



AME Forum

Volume 28, Number 1, Winter 2012

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Maosen Li

Inquiries

Inquiries about the newsletter's content and about how to place announcements in the next issue should be addressed to the Editor, eric.marx@acu.edu.au.

Change of Address

For change of address information or problems with receipt of issues, contact the AME Secretary, Kaye.Cook@gordon.edu.

Call for Papers

Association for Moral Education 38th Annual Conference

November 8 - 10, 2012
The Historic Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX

Conference Theme

**"Civility vs. Incivility:
Respectful Disagreement in a Divided World"**

Submissions are welcome from scholars across the many disciplines that contribute to the study and practice of moral education and development, including psychology, education, philosophy, sociology, criminology, and cultural and childhood studies, among others. Plenary sessions and invited symposia will explicitly address the conference theme. We encourage individuals to submit proposals that address the theme or on any topic related to moral development and cultivation.

Submission deadline: April 1, 2012

For submission details, and/or to register for the conference, please go to the conference website:

<http://www.salisbury.edu/ame2012/>

AME 2012 Conference Chair:

Rebecca Glover, University of North Texas

A Perspective on the 2011 AME Conference in Nanjing, China

Maosen Li

This conference was the 37th annual conference of the Association for Moral Education (AME), the 6th annual conference of the Asia-Pacific Network for Moral Education (APNME), and the 40th anniversary conference of the *Journal of Moral Education (JME)*, and was co-sponsored by Nanjing Normal University and the Renmin University of China. It was the first AME conference held outside of North America or Europe, and the first major international conference on moral education in China. Over 300 proposals for papers, symposia, roundtables and poster presentations were selected by the Programme Committee from participants in 33 countries.

The theme of the conference was "Cultivating Morality: Human Beings, Nature and the World." Morality is deeply embedded in cultural and religious traditions, drawing human beings into relationship with each other, and with nature and the world. How can we best cultivate morality and what role does formal education have to play? To what extent does morality develop naturally, even genetically? Or is it socially constructed, and best left to families and other agents of socialisation to cultivate? If education does have a role in cultivating morality, what form should it take in the globalising world of the 21st century with its many old and new ethical challenges, including the rapidly increasing population and demands of human beings that are running up against the limitations of nature and the world to sustain? What should the goals, function and experiences of contemporary moral education be? The participants showed their creative and innovative work in presentation or discussion, sharing their ideas about linking theory and practice in moral education in schools and other social institutions.

The five plenary speakers were each impressive, speaking on "Moral Predicament and Moral Education in Today's China" (Wan Junren), "Moral Education within Difference: Impediments to Appreciating the Moral Other" (Dwight Boyd), "Moral Education as 'Inner/Outer' Environmental Education: An Asian Philosophical Contribution" (Heesoon Bai), "It's Not Me, It's My Brain: Cultivating Moral Learning in an Age of Neuroscience" (Derek Sankey), and "Confucian Theory of Moral Education in *The Great Learning: A New Sentimentalist Interpretation*" (Chen Zhen). Interestingly, the two Chinese professors, instead of advocating moral education linked to Confucian role-based virtue theory, tried to draw lessons from Western philosophers. Prof. Wan believes that moral education should play an extremely important role in improving the present moral predicament of Chinese society, and prefers a social transformative analysis inspired by the works of Weber, Habermas and MacIntyre so as to build the Chinese moral community. Prof. Chen argued against the view that we make moral judgements before we form our moral attitudes and tried to reinterpret Confucian theory of moral education in the *Great Learning* with the help of a theory of moral sentimentalism developed by Michael Slote. There were many comparative presentations at this conference, such as the roundtable discussion of "Are the Objectives of Moral Education in China and the USA Different or the Same?" (chaired by Helen Haste). The international perspective seems to be an academic necessity in the age of globalization so that we should have a cross-cultural or cross-border interactive environment to learn about moral education and investigate new strategies for individual and societal development.

Another feature of the conference was the mentoring workshops aimed at helping non-English speaking scholars to publish in English and enhance their careers. Four work groups were convened: Chinese senior scholars; Chinese junior scholars; Japanese, Korean, Thai and other Asian or Pacific scholars; and scholars from Africa, Europe, the Middle East, North America and South America. English-language editors explained the experiences and perspectives and guidelines of English-language publications, and Asian scholars gave their perspectives on publishing in scholarly careers.

During this conference week, participants were much impressed and inspired by the academic communications from different disciplines and different cultures. Helen Haste received the AME Kuhmerker Career Award, and Dan Hart, the AME Good Work Award. The JME-Taylor Prize was inaugurated at this conference and awarded to Sharlene Swartz on behalf of the Africa Moral Education Network for the JME 2010 Special Issue on Moral Education in Sub-Saharan Africa. Participants were also moved and excited by the cultural programs such as Chinese shadow play, dance and calligraphy performance as well as their visits to Nanjing Foreign Language School and important cultural sites in Nanjing.

As a member of the International Conference organising team, chaired by Dr. Monica Taylor, I deeply felt the cultural, social and teamwork differences between local Chinese and international colleagues, and came to believe that moving toward international standards for both work spirit and academic achievement would be the right way to proceed. Many of my middle-aged fellow Chinese scholar colleagues expressed their willingness to participate, but in effect were prevented by their lack of English language proficiency, and lack of financial support from their institutions. They were not even familiar with online registration. In the future, I trust, these will not be barriers for junior Chinese scholars. Chinese scholars of moral education and ethics need to keep a close relationship with AME, *JME*, and APNME, engaging in mutual support and appreciation of diverse viewpoints and cultural differences in the global community.

Dr. Li is Associate Professor at Renmin University of China.

Garden near Confucius Temple, Nanjing

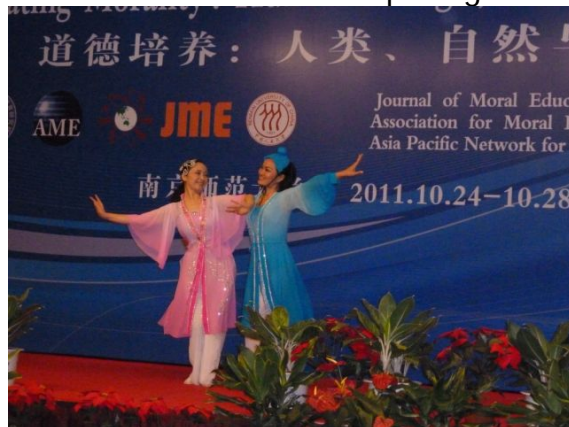


Scenes from the AME 37th Annual Conference, Nanjing, China

Sharon Lamb (right) thanks Monica Taylor for her years of service and contributions to AME and JME.



Traditional dancers at the Opening Ceremony.



Sharlene Swartz (center) receives the inaugural JME-Taylor Prize. (Monica Taylor left, Steve Thoma right)



37th Annual Conference: Observations from Attendees . . .

It was my fourth AME meeting and the fact that I returned to China to attend it after 14 years in the United States made it all special. It was an amazing experience. I was most excited to have the opportunity to work with Dwight Boyd for our symposium on Chinese moral education. Having known him for almost 20 years, I find Dwight an irreplaceable source of inspiration for my recent research and writing on moral education. It is Dwight who really got me into political philosophy. (I am reading Iris Young and re-reading John Rawls with his advice.) I'm especially grateful that Dwight helped me reconnect moral education with issues of social justice.

In addition to the well-arranged and intellectually stimulating formal sessions, I thoroughly enjoyed the informal networking, dialogues and conversations with many colleagues from all over the world. I love the AME gathering for mainly two reasons: it is interdisciplinary and it is international. Though I wish we had more philosophers and colleagues from the social foundations of education and more Chinese participants from the Mainland attending, I was satisfied with my interaction with the meeting attendants.

Even a trip to the Nanjing Massacre Museum was unforgettable. I was glad I finally had a chance to pay my respect to the victims. I was also pleased knowing that the museum has been designated as one of the key sites in the city for school moral education. I understand the politics embedded in all those visible messages of patriotic education; I'm sure for all the children and young people visiting the museum every day, the Nanjing Massacre taught them way more than patriotism. It teaches about humanity, the loss of it in wars and our endless struggles to restore and sustain it.

Tianlong Yu, Southern Illinois University and Shandong Normal University

Conference student volunteers (the "Yellow Shirts")



Conference Observations . . . (cont.)

Excitement and nervousness are emotions I always experience before a conference I'm about to attend. Admittedly, my enthusiasm and nerves were at pre-conference all-time highs in China, primarily because it was my first trip to this part of the world. However, my nervousness quickly dissipated as I arrived, having realized that conference planners had made excellent arrangements for first-time travelers to Asia like myself (e.g., providing written requests in Mandarin for taxi drivers, ensuring that the hotel had competent staff, with many speaking fluent English). My cultural experience in Nanjing was incredible, thanks to the planned trips and events within the conference program as well as the well-situated location of the conference within walking distance of amazing Chinese historical monuments and artifacts.

The academic component to the conference was also impressive. I learned of new theories, research and programs in moral education, and as always, enjoyed not only the descriptions of such but also the evaluations and critiques. Many of my colleagues' presentations also reminded me of classic works in the field that brought new meaning and relevance for me. I walked away from AME 2011 with a renewed sense of energy about not only my own but everyone's work in the field. I offer a warm, hearty thanks to the conference chairs and planning committee for hosting a remarkable conference.

Tonia Bock, University of St. Thomas

Dr. Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum, Nanjing



It was my first time to participate in an international conference. For me, the conference was a great opportunity to meet scholars and learn of the frontiers of the field. In China, especially the Chinese mainland, moral education is sometimes the theme of ideo-political study. It was good to find people around the world exploring the topic of moral education from different perspectives.

I gave a presentation on the characteristics of teacher morality in the Chinese mainland. It is thought that we can analyze teacher morality from different layers: moral ideal, moral principle and moral rule. I was excited to find that Prof. de Ruyter from the VU University explores the same theme from a similar lens although we have different opinions. Also, it was so kind of Prof. de Ruyter to send me her article and invite me to send my research to her in return. I was moved to discover that scholars around the world would like to give their help in the development of a PhD student, and finally I conclude that educational research is without boundaries.

Lijia Wang, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Conference Observations . . . (cont.)

It was wonderful to experience China. I had never been before, and had a delightful four days in Beijing before coming to Nanjing. It was an honor to participate in a cross-cultural East-West conference, and a privilege to experience the historic co-sponsorship of AME, JME, and APNME. A great thank you to the Chinese Hosts from Nanjing Normal University! I have not been able to attend AME conferences in many years, so it was especially wonderful to visit old friends, acquaintances, colleagues, students, and mentors.

It was quite educational for me to attend sessions presented by Chinese professors, as it stretched my mind and helped me see beyond my own parochial biases. I especially enjoyed the presentation on Confucius by Beijing University professor Yang Liuxin, and he and I have continued to correspond since the conference and to collaborate on shared interests. I was also gratified at the attendance at and interest in the two sessions in which I presented (“Bahá’í View of Moral Education,” and “Moral Beauty”).

My wife and I very much enjoyed the natural beauty surrounding the conference venue, and appreciated our nearby strolls in the Ming Tombs area. I savored the Chinese food at the conference. Thanks again to all the organizers who sacrificed their time and energy to make the conference happen, with special gratitude to Monica Taylor.

Rhett Diesner, Lewis-Clark State College

Nanjing, site of the AME 37th Annual Conference



San Antonio, site of the AME 38th Annual Conference



A Welcome to New AME Executive Board Members

Sharon Lamb

I am happy to announce the outcome of the recent election to the Executive Board of AME. Our new board members are Yen-Hsin Chen, Silvia Diazgranados Ferráns, Don Reed, and Jenny Vaydich. Join me in extending to them heartfelt congratulations and thanks for their willingness to serve. They will begin their three-year term of office at the post-conference Board meeting in San Antonio.

This election, 56% of the AME membership voted and voters represented 26 countries. For 93% of voters, only the first vote was counted as per the HARE system explained on your ballot. Because of the HARE system, the votes are always close and I want to thank all who run for office but who do not garner enough votes their first time around and encourage these members to run again in the future.

A very special thank you goes to Elections Chair and Executive Board member Jeremy Frimer who organized the election and created the beautiful and efficient online tool for our voting.

Recent Books by AME Members

DeVitis, J., & Yu, T. (Eds.). (2011). *Character and moral education: A reader*. New York: Peter Lang.

Wangaard, D., & Stephens, J. (2011). *Creating a culture of academic integrity: A toolkit for secondary schools*. Search Institute Press.

To let us know of your new book, please contact Eric Marx, eric.marx@acu.edu.au

AME Reduced Membership Rate for Hardship

Applications for reduced AME membership rate in cases of hardship for full-time students, unemployed individuals, and untenured faculty in developing countries (as defined by the IMF) will be available on the AME and Annual Conference Websites by April 1.

If you notice a mistake on the AME Website or in the Forum, please let us know! Contact Eric Marx, eric.marx@acu.edu.au.

Recipient of the 2011 Kuhmerker Career Award: Helen Haste

The 2011 AME Kuhmerker Career Award honored **Helen Haste**—professor emeritus in psychology at the University of Bath and now visiting professor at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Professor Haste has had a distinguished scholarly career in the fields of moral psychology, moral education, and political psychology. She has provided extraordinary service to the AME as a board member and chair of the Dissertation Awards Committee and to the Journal of Moral Education as a long-standing member of the editorial board and now chair of the JME Trust.

The plaque presented to Helen Haste at the recent AME conference had the following citation:

- “Because of your long and diverse record of innovatory theoretical and empirical research on moral, social and political values, embracing gender, cultural pluralism and political socialisation;
- Because you have linked your theoretical understanding of the socially negotiated construction of meaning with your communicative enthusiasm for discussion of ideas;
- Because of your commitment and service to moral education, as an AME Board member, a JME Editorial Board member, and a Trustee and Chair of the JME Trust;
- Because you continue to put yourself, intellectually and passionately, into all your professional activities;

The Association for Moral Education takes pleasure in honouring you for distinguished contributions to research and for service to the AME and the field of moral development.”

Helen Haste (center) receives the 2011 AME Kuhmerker Career Award.



Recipient of the 2011 Good Work Award:

Dan Hart

The 2011 Good Work Award Winner is a true moral exemplar: Dan Hart, professor of Childhood Studies and Psychology, and Director of the Center for Children and Childhood Studies, at Rutgers University. In 1995 Dan Hart founded the Camden STARR program together with Robert Atkins. The *Sports Teaching Adolescents Responsibility and Resiliency* program is a volunteer organization that promotes civic identity and responsibility in children and adolescents in Camden New Jersey through various types of projects. Examples are physical activities like the Vermont Summer camp, educational activities such as visits to museums, and community projects like delivering turkey baskets to needy families for Thanksgiving. Camden has the second highest poverty rate in the nation for families with children and recently topped the list of America's most dangerous cities. This means that communal connections are difficult to foster and moral and civic development is not self-evident. The program offers children these possibilities. About 60 children and adolescents living in Camden participate in STARR each year.

The GWA committee received five testimonials from participants, who are now in their twenties. They are following different paths in life, but all have a job (sometimes after being graduated from university) and all are certain that one of the persons who played a crucial role to get them where they are today is Dan Hart, and that the STARR program has changed their lives. According to his nominator, "He is very personification of this award."

For more information on the program: <http://children.camden.rutgers.edu/STARR/index.htm>

AME Op Ed Page

AME recently started an Op Ed page on our Website, www.amenetwork.org/oped. Please read our first pieces, by Larry Blum on the loss of focus on integration in schools, and Marvin Berkowitz on the semantic "minefield" of moral education language. We welcome your comments and responses and we hope to create lively conversations on these kinds of issues.

Please consider writing an Op Ed piece for our AME web site. All Op Ed pieces are reviewed by an ad hoc committee of the Executive Board and are not meant to be positions that the AME itself takes, but rather positions worthy of consideration by those working in the fields of moral philosophy, development, education, and psychology. Pieces should be between 600 and 900 words. All submissions should be sent to Eric Marx, eric.marx@acu.edu.au.

Good Work Award

Call for Nominations 2012

The Good Work Award is a non-monetary award that is designed to bring recognition and honor to those who foster links between moral theory and educational practice. Any AME member in good standing may nominate any person, team, practice, or organization. Selection criteria are below. The nomination shall consist of (1) a substantial narrative or description of the project or program being nominated, (2) an explanation as to why the project or program merits recognition by the AME according to the selection criteria, and (3) highlights of the curriculum vitae of the person(s) primarily responsible for the project or program, OR a history of the organization or sponsoring institution, as appropriate.

Please submit nominations via email to **Doret de Ruyter**, d.j.de.ruyter@vu.nl, by **May 31, 2012**. Awardees will receive a plaque and recognition in the AME newsletter and on its website and through other channels of communication such as press releases to the home institution.

Selection criteria:

1. The practice, intervention or research project shall aim at promoting a moral benefit for a community or group beyond that inherent in conducting research. This benefit will have a primarily moral cast—a contribution to the well-being or flourishing of the target group, for instance, by increasing liberty, opportunity, equality, safety, fairness or mutual respect and concern.
 2. The practice, which can be a one-time or ongoing program, shall exhibit moral excellence. This would be demonstrated in credible testimony from participants, practitioners, or observers, or by research on the practice by the practitioner(s) or others.
 3. The award may be given to a single practitioner, a team of practitioners, the project or practice itself, or a sponsoring institution, as the selection committee deems appropriate.
 4. Although the practice need not be replicable beyond its own circumstances, it should be exemplary within those circumstances, and of significant interest to moral educators in other circumstances.
 5. As this award is meant to recognize achievement in moral practices, outstanding scholarly achievements are not also required. However, scholarship by the practitioner(s) about the project or program can be a decisive reason if it proves impossible to decide between two practices.
 6. The awardee(s) need not hold membership in the AME.
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Kuhmerker Career Award

Call for Nominations 2012

The **Kuhmerker Career Award** recognizes individuals who have made outstanding, long-term contributions to both the Association for Moral Education, in particular, and to the field of moral development, more broadly. Areas of consideration include, but are not restricted to:

1. Scholarly contribution to the field of moral development and/or education. This could consist of: a) long-standing contributions to ethical theory and philosophy; b) substantial and cumulative empirical contributions to the research literatures in psychology, sociology, anthropology, etc.; c) the development of an assessment instrument or strategy adopted by a significant number of researchers; d) the publication of resource material and critical analyses helpful to researchers and/or practitioners; and/or e) an innovative educational program adopted by a significant number of practitioners;
2. Service to AME, such as acting as a board member, office holder, program planner, or major presenter at conferences;
3. Excellence in teaching and mentoring, including doctoral student supervision, course development and teaching, conceptualization, realization or supervision of educational interventions; and
4. Special/innovative service to the public, workplace, or education.

This award is not limited to AME members, although involvement in the association is given serious consideration as one of the criteria.

Click here for further details regarding this award, including a list of past recipients and Lisa Kuhmerker's lasting commitment to the AME.

Please submit nominations to **Ann Higgins-D'Allessandro**, ahiggins@fordham.edu, no later than **May 31, 2012**. A submitted nomination should include the name and institutional affiliation of the nominated person, and the nominator's name. The committee will gather or request more information as needed.

Executive Board Activity Report

Kaye Cook

Nanjing 2011 proved a wonderful time to get the Board together, as did the February 2nd online discussion. Professor Maosen Li has been appointed to the Board for one year, and member elections for new Board members have been completed [see p. 8].

During this winter, such earlier initiatives as revisions to the Bylaws and Policy Manual and the establishment of a SIGs and of an Op-Ed blog have been accomplished. We have also continued with various initiatives—fund-raising, a revision to the mission statement, plans for upcoming conferences—and have made progress on on-going ones, including membership retention and recruitment and internationalization of the organization.

The Op-Ed page has been inaugurated with two excellent articles, on why racial integration should be the centerpiece of school reform, by Larry Blum, and the confusing minefield of the semantics of moral education, by Marvin Berkowitz. The articles address important moral education topics, and are well argued but not the last word. Your comments/challenges/opinions are appreciated: amenetwork.org/oped.

The Policy Manual is to be posted online, under the Executive Board tab.

A SIGs group on Race and Multiculturalism issues has been established. Look for information from the group as the conference approaches, or contact Stephanie Troutman (Stephanie_troutman@berea.edu) or Larry Blum (Lawrence.blum@umb.edu).

The Board has been discussing ways to increase the internationalization of the organization. Ideas include: making translation software available, carefully choosing the location of future conferences, and exploring ways to encourage the development of local elements that are integrated with the larger AME organization. Membership initiatives include a letter to new members, an encouragement to all members to renew if they did not go to the conference, and contacting organizations who share a commitment to moral education (broadly defined) from any of a range of disciplines. Your ideas are welcome.

Recruitment and retention concerns remain paramount. Recent analysis of our membership data shows that most AME-ers do not become regular members. Since AME historically has been conference driven, this is a challenge (for financial stability and providing as many grants as we'd like) and an opportunity (for new members). We welcome and encourage your contributions, and your suggestions for how to make the organization more welcoming.

Scholarships for Participation in 2012 Conference, San Antonio

The Association for Moral Education will award a number of scholarships to a maximum value of \$1000 each, to be spent on attendance and participation at the San Antonio Conference in 2012. These scholarships are intended to assist graduate and postdoctoral students who otherwise would be unable to attend. We will also be giving several grants to young scholars (i.e., individuals in the first 5 years of an academic appointment) with the knowledge that young scholars have a number of conferences they might go to and we hope that they will find AME is a welcome home for their work. It is hoped that these grants will also enable the participation of delegates from regions of the world that might otherwise be under-represented.

These awards will be administered, and applicants selected, by a committee consisting of Rebecca J. Glover (University of North Texas, 2012 Conference Chair), Sharon Lamb (University of Massachusetts, Boston; AME President), and Phyllis Curtis-Tweed (Oakland Community College, Farmington Hills, MI; AME Treasurer).

Scholarships may be used to support travel costs, payment of the conference fee and/or accommodation and subsistence, depending on individual circumstances. Applicants will also be expected to obtain funding from other sources so far as possible.

Applicants will be required to submit, by email and in English:

1. Full name and contact details including mailing address, phone number and email address.
2. A cover letter of no more than one page summarizing the applicant's reasons for wishing to attend the conference, and the importance of the scholarship in making this possible. Applicants should indicate whether they have applied for or intend to apply for funding from other sources (e.g., the academic institution at which they are employed or are studying).
3. An estimated budget for their participation in the conference, including details of their travel costs and accommodation and subsistence. The budget should state the amount of funding requested from the scholarship fund and what applicants intend to spend this on.
4. A CV of no more than one page including degrees obtained; current academic affiliation and publications (if any).
5. A conference proposal, including title of paper or other presentation; nature of the presentation (individual paper or otherwise); abstract of up to 150 words; 500 word summary.
6. A letter of recommendation from an academic supervisor, colleague or employer.

Applications should be sent by email to AME2012@unt.edu by **June 15, 2012**. Please include "scholarship application" in your subject line. The Committee will request further information if necessary with a view to deciding on applications by the end of June, 2012. The Committee's decision will be final.

IMPORTANT: MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012

If you attended the November AME conference in Nanjing, your dues are automatically paid for the year 2012. If you did not attend the 2011 conference, and have not renewed online, you may renew on the AME Website, or mail the form below (with the appropriate dues).

Membership is \$95 for regular members and \$65 for students. Your membership includes a subscription to the quarterly *Journal of Moral Education* and the semi-annual *AME Forum*.

Applications for reduced AME membership rate in cases of hardship for full-time students, unemployed individuals, and untenured faculty in developing countries (as defined by the IMF) will be available on the AME and Annual Conference Websites by April 1.

To renew your AME membership online at the AME Website (using Paypal), go to http://www.amenetwork.org/membership_dues.html. To renew your AME membership by mail, please complete the following:

Name _____

Institution _____

Business phone _____ Home phone _____

FAX _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Label:

Line 1 (name) _____

Line 2 _____

Line 3 _____

Line 4 _____

Mark as appropriate:

_____ Regular dues: \$95.00 (includes 4 issues of *The Journal of Moral Education*)

_____ Student dues: \$65.00 (includes 4 issues of *The Journal of Moral Education*)

_____ Donation to the Kohlberg Memorial Fund: \$_____.00

_____ Total enclosed. Make your check (or money order for those outside the U.S. or Canada) payable in **US dollars** to **Association for Moral Education**. Mail this form and your payment to:

AME c/o Phyllis Curtis-Tweed
 Dean, Academic Affairs, Oakland Community College
 27055 Orchard Lake Road
 Farmington Hills, MI USA 48334
 (pcurtistweed@aol.com)