



CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

UNDERSTANDING THROUGH THE AFRICAN AMERICAN - JEWISH EXPERIENCE

News and Events of Cultural Leadership - www.culturalleadership.org - Vol. 5 Fall 2009

Evaluators Conclude We Are Exemplary, Extraordinary

As we entered our fourth class in 2008, we wanted to take a “balcony view” and look critically and holistically at our curriculum to see if we were indeed accomplishing the goals stated in our mission. Were we training students to be agents of social change? We hired EMT Associates, a national leader in evaluation in Sacramento, California, who began a year-long, in-depth analysis of Cultural Leadership. Every program, retreat, and the summer journey was assessed. **The results are very exciting, and helpful.** We are sharing their findings with you, our donors, friends, alums and parents. The full report is posted online at www.cultural-

[leadership.org/programs1.html](http://www.culturalleadership.org/programs1.html), but here are some of the highlights:

Our curriculum has breadth and depth. When students were asked to identify the program that impacted them the most, “the most striking quality of their responses was the breadth of the answers they provided. Rather than conveying consensus about a single ‘best’ program that outshined

all the others, their range of responses indicated that individuals [took] something away from [every program].”

99% of our alums are engaging in socially responsibly behavior and influencing their peers to do the same. Over 60% of them have taken a higher profile leadership role by providing advocacy through community education, engaging in political activities, providing direct service through volunteering, or engaging in direct action strategies.

Cultural Leadership is “life-altering.” “Within the youth development field, it is rare to find a program that students have collectively and consistently referred to as ‘life-altering.’ Cultural Leadership is an exemplary youth program, which offers an extraordinary life opportunity to its members,” the report stated.

EMT recommends that Cultural Leadership consider expanding the eligibility criteria to include additional racial/ethnic groups - a change we, in fact, had

“Cultural Leadership is an exemplary youth program, which offers an extraordinary life opportunity to its members.”



photo by Stewart Halperin

already implemented this year. In our inception, we were an organization dedicated to rekindling the alliance between Blacks and Jews. We have since expanded that mission to train teens to be activists through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience. We now welcome students of all racial and ethnic groups. We made this decision for three reasons. One, there are idealistic and courageous students who are neither Black nor Jewish, but whose experience in our program will benefit us all. Two, our policy to only accept African American or Jewish students felt precariously similar to the very exclusivity in society that Cultural Leadership is working so hard to fight against. To be a model of inclusively to our students and our community, we felt it necessary to open our program to all. Three, we need allies—people who know the Black and Jewish experience—who can stand side by side with us in our social justice work.

We are very proud of Cultural Leadership and want you to share in that pride because only with your support are we able to do what we do.

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When our students see a problem, they grab an ally, or two or three, roll up their sleeves, and get to work.

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From the Chair...

Dear Friend of Cultural Leadership,

Class 5 is an incredible group of youngsters, 30 students from 19 different high schools. Less than week after returning from the amazing, but grueling 23-day journey to NYC, DC, Atlanta, Whitwell, TN, all over Alabama and Mississippi, Little Rock and Memphis, they sought time together. Understanding that reentry for our students can be difficult as they navigate the world with their new socially aware eyes and ears, Karen invited all of Class 5 to her house for an impromptu dinner and discussion. They are impatient to change the world. It became clear to them, listening to the many speakers who have been part of this nation's social justice journey, that one individual does make a difference. They want change to happen now.

I hope we are all around to witness the change in St. Louis 20 years from now, when Class 5 and the four classes of students preceding it, and the ones yet to come, are the leaders in our region. Just imagine what changes could occur. The board of Cultural Leadership continues to flesh out our vision of a more inclusive St. Louis, one in which all the barriers to opportunity are removed. With a clear image of our future, we are refining our programming and raising the bar to produce the leaders and risk-takers we so desperately need.

We are now recruiting Class 6. If you know any high-school juniors or very mature sophomores who are curious, "change the world" types and willing to partake in this demanding, rigorous, life-changing program, please have them go to our website, www.culturalleadership.org, and download the application. They must be willing to commit to all the scheduled events and have the courage to extend their comfort zone when they confront an unjust situation. If they do, we guarantee they will learn much about their history and culture that they will not find in their textbooks, and in the process, learn much about themselves and the change they are capable of creating. And our community will have wonderful leaders with a passion for equality and inclusion.

Sincerely,

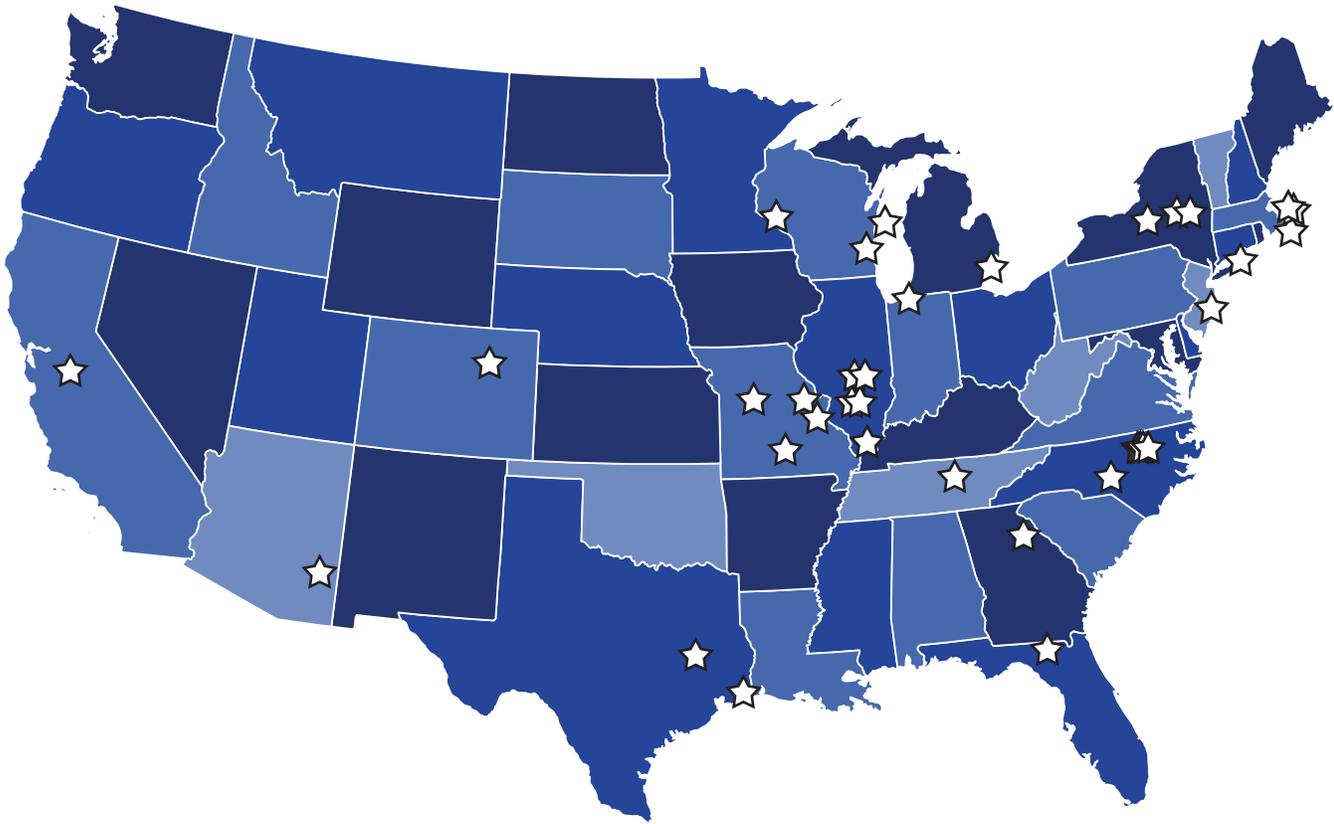
Terry Bloomberg

Cultural Leadership exists to create a more just and equitable community by educating high school students to recognize and resolve issues of privilege and injustice through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience.

Our students develop leadership skills, build relationships, facilitate dialogues and create change in their circles of influence.

Where in the World Is Cultural Leadership?

We have four classes of alums out in the world – over 80 students carrying with them everything they learned from their year in Cultural Leadership. Since we taught them right, they are making waves where they landed...



Many of our students have also had the opportunity to live abroad expanding not only their horizons and experiences, but also expanding the reach of Cultural Leadership's mission. For more information on our alums' travels, experiences, and efforts to change the world, visit our website at www.culturalleadership.org.

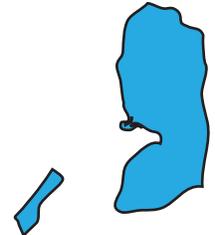
Scott Friedman, Class 1
FRANCE



**Jeremy Cropf, Class 2 and
LaParis Phillips, Class 1**
ENGLAND



**Ron Bronstein, Class 1
and Nick Desloge, Class 2**
ISRAEL



Clarissa Polk, Class 1
CHINA



Sara Roger, Class 2
INDIA



View Sara's photoblog of her India experience at <http://saralovesindia.blogspot.com/>



Director of Development to Guide Future Growth of Cultural Leadership

Cultural Leadership is excited to welcome Bea Emanuel-Sims as the new Director of Development. Bea is responsible for overall fundraising, including direction, strategies, and activities for Cultural Leadership. She brings with her over seven years of fund development experience and has worked for several organizations, including The Consortium for Graduate Study in Management, The Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation, and Girl Scouts – Illinois Crossroads Council. She has also served in the corporate arena as a marketer for S.C. Johnson. Most recently, she was the manager of annual giving and alumni relations for the Lake Forest Graduate School of Management. Bea is a St. Louis native with both a Master of Business Administration and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from St. Louis University. In deference to St. Louisans' favorite question, Bea is an alumna of Rosati-Kain High School. Bea and her family have relocated back to the St. Louis area after spending three years in Kenosha, Wisconsin. Bea and her husband Dionne have four children ranging in age from two to twelve and currently reside in St. Charles. They enjoy music, theater, and traveling, and are avid football fans!



**Beatrice Emanuel-Sims,
Director of Development**

Parents Recognize New Sensitivity in their Daughter - and Themselves

by Dan Rosenthal and Laurie Furman

This summer our daughter, Hannah, celebrated her seventeenth birthday. Hannah planned a party for friends, both from Cultural Leadership and from school. She thought a cook-out at a park in Olivette would be an ideal venue. Hannah had an underlying motive: enlighten her non-Cultural Leadership friends and widen the influence of Cultural Leadership (while, of course, having fun).

Hannah especially wanted one friend to speak with her Cultural Leadership friends. This student had been trying to raise Hannah's hackles by making insensitive comments about her desire to catalyze social change. Hannah thought he, in particular, would benefit from interaction with a large group of blossoming change agents. Without trying to be blatant eavesdroppers, we were pleased to hear an earnest and meaningful interaction between this previously cynical young man from Olivette and his new CL friend from East St. Louis.

Although we were supposed to exit the park at dusk, the students were having such a fun time, we stayed beyond our permitted time limit. The local police came to visit after 9 pm and sternly reminded us that the park was closed. After apologizing for overstaying our welcome, we continued the party at our home.



**Dan Rosenthal and Laurie Furman
Parents of Hannah Rosenthal,
Class 5**

This event, as it turned out, was not Hannah's first encounter with local police officers. We found out later this month that Hannah experienced another episode of police "standard operating procedures" while visiting the U-City Loop on another social outing with her Cultural Leadership friends.

Some weeks after their July program, when the group discussed their reactions to the "Professor Henry Louis Gates affair," Hannah witnessed first-hand the imbalanced interest taken in certain groups of young people in The Loop. Hannah noticed that her small assembly of friends – both African American and Caucasian

- was not drawing the attention of the local police, yet similar sized groups of African Americans seemed to draw more deliberate attention. The Cultural Leadership members took these observations as an opportunity to discuss past experiences and to reiterate thoughts first expressed in an early Cultural Leadership "fishbowl" exercise. Hannah learned that this appalling phenomenon was not so surprising to her African-American friends, who had been the recipient of police interest on many similar occasions. Hannah's friends explained that they often received imbalanced attention from law enforcement officers when no white friends were with their group, yet when the group contained both races, the police appeared uninterested.

We suspect that if Hannah had not participated in Cultural Leadership's discussions both prior to and after the Professor Gates incident, she would not have been sensitized to this important social issue. We also believe that without Cultural Leadership, the open dialogue that we have witnessed and that Cultural Leadership has fostered would never have occurred. We want to thank Cultural Leadership for opening our eyes and providing both the venue and vocabulary for our family's enlightenment.



Each time a man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, he sends forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring, those ripples build a current that can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression.

Ripples

Tony Westbrooks (Class 1) along with **Drake Hall, Stephanie Holzbauer, Keilah Johnson and Hannah Rosenthal (Class 5)** presented their experience with Cultural Leadership and the lessons they have learned along the way to the staff at Monsanto.

Elliott Kleiman (Class 3), freshman at the University of Southern California was elected president of his entire residence hall, which houses 400 students.

DeAnna Tipton and Nate Seeskin (Class 4) were the head organizers of a car wash to benefit STAND (student anti-genocide organization). Other Cultural Leadership students who helped organize or attended were **Porsche Poole and Meredith Stoner (Class 4)** and **Ashaki Hall, Drake Hall, Aaron Johnson, Julia Moskwitz, and Eliana Parnas (Class 5)**. They raised \$500 to help bring an end to genocide around the world.

Thanks to an invitation from board member Joy Sterneck, **Thomas Bullock, Winnie Hawker-Boehnke, and Hayley Levy (Class 5)** presented

their Cultural Leadership experiences and epiphanies at her Interfaith Dialogue/Faith Beyond Walls dialogue group.

Drake Hall, Winnie Hawker-Boehnke, Julia Moskwitz, and Shayna Rosen (Class 5) are working to put together a peace studies course for middle-school students, inspired by trip speaker and peace activist Colman McCarthy.

Keilah Johnson (Class 5) is giving a presentation to the faculty at her school, Fort Zumwalt West, about Cultural Leadership and the transformational journey.

Candice Nichols (Class 5) is working to bring "Jim Crow Week" to McKinley Classical Leadership Academy (SLPS). This program was first organized and executed last year by **DeAnna Tipton (Class 4)** at St. Elizabeth Academy.

Jordan Williams (Class 5) is helping to reinvigorate Brotherhood, an all-male community-service oriented student group at his high school, Cardinal Ritter College Prep.

The Empty Nest

Mimi Brown - Michigan State University
Arnold Bullock - Xavier University
Allister Byrd - Knox College
Lauren Caskey - Grinnell College
Ola Coker - University of Missouri-Columbia
Kala Coleman - Johnson and Wales University of Rhode Island
Jasmine Collins - Lane College
Maurice Cooksey - Brandeis University
Brittany Campbell - University of Missouri-Columbia
Anna Dardick - Oberlin College
Melissa Garcia - Fisk University
Emalie Jacobs - Knox College
Brionna Jimerson - Tufts University
Ethan Joseph - University of Michigan

Another round of recent Cultural Leadership graduates are off to college. Here's where they're headed...

Sean Joyce - George Washington University
Elliott Kleiman - University of Southern California
Jillian Lynum - Bennett College
Brittney Hale - Dillard University
Emily Menendez - University of Denver
Erik Mills - Washington University
Hannah Novack - Barnard College
Porsche Poole - Swarthmore College
Adam Rosen - University of Denver
Baron Ross - Central Missouri State
Kyriah Shannon - Bennett College
Meredith Stoner - Wellesley College
DeAnna Tipton - Agnes Scott College

Thank You

Cultural Leadership would like to thank the following people for their generous donations of time and talent:

Professor Terry Jones for giving an informative lecture to our parents about the history of racism and public policies that supported residential and educational segregation in St. Louis.

Chat Leonard, Hal Deuser, Faith Sandler, Teresa Stock, and Kristin Rathje for sharing their knowledge during our annual College Information Night.

Dean Benjamin Ola Akande for presenting an incredible program on leadership to our students and for providing space at Webster University for our September program.

Class 5 parents Darlene Donegan, Maryanne and John Holzbauer, Judy Rosen, Collette Taylor Moore, Raymond and Cherilyn Washington, and Keith and Jeanine Young for providing delicious meals at programs.



Know a Student Who Is Perfect for Cultural Leadership?

Cultural Leadership is now recruiting the next class of courageous, passionate, curious students. Applications for Class 6 are available NOW on our website at www.culturalleadership.org and are due **November 13th**. Applications can also be mailed to you by calling 314-725-3222.

We are looking for sophomores and juniors in high school who have a passion for social justice and are “change-the-world” types. Cultural Leadership accepts applications from *anyone* who believes in our mission to “create a more

just and equitable community.” Applicants can be of any race, religion, or ethnicity. Our curriculum is dynamic and extensive and focuses, in part, through the lens of the African American and Jewish experience.

If you know of a student who would be great for Cultural Leadership, please let them - and us! - know. Further, we would be happy to address groups of potential candidates at schools, churches, synagogues, and other youth-group venues. Thank you for your help in getting the word out!

Top Ten

During our 23-day Transformational Journey, our students heard from 63 wonderful speakers. Every one was invaluable; they are the model activists working to bring about social change. Here are the “top ten” speakers from this past summer’s journey, as judged by our students, in alphabetical order...

- **Geoffrey Canada** - president and CEO of the Harlem Children’s Zone in New York City
- **Carroll Gibbs** - author and lecturer who focuses on the contributions of Africans and African Americans to society
- **Lawrence Guyot** - civil rights activist; headed the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party in 1964
- **Dr. Sybil Jordan Hampton** - grew up in Little Rock AR; member of the second class of black students entering Central High School in 1959 - the year after the “Little Rock Nine”
- **Rabbi Brad Hirschfield** - co-president of CLAL, the National Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership
- **Ed Koch** - United States Congressman 1969 - 1977 and the Mayor of New York City 1978 - 1989
- **Rabbi Irwin Kula** - co-president of CLAL, the National Center for Jewish Learning and Leadership
- **Jerry Mitchell** - investigative reporter for the *The Clarion-Ledger* in Jackson MS; he convinced authorities to reopen cold murder cases from the Civil Rights Era
- **Bryan Stevenson** - founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, Montgomery AL
- **Hollis Watkins** - veteran Civil Rights activist from Jackson MS and founder of non-profit organization Southern Echo

Shop Barnes & Noble Nov. 21; Support Cultural Leadership

Barnes & Noble is hosting a Book Fair for Cultural Leadership on Saturday, November 21st. Please come buy books, DVDs, food, coffee, music, journals, etc. to support us. On November 21st, a portion of all proceeds from purchases made by our friends and family will be donated to Cultural Leadership to train teens who will work for inclusion, equality, and social justice. Last year, Cultural Leadership supporters nationwide made purchases worth over \$9,000—the highest amount of any organization during its first year. This year, we will exceed that number!

At right is the coupon you will need to present at the cash register with your purchases to direct proceeds to Cultural Leadership. **This coupon can be used in ANY Barnes & Noble store nationwide.** Cultural Leadership students, alums, staff, and board members will be present at the Barnes and Noble at

Ladue Crossing (8871 Ladue Road) on that day to meet and greet and share their experiences throughout the program.



Barnes & Noble BOOKFAIR Supporting Cultural Leadership

Voucher can be used in Barnes & Noble stores nationwide.
Cultural Leadership will be at:

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8871 Ladue Road

Saturday, November 21

Please present this voucher prior to making your purchase.
A percentage of the net sale will be donated to your school/organization.*

596742

*The purchase of gift cards, Barnes & Noble memberships, text books and magazine subscriptions are not included in bookfair totals. Our discount purchasing program may not be applied to bookfair purchases.

My Magic Mirror

by Matthew Kincaid, Class 2



Most people are familiar with the popular quote from the movie *Snow White*: “Mirror, Mirror on the wall, who’s the fairest of them all?” This statement made in the spirit of vanity holds a strange truth to society as a whole. We often look into our “magic mirrors” and see an image of ourselves that is reflective only of what we *want* to see. I learned in Cultural Leadership what it means to look into the mirror and to see myself for who I really am. This summer, I had the unique honor to re-experience what was supposed to be a “once in a lifetime” transformational journey. I am a product of Cultural Leadership, Class 2 and until this summer, three years had passed since I packed my bags with intentions to go on a trip that was to change my life. A lot has happened in my life during those three years, and I have found myself standing in front of that magical mirror many times as I ignored the truths that I was afraid to hear.

Since graduating from Cultural Leadership three years ago, my class of allies has spread all over the country. We no longer have the convenience of monthly retreats, long bus rides, speakers, and

museum visits to remind us of our calling—to remind us that the day our feet

anxiously stepped from the bus to the pavement we made a vow to this world, and ourselves, to make change. You may ask how, after a year of rigorous programming and our journey together, we could become complacent. The answer is simple: I fell into the comfort of completion; the complacency that comes with a community scattered. But, I would argue, most of all because of that magic mirror. We cannot, as Ghandi famously said, “be the change that we want to see in this world” if we cannot even look at ourselves and see an honest reflection.

This summer, I found my honest reflection, and it may have been even more transformational the second time around. Only two Cultural Leadership alums have had the opportunity to relive their trip experience as a trip-leader. The first was Scott Friedman, Class 1. I went on this trip expecting to shepherd and cultivate an excited and motivated group of students. Instead, the students cultivated me. This program is special and necessary, if not just for the experience that the students have, then for the genuine effect that they have on others. Their ability to learn without prejudice convicted me, their passion inspired me, and their optimism rejuvenated

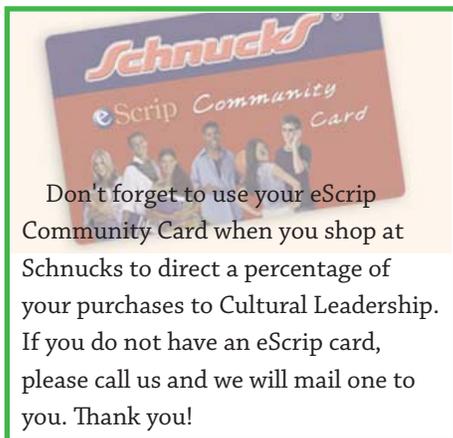
I found my honest reflection, and it may have been even more transformational the second time around.

me. Every day that I spent with Class 5 was like swimming in a fountain of youth, not physically, but spiritu-

ally and mentally. As crazy as this might sound, in my three short years away from Cultural Leadership, I had become old, tired, and burnt out. The catch is that I am only 21 years old, but when you live in a generation that believes that we live in a “post-racial” society, it is easy to become weary.

I found the true reality of my activism through the eyes, and the mirrors, of these youths. I could no longer look into my magic mirror and accept its lies when the eyes of these students told me something completely different; when I knew that they were more excited than I was to make change, more eager to learn, more passionate and optimistic, and ultimately more equipped; despite all of my prior experience. Change is a funny thing; it seems our natural inclination is to change others before we change ourselves. But that is NEVER going to work. One thing I learned from leading these great kids is that you can change yourself through the perfect curiosity of others and by humbling yourself enough to accept that you may not be as socially pretty as you think you are. What is your mirror showing you? Is it reality, or can you, too, learn from Class 5 how to see your true reflection?

Two More Ways to Shop-N-Give



Don't forget to use your eScrip Community Card when you shop at Schnucks to direct a percentage of your purchases to Cultural Leadership. If you do not have an eScrip card, please call us and we will mail one to you. Thank you!

Whole Foods Market gives a ten-cent refund per bag to customers who re-use their own shopping bags for groceries. This program reduces environmental impact and supports local non-profit groups. Customers have the choice to accept their cash refund, or donate the cash back to the store's chosen non-profit organization. From September 28 to January 17, Cultural Leadership is the chosen non-profit in the gorgeous **Town and Country Whole Foods Store (1160 Town and Country Crossing Dr., located at the SW corner of Clayton and Woods Mill Rds.)**. And, those dimes add up! Don't forget to bring your reusable bags and request that your refund be donated to Cultural Leadership. Thank you so much.



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Angela and Lester Yancy
Becky and Michael Zaccarello
Mindi and David Zissman
Steven Zuckerman

* Deceased

This list represents all recorded donations made from March 12, 2009 to September 15, 2009.

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