organ was purchased in 1960 to help beautify the worship service. Other additions, improvements, and refurbishings have continued up to the present time. A great deal of thanks go to the many volunteers who spent countless hours keeping the Lord's place of worship in good repair.

Norwegian services were still held at the church in the 1960's to celebrate *Syttende Mai* (Norwegian "Independence" Day). At one point in the church's history a tornado hit the house to the west of the church, lifted up and over the church, and immediately dropped down again to continue on its eastward course. Since the 1940's Olina Jordahl served as Sunday School Superintendent. Many children of the area were given careful instruction in God's Truths by a large number of faithful teachers in the Manchester Lutheran Sunday School.

For many years the Manchester Lutheran Ladies' Aid served monthly dinners which were well attended. The proceeds from these and from various bake sales were used for many purposes, including helping to pay utility bills for the church and for the parsonage in Hartland. Many improvements on the church building were possible through their funding. The Ladies' Aid members lovingly provided and served food for many occasions, such as funerals or Mission Festivals. Their work in church cleaning was an indispensable help to the Lord's work.

Pastors who served Manchester Lutheran: Rev. Thor J. Strand 1915-1920 Rev. John Hendricks 1920-1923 Rev. Stephen Sande 1923-1943 Rev. Gustav E. Moller 1927-1940 (retired) Rev. Paul Ylvisaker 1943-1970 Rev. Ronald L. Mathison 1970-1978 Rev. John E. Smith 1978-1983 Rev. Martin J. Doepel 1983-1986 Rev. Dennis W. Schmidt 1987-Present

History of Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church Hartland, Minnesota

Adapted from the 1990 Anniversary booklet

The story begins in the 1850's when Norwegian immigrants began to settle in Freeborn County. Lutheran congregations were forming based on common European languages and cultures. The Central Lutheran Church, north of Albert Lea near the pioneer community of Bancroft, is known as the "mother church." ...

In a history written by the Central, East and North Freeborn Lutheran Congregations, from which the Hartland Lutheran Congregation got its start, the following statements are made:

The oldest document now found among the records of the Congregations is dated June 24, 1860, and is a report from the Manchester district of a meeting that took place on that day for the purpose of extending a call to Pastor C. L. Clausen of St. Ansgar, Iowa to serve the Norwegians of Freeborn County temporarily with six or eight services during the year... According to this document an organization must have existed before 1861, which, however, is the year mentioned in several places as the year of organization. The ministerial records begin in the fall of 1865. ... Thirteen congregations have sprung from the Freeborn congregation as first organized. These are: Moscow, Trondhjem, Hayward, Glenville, Round Prairie, Albert Lea First Lutheran, West Freeborn, Hartland, East and North Freeborn.

In about the year of 1867 the West Freeborn Congregation set up its own church organization and for a number of years our forefathers continued to belong to this congregation. The exact date of the first Lutheran Church organization in the vicinity of Hartland is not known, but a *Hartland Herald Anniversary Edition* published in 1909 contains the following:

The Synod Church was organized and had a church and cemetery on the Louis Knutson farm before the village was thought of. ... After the village was started it was found a building in Hartland would be more convenient and in 1890 a movement was started for its erection.

Rev. Jenson was pastor at that time and services were held in a rented building until the church edifice was finished. The corner stone was laid in 1891 and the building dedicated the same year. The cost of the Church was \$2,306.25, there being at that time 60 heads of families in the membership who contributed to the building fund and donations from outsiders were accepted. The articles of Incorporation are dated July 2, 1890, and empowered Julius C. Siblerud, Lars Knudson and Anders Moeller to establish and maintain an Evangelical Lutheran church and to provide places of public worship. ... There were about 200 members at this time.

Early pastors were Reverends Ylvisaker and Wulfsberg from Albert Lea, Rev. Jenson, and Rev. Hendrick J. Strand. In 1893 Reverend John J. Strand, who had assisted Rev. Jenson during the summer vacations, was called as the first resident pastor in charge of the Hartland and Manchester congregations. The 1909 *Hartland Herald* went on to report:

Shortly after his arrival a large comfortable parsonage was built and occupied by him during the remainder of his 16 years of faithful and successful work. ...

In 1908 Rev. Strand left for Grand Forks, North Dakota. In 1909 there were about 300 members and morning services were held every two weeks. His brother, Rev. Thor Strand, replaced John and was pastor from 1908-1920. This was a period of controversy as theological disagreements emerged.

Another historical account written by Erick Magnuson for the dedication of the present remodeled church building in 1975 reports:

In 1913, a spilt began to develop in the congregation and the dissenting members organized a separate congregation. For a short time they met in the city hall, but in 1915 they had built a church building in the west part of the village. The court awarded half the congregation with the church building and the other half with the parsonage. The two resulting congregations both remained members of the Norwegian Synod of the American Lutheran Church until 1917. The West Synod congregation, Cross of Glory, merged into the Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, the American Lutheran Church (ALC), (and now the ELCA, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America). The East Synod congregation chose to stay out of the merger joining with other congregations to carry on the Norwegian Synod of the American Lutheran Church, now known as the Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS).

Rev. Thor Strand was the pastor of the congregation at the time of the split and remained with the East Synod Church (The Hartland Evangelical Lutheran Church) until 1920 when he resigned. Rev. John Hendricks acted as pastor until 1923 when Rev. Stephen Sande was called. He served the congregation for twenty years. In 1928, a basement was dug under the church.

The Tornado and the New Church Building

On the eve of June 19, 1931, a twister came and demolished the church structure. ... Shortly after the disaster the Board of Trustees agreed that all members of the congregation would donate a day's labor to clean up the wreckage. Those who could not work donated \$2.00. During a July 8 meeting it was decided to go ahead and begin rebuilding as soon as possible. ...

It is reported that many of the members who worked on the church returned the money they earned as a donation to the church. They worked varying amounts of time from 7 hours to 378 hours depending on their skills and other commitments. Many of the members were farmers and this was the harvest season. It took three months to rebuild the church. 300 people attended the dedication of the new church on December 6, 1931. The Meenly bell had been replaced in the tower, known in architecture as the Cathedral English type. ...



The Young People's Society

The *Pigeforening* (Girl's Society) was organized in the early 1900's. The name was changed to the Young People's Society when the young men later joined also. The Young People's Society purchased the first organ for the church.

The Ladies' Aid

In 1891 the first Ladies' Aid *Kvindeforening* was formed. The Ladies' Aid consisted of two groups, one of them the regular Hartland Lutheran Ladies' Aid and the other was called the East Lutheran Ladies' Aid and held its meetings in the country east of Hartland...

Through the years the Ladies Aid has continued to serve and celebrate with its members.

The Last 50 Years

Pastor Paul Ylvisaker, his wife Bergitte and their children came to the Hartland-Manchester parish in 1944 after Pastor Sande resigned in 1943 because of ill health. He died in May of 1944. These were times of change. World War II was ending. Services were held every Sunday, instead of every other Sunday, because automobiles had made travel between Manchester and Hartland possible in only a few minutes. Sermons in Norwegian were preached only occasionally and the officers of the church no longer came to collect the *Prestelønn* in the Spring and Fall to pay the pastor's salary and the expenses of the church. The entire congregation stopped filing to the front of the church at every Christmas, Easter and Pentecost service to make a special money offering for the pastor and the organist, who was unpaid. Regular envelope giving came into use.

In 1974 work began to remodel and refurbish the church building. ... A Narthex had been added to the front of the building with a Sunday School room, storage and remodeled bathrooms in the basement. ...

[M]any members and pastors have come and gone to other churches in other communities to continue their service to the Lord. Everyone became entwined in God's love and in the history of this church as they gave their time and energy to the Lord. ...

Our gracious God has blessed our church and its members. Its pastors have faithfully preached Christ crucified and brought God's precious Word to His people.

ELS Historical Society Website By Ryan MacPherson

 $\mathbf{R}^{\text{esources pertaining to the Historical Society are now available online at the Society's new website:}$

http://www.evangelicallutheransynod.org/history

The content includes:

- Chronology of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod,
- Bibliography of pertinent historical studies
- Overview of the Ottesen Museum.
- Upcoming events, such as the June 2005 program of speakers, also are listed.
- Back issues of **Oak Leaves** will be posted on the website shortly, for the benefit of both members and the general public.
- Membership forms for those wishing to join the society may be printed from the website.

Please share the web address with your friends and fellow church members.

Ryan MacPherson is professor of history at Bethany Lutheran College in Mankato, Minnesota, and serves on the Board of the ELS Historical Society.

Tell us your history, your stories!

Please send us your ideas, articles, and suggestions for \mathfrak{Oak} $\mathfrak{Leaves} - (gargy@blc.edu)$. We welcome information and articles on church anniversaries, and articles of Synodical and local significance.

Annual Meeting — June 18, 2005 at Bethany Lutheran College. Topic: German Influence on the Norwegian Synod

Doctrine/Theology — Erling Teigen Approaches to Education — Craig Ferkenstad Hymnody and Worship Practices — Dennis Marzolf

In the next issue: Gathering Oral History

From the Archives



What does this image conjure in your mind? Read the next issue to learn more about it.

From last issue:



One of the many items of interest in the Ottesen Museum is a somewhat faded orange and white Bethany College pennant. Its exact age has not been determined, but we know it was one of similar emblems that decorated the walls of the college dorms in the college's earlier days. This emblem of college life conjures up thoughts about what might have been the dorm life of that time. Was it in the "boys' dorm" or the "girls' dorm"? Who were the roommates in that room, and to which of them did it belong? Was it a room that would pass the dean's inspection or one that more closely resembled a tsunami disaster? Was that pennant considered an item of respect because of the honorable college name it bore? And did it eventually end up in the museum because it had been lost and no one claimed it any more? In other words, was it the victim of a graduate's indifference to that college life and education he/she had received and it was no longer wanted as an emblem of those things? Or was it perhaps - and most likely - a treasured possession as an emblem of the good days now past, and the owner wanted this treasure to be preserved, thus donating it to the care of the museum. Whatever the reason, the Bethany Pennant (its traditional colors are now red and white) through the years has been emblematic of an education that is hard to come by these days - education for life with an eternal goal in mind. The Bethany pennant - long may it wave! Å,

> Paul G. Madson is a retired pastor and serves as archivist for the Evangelical Lutheran Svnod.



Editors' note: A current BLC pennant made it into a recent Bethany production of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Ruddigore*, as the "flag" flying over and "protecting" the young Rose Maybud.

Announcing the Ninth Annual Meeting of the ELS Historical Society Saturday, June 18, 2005

Theme: German Influence on the Norwegian Synod

Place: **Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center** Bethany Lutheran College Mankato, Minnesota

Saturday, June 18

9:30 am - Registration & Coffee

10:00 am - Opening Service (Silber Hall in the Ylvisaker Fine Arts Center)

10:20 am - Welcome

10:30 am - Session 1: Theology/Doctrine — Erling Teigen

(45 minute presentation followed by 15 minute discussion period)

11:30 am - Session 2: Approaches to Education — Craig Ferkenstad

(45 minute presentation followed by 15 minute discussion period)

12:30 pm - Luncheon

Cost of \$11 to be paid at the meal (also covers expenses for coffee breaks). Please make reservations for the luncheon through Elsa.Ferkenstad@blc.edu or 507-344-7354.

- 1:45 pm Business Meeting
- 2:00 pm Session 3: Hymnody and Worship Practices Dennis Marzolf This session will include a combination of lecture/presentation, discussion, and audience participation in singing examples of hymns from the German and Scandinavian traditions from various historical periods.

3:30 pm - Coffee

For further information, contact Robin Ouren, heyrab@hickorytech.net or 507-246-5309 or Elsa.Ferkenstad@blc.edu or 507-344-7354.

Reminder:

Memberships (including Bak Leaves subscriptions) are due June 1. Oak Leaves ELS Historical Society 6 Browns Court Mankato, MN 56001

Renew your membership! ELS Historical Society

Name: _____

Address:

Send completed form and check (see box below right for type of membership and correct amount) to: ELS Historical Society 6 Browns Court — Mankato, MN 56001

●ak Leabes is published periodically by the Evangelical Lutheran Synod Historical Society, 6 Browns Court — Mankato, MN 56001

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Oak Leaves welcomes articles of both Synodical and local significance for publication. Articles maybe edited for style, clarity, or length to allow for publication. Submitted manuscripts will be deposited in the archives of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

MEMBERSHIP

All membership renewals are due **June 1**

Voting Membership: \$10/year: individual \$15/year: husband & wife

Associate Membership: \$15/year: individual \$25/year: institutional \$5/year: student

Lifetime Membership: \$200