

LEAF LETTERS



New England Hosta Society
<http://www.nehosta.org>

President's Message

Dear NEHS Members,

It was my intention to do a post-show summary in this letter, but a special thing happened while at the American Hosta Society Convention last month.

One of our own was the recipient of the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award. The AHS established the award in 1982 in honor of one of the founding members and the first president, Alex J. Summers

This award is the highest award offered by the American Hosta Society (AHS). It is awarded to a member of the AHS in recognition of having given outstanding service to the AHS, the development of the genus *Hosta* or both.

The 2018 recipient published The Hosta Finder for more than 20 years until ceasing publication in 2017. He has served and continues to serve our local New England Hosta Society (NEHS) in many ways and is currently our Treasurer. When NEHS hosted the AHS Convention in 2011, he was the Vendor Chair and his garden was on the Growers Tour. He has opened his garden to both the New England Hosta and New England Daylily Societies on numerous occasions.

Of course I'm talking about Steve Greene.



Left to right: AHS President Gregg Peterson, AHS Vice President Awards and Honors (and NEHS member) Paula Lehtola and 2018 Alex J. Summers Awardee Steve Greene

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On behalf of the New England Hosta family, I congratulate Steve as the 2018 Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Award winner.

Steve is the fourth NEHS member to receive this award in the 34 times it has been awarded, joining Barbara Jones in 2012, Mildred Seaver in 1988, and Frances Williams (awarded posthumously) in 1986. I don't know the break down of what local societies have won this award, but I don't believe many can match our record.

In his acceptance speech, Steve talked about getting started in hosta collecting and how he started a nursery business to help pay for his addiction. More than one person mentioned they saw Ruth (Steve's wife and regular companion) cringe when Steve had numerous high (and I mean high) winning bids during the Convention auction. Steve better start moving some of those hosta and daylilies. We'd love to have a chance to buy some at an NEHS auction.

I hope you all take a moment and congratulate Steve when you see him later this month at the Summer Picnic.

Sincerely,

Wes

Wes Straub, President
New England Hosta Society
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781-608-0593

And the 2018 Photo Contest Winners Are...

Lauren Patric and Steve Greene, Photo Contest Chairs

New England Hosta Society members took pictures of beautiful hosta and gardens and entered their best in the 2018 Photo Contest. Members who attended the January 28 meeting voted to determine the winning photo in each category. Prizes were gift certificates [purchased by NEHS] from these nurseries (owned by members): Mason Hollow (Sue and Chuck Andersen), HostaAmour (Cheryl Cravino) and The Hosta Farm of Mendon/Fouth Generation Nursery (Rip and Ginger Sokol). The winning photos will be featured on our website and in our 2018 Hosta Calendar. Enjoy the results of the contest!

Congratulations to our winners.



Robyn LeBuff
Best Individual Hosta Leaf (H. 'Brave Amherst')

~~~~~ 2018 Photo Contest Results ~~~~~

Category 1 – Best Hosta Individual Leaf

- 1st – Robyn LeBuff, H. 'Brave Amherst'
- 2nd – Tina Rufo, H. 'Guacamole'
- 3rd – Cathy Felton, H. 'Allegan Fog'

Category 2 – Best Variegated Hosta

- 1st – Robyn LeBuff, H. 'Luna Moth'
Fred Wersan, H. 'Great Expectations'
- 2nd – Jess Audette, H. 'Lakeside Paisley Print'
Chris Sargent, H. 'On Stage'
- 3rd – Cathy Felton, H. 'Majesty'
Lauren Patric, H. 'First Frost'
Tina Rufo, H. 'Frosted Jade'

Category 3 – Best Non-variegated Hosta

- 1st – Nadine Proctor: H. 'Blue Hawaii'
- 2nd – Chris Sargent, H. 'Blaze of Glory'
- 3rd – Robyn LeBuff, H. 'Tequila Sunrise'

Category 4 – Best Hosta & Companion Plant Grouping

- 1st – Mary Arnberg, H. 'Empress Wu'
- 2nd – Robyn LeBuff, H. 'Aristocrat'
- 3rd – Chris Sargent, H. 'Cloudburst'/H. 'Blaze of Glory'

Category 5 – Best Hosta Landscape

- 1st – Robyn LeBuff, H. 'Fat Cat'
- 2nd – Nadine Proctor, unknown hosta
- 3rd – Tina Rufo, H. 'Night Before Christmas'

Category 6 – Best Creative Hosta Photo

- 1st – Mary Arnberg, H. 'Grand Marquis'
- 2nd – Chris Sargent, H. 'Halcyon'
- 3rd – Judy Artley, Great Hosta Roundup of '17



Robyn LeBuff (tie)
Best Variegated Hosta (H. 'Luna Moth')



Fred Wersan (tie)
Best Variegated Hosta (H. 'Great Expectations')

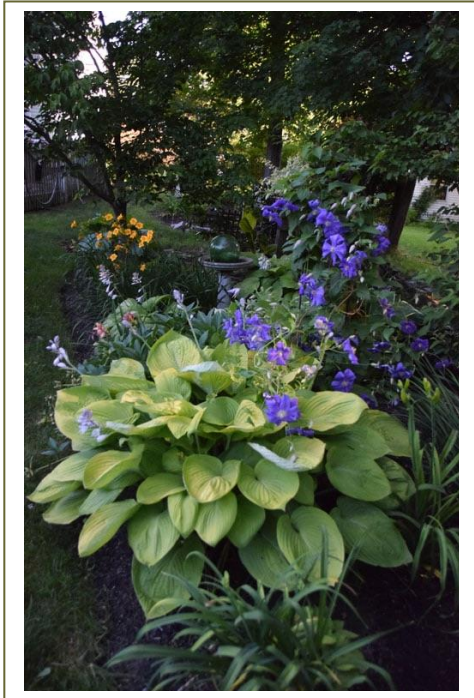
More Photos from the 2018 Contest



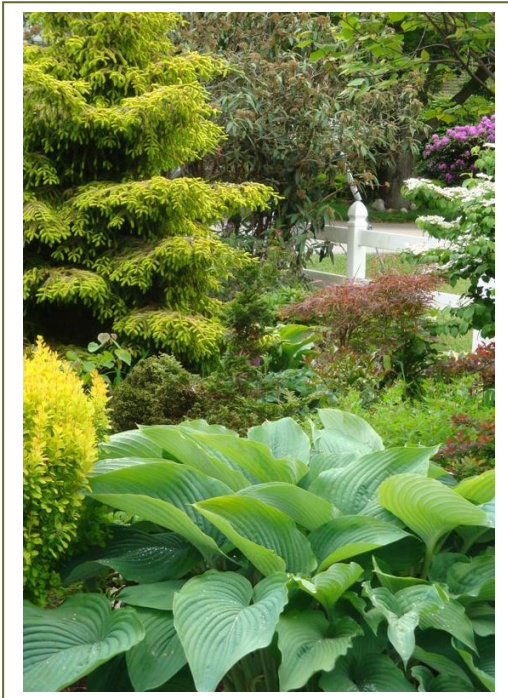
Nadine Proctor
Best Non-variegated (H. 'Blue Hawaii')



Mary Arnberg
Best Creative Hosta Photo (H. 'Grand Marquis')



Robyn LeBuff
Best Hosta Landscape (H. 'Fat Cat')



Mary Arnberg
Best Hosta & Companion Grouping (H. 'Empress Wu')



Chris Sargent, 3rd Place
Creative Hosta Photo (H. 'Halcyon')



Chris Sargent, 2nd Place (tie)
Variegated (H. 'On Stage')



Lauren Patric, 3rd Place (tie)
Variegated (H. 'First Frost')

Calendar of the New England Hosta Society

Updates and snow cancellations are on the Events page of our website <https://www.nehosta.org/events.html>

Greene Acre Open Garden—Sundays, July 15 and July 22, 2018, 8 am to 5 pm

Steve and Ruth Green open their garden in Sudbury Trains running and refreshments on the patio. Sculptures and interpretive signs will be in the garden. Daylilies will be at their peak of bloom. This is a chance to write down your favorites as the ID signs should be visible for most daylilies. There will be no daylilies for sale, but some hosta are available. Also enjoy a mass planting of gloriosa daisies and other annuals. Family and friends welcome. Photography is encouraged and daylilies are at their best early in the morning. Rain or shine.

Location: 36 Elaine Road, Sudbury, MA

NEHS Summer Garden Tours and Picnic—Wednesday, July 18, 2018

Tour members' gardens on Cape Cod and then enjoy a sumptuous picnic and energetic plant auction.

See article on page 5 and directions on page 6.

Location: Smith's Garden, Brewster, MA, and Pessoni's Driftwood Gardens, East Orleans, MA

Free Fun Friday at the Gardens at Elm Bank—Friday, July 20, 2018, 10 am to 4 pm

The Gardens at Elm Bank, Massachusetts Horticultural Society's living museum, are part of Highland Street Foundation's Free Fun Fridays program today. The Shade Garden has 25 varieties of hosta including a large drift of H. 'Sun and Substance' and many companion plants. Certified Master Gardener and NEHS editor Judy Artley is the Shade Garden Steward, with help from Mass Hort volunteers and Mass Master Gardeners, including NEHS members Steve Shaw and Leslie Levine. Free admission on July 20.

Location: Elm Bank, 900 Washington St., Wellesley, MA <http://masshort.org>

Southern Maine Daylily and Hosta Society – Lobstah Classic —Saturday, August 11, 2018

NEHS members who attended the Lobstah Classic in the past have had a great time! Tickets sell out quickly! Guest Speakers: Chuck Doughty (Cochato Nurseries, Holbrook, MA) and Brian Culver (Culver Farm Daylilies, Waterford, ON). Registration required, <http://www.smdhs.info>

Location: Southern Maine Community College, Fort Road, South Portland, Maine

Massachusetts Master Gardeners Gardening Symposium—Saturday, September 29, 2018

"Inspirations for Next Year's Garden" is the theme for the 2018 Massachusetts Master Gardeners Symposium. Visit their web site to learn more and to register. <http://massmastergardeners.org/2018-symposium>

Location: Westford Academy, 30 Patten Rd., Westford, MA

NEHS Annual Meeting, Potluck Lunch and Speaker —Saturday, October 27, 2018

Potluck Lunch, Annual Meeting, Elections and program at noon. (Management Committee meets @ 10:00). Program: Amy "The Shady Lady" Ziffer presents "Shade Gardening in the Northeast." Ziffer is an experienced lecturer, author and master gardener. Her website is <http://amyziffer.com>.

Location: Tower Hill Botanic Garden Classroom C ~ Boylston, MA. <http://www.towerhillbg.org>

NEHS Winter Meeting: Photo Contest, Flower Show Planning and Potluck Lunch —Sunday, February 3, 2019

Meeting and program at noon. (Management Committee meets @ 10:00). Now is the time to take photos of hosta and hosta landscapes. Program to be announced. Send suggestions to Tina Rufo, tinarufo@aol.com

Location: Tower Hill Botanic Garden Classroom C ~ Boylston, MA. <http://www.towerhillbg.org>

American Hosta Society (AHS) Convention—June 12–15, 2019

Hostaffinity, the 2019 AHS Convention, is at Green Bay, Wisconsin. See <https://www.ahs2019event.org> or Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AHS2019GreenBay/>

Picnic Time on Cape Cod – July 18, 2018

By Robyn Lebuff, NEHS Trustee, with additional material contributed by Judith Artley, NEHS Editor, and the Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival and the Cape Code Times web sites

The New England Hosta Society Annual Picnic and Plant Auction will be on Cape Cod.

You will not want to miss this popular member event on Wednesday, July 18. The picnic is planned for mid-week to avoid the weekend Cape Cod traffic. A fun day is planned, including two gardens to tour, a plant auction, food galore and lots of great garden friends.

The gardens are fabulous. See page 6 for directions. First stop is the garden of Katie and Andrew Smith in Brewster, MA. See over 240 different varieties of Hosta interspersed with all types of companion plants, including ferns and heuchera. Dan Pessoni in Orleans, MA, opens his garden for tours and the picnic. This garden is the outer Cape's only Nationally Registered American Hemerocallis (Daylily) Display Garden, with 750 different varieties of labeled daylilies. Daylilies and Hydrangeas are at peak bloom at the same time in July. Wander past the tiered bank of perennials and then relax in the huge shade garden, where over 350 labeled varieties of Hosta are interspersed with heuchera, ferns, and Solomon's seal. Admire beds of small and miniature Hosta. After leaving the shade garden, enjoy Dan's continually expanding Hydrangea Garden with 105 labeled varieties. Located throughout the gardens are 15 specimen trees, including Stewartia, Heptacodium, (Seven Son Flower), Heritage Birch, Tricolor Leaf Beech, and Harry Lauder's walking sticks, green and crimson.

What to Bring

Picnic Food: Bring your favorite dish (appetizer, salad, casserole or dessert) to share. The Society provides hamburgers, hotdogs and drinks.

Chair & More: Bring your own lawn chair, hat, sunscreen, and an umbrella (if rain is predicted).

Hosta Auction Plant(s): Dig and donate one or more hosta and/or hosta companion plants for the auction. Remember to dig, pot and label your plant(s) about three weeks before the event. Multiple plant donations are welcome and the more unusual the hosta, the better.

Raffle Item: Donate an item to the raffle – anything garden related.

The raffle and auction are a lot of fun and the proceeds help us keep our membership fees low. A big THANK YOU in advance for your donations and (high) bids.

The Schedule

10am–11:30am: Pre-picnic garden tour at Katie and Andrew Smith's, 54 Sheffield Road, Brewster, MA

10am–12 Noon: Garden tour, picnic & auction at Dan Pessoni's, 4 Driftwood Lane, Orleans, MA

11:30am: Picnic setup at Dan Pessoni's home

12:00 Noon: NEHS President's Welcome

12:15 pm: Grilled Hamburgers and Hotdogs hot off the grill– Raffle tickets available for purchase

1:15pm: Raffle

1:30pm: Plant Auction

3:00pm: Wrap-up and clean-up

Add-on Activities

Staying in the area for more than one day? Here are two other places you may want to visit on beautiful Cape Cod.

Heritage Museum & Gardens

<https://heritagemuseumsandgardens.org>

67 Grove Street, Sandwich, MA

Heritage Museum and Gardens is home to:

- Cape Cod Hydrangea Society Display Garden
- North American Hydrangea Test Gardens
- National Daylily Display Garden

Highfield Hall & Gardens

<https://highfieldhallandgardens.org>

56 Highfield Drive, Falmouth, MA 02541

Highfield Hall is home to:

- Historic mansion (with changing art exhibits)
- Sunken Garden
- Beebe Woods

Dan's garden is part of the annual Cape Cod Hydrangea Festival. Read more about Dan, his garden and his history with hosta and daylilies in this 2009 article in the Cape Cod Times:

<http://www.capecodtimes.com/article/20090719/LIFE/307199909>

Directions to the Garden Tours and Picnic, July 18, 2018

Mileages are approximate. Use a GPS, map app or a roadmap for specific directions.

Park on the street at both gardens, on the same side as the house.

From the North: Directions to Katie and Andrew Smith's home, 54 Sheffield Road, Brewster, MA

Take I-93/US-1/MA-3 Southeast Expressway South

Merge onto MA-3S via exit 7 on the left toward Cape Cod

MA-3S becomes US-6E once you cross the Sagamore Bridge. Continue on US 6 about 30 miles

Follow directions below from US-6 Mid Cape Highway

From the South or West: Directions to Katie and Andrew Smith's home, 54 Sheffield Road, Brewster, MA

From the South: Take Route I-195 E to exit 22A for MA-25E toward Cape Cod, 10 miles

From the West: Take Route I-495 S, which becomes MA-25E toward Cape Cod, 10 miles

Cross the Bourne Bridge

Enter rotary. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around and get onto MA-6A/Sandwich Road, 3.2 miles

Turn right onto Mid Cape Connector, 0.6 mile

Merge onto US-6/Mid Cape Highway. Continue on US 6 about 30 miles

Follow directions below from US-6 Mid Cape Highway

Directions from US-6 Mid Cape Highway to Katie and Andrew Smith's home

Take exit 11 for MA-137 for Brewster/Chatham

Bear right toward Brewster at the bottom of the ramp for MA-137N/Long Pond Road

Continue on MA-137N/Long Pond Road, 1.7 miles

Turn right onto Freemans Way, 0.3 mile

Turn right onto Sheffield Road, 0.1 mile. 54 Sheffield Road is on the right

Directions from the Smith Garden to the Pessoni Driftwood Garden, 4 Driftwood Lane, Orleans, MA

Head north on Sheffield Road toward Freemans Way

Turn right onto Freemans Way, 2.4 miles

Turn left onto S. Orleans Road/MA-39N, 1.1 miles

Turn left on S. Orleans Road/MA-28S, 2.2 miles

At first light, turn right onto Tonset Road. Go through one traffic light. 0.7 mile

Turn left onto Driftwood Lane. 4 Driftwood Lane is immediately is on the right

Directions if you are going directly to the picnic at the Pessoni Driftwood Garden, 4 Driftwood Lane, Orleans, MA

From MA-25, cross the Bourne Bridge

Enter rotary. Go $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way around and get onto MA-6A/Sandwich Road, 3.2 miles

Turn right onto Mid Cape Connector, 0.6 mile

Merge onto US-6/Mid Cape Highway. Continue on US 6 about 33 miles

Take exit 12 for US-6A toward Orleans/E Brewster. Turn right at the end of the exit, 0.1 mile

At first light, turn right onto Eldredge Park Way

Go straight through two traffic lights

Turn left onto Driftwood Lane. 4 Driftwood Lane is immediately on the right

Park on the street at both gardens, on the same side as the house.

AHS Membership

The American Hosta Society (AHS) is a non-profit educational and scientific organization. It promotes, encourages and fosters the development of the genus *Hosta* and public interest in *hosta*. The NEHS is a member society of the AHS, and you may choose to belong to either one or both societies.

Members of the AHS receive *The Hosta Journal* three times a year, access to display gardens throughout the country, many of which are only open to AHS members, and opportunity to develop friendships with people who share an interest in growing *hostas*.

Get details on joining the AHS here:

<http://americanhostasociety.org/Membership/Membership.htm>

American Hosta Society Membership Rates		
Term	Individual	Family
One Year	\$30.00	\$34.00
Three Years	\$80.00	\$90.00
Five Years	\$129.00	\$146.00
Lifetime	\$900.00	Not Offered
e-Membership	\$20.00	Not Offered

News Needed

Have you received an award or milestone? Send your news to the editor at artley@nehosta.org.

AHS to Meet at Green Bay

The Green & Gold Hosta Society of Northeastern Wisconsin invites *hosta* lovers to Hostaffinity, the 2019 convention of the American Hosta Society (AHS). The convention is at the Radisson Convention Center, Green Bay, WI, on June 12–15, 2019.

Hostaffinity tagline is “Friends – Foliage – Forever.” You will tour iconic gardens, hear world-renowned speakers, shop a variety of vendors, participate in friendly competitions and a live auction, eat great food and, most importantly, enjoy the company of fellow gardeners and friends, both new and old.

The convention web site <https://www.ahs2019event.org> has information and the registration.

The AHS Hosta Convention 2019 Facebook group is <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AHS2019GreenBay>

NEHS Membership

Garden tours, *hosta* lectures, friendly people, free admission to Tower Hill on meeting days, *The Hosta Adventure: A Grower's Guide* and this quarterly newsletter are some of the benefits of being a member of the New England Hosta Society.

Individual: \$10/calendar year, \$25/3 years
Family: \$15/calendar year; \$40/3 years

Please make checks to: "NEHS".

You may join when you attend a meeting, or mail your dues along with your name, complete address, telephone number and email address to:

Steven Greene
NEHS Treasurer
36 Elaine Road
Sudbury, MA 01776

Unsung Hero in our Midst

Sue Perez of Framingham was recognized in April by the Pinefield Garden Club [Framingham] and the Garden Club Federation of Massachusetts as an “Unsung Hero.”

The Pinefield Garden Club thanks Sue and lets her know that her work has not gone unnoticed. Sue compiles the club handbook yearly, which itself is a huge undertaking. Sue helps with Garden Therapy at a local assisted living facility and with the planting and maintaining of the beds at the Framingham Village Hall, the Healing Garden and Simpson Park. Sue always volunteers to help, without being asked. The compassion she shows to the group, serves as an inspiration for all members of the garden club.

NEHS is pleased to congratulate Sue.



Separated at Birth, Hosta Edition

Below, Hosta 'Sharp Dressed Man'. Photo by Robyn Lebuff
 Right, Steve "Sharp Dressed Man" Greene at the AHS Banquet, Philadelphia, PA, on June 23. Most others were dressed garden-formal. Steve's jacket was an "omen of good things to come."



Hosta 'Reflected Glory'

Photos by Steve Greene, NEHS Treasurer

As the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit awardee, I choose the hosta cultivar to be the Alex J. Summers Distinguished Merit Hosta for 2018. I chose H. 'Reflected Glory', one of the many varieties created by Mildred Seaver, a hosta breeder from Massachusetts. Mildred was passionate about family, people and plants. I am grateful to have had Mildred as a friend and gardening mentor.

Hosta-lore holds that Mildred wished all AHS members could own one.

Results of the Boston Flower Show 2018

By Wes Straub, NEHS President

Just about a year ago we voted during our summer picnic to move forward with an exhibit at the 2018 Boston Flower & Garden Show. Well, a year later, I have been asked to summarize our effort:

First, we met our goals:

- ✓ Inform the general public: Responses were very positive. I cannot tell you how many times I heard, "oh, look at the Fairy Gardens." Clearly, we made the public aware what Hosta are today.
- ✓ Make the public aware of NEHS: I'm not sure that everyone who saw our exhibit understood that we were a bunch of amateurs, but many people came away knowing there was such a group as the New England Hosta Society who did the exhibit. I also think that speaks volumes to the way the exhibit turned out.
- ✓ To get new members: We welcome at least ten new members.

Second, when we started this effort, we had very limited experience doing such a show. We came away with a wealth of experience. Did we have highs? Absolutely! Did we have lows? Absolutely! We made lots of mistakes, however, remember this was a major learning experience. The knowledge we came away with is undeniable.

Third, will we do one next year? The Board's position is No. We still have still things that need to be resolved after this year. Will we do one again in the future? Maybe. I hope we do. There is nothing I personally enjoy more than working show setup and meeting the public to talk about Hosta.

Lastly, there is one person who was by my side during the whole process, Steve Greene. Thanks, Steve. Steve was fond of saying, "I couldn't care less about any awards," and he was right. Regardless, I congratulate the Society receiving the "Superlative Award for Plant Collection."

Thanks everyone. *Wes*

Our participation in the flower show inspired the board to take action on several fronts:

- ✓ How to Divide a Hosta Demonstration: Wes took the stage and showed how and why to divide



hosta, bromeliad and other plants.

- ✓ Google for Non-profits: Judy enrolled NEHS in this service, giving the board a secure, cloud-based storage and a Google Group email list.
- ✓ New England Hosta Society Facebook Page: Robyn got us back on Facebook. Be sure to 'like' and 'follow' us. <https://www.facebook.com/NEHosta>
- ✓ New England Hosta Society web page: Lauren and Robyn updated the web site. <https://www.nehosta.org>
- ✓ A Guide to Hosta: this booklet was conceived, designed and written by Denise with help from Robyn, Judy and the rest of the board. The booklet is linked on the home page of our web site or get yours here: https://www.nehosta.org/uploads/9/2/0/3/92035478/nehs_guide_to_hosta_f.pdf
- ✓ Bookmarks: Robyn designed NEHS bookmarks that we gave to flower show visitors
- ✓ Aprons: Robyn designed NEHS aprons for use at the flower show, plant sales and other occasions.
- ✓ Allen C. Haskell Gardens: We met the director of the Allen C. Haskell Public Gardens of New Bedford, MA, and NEHS is donating a H. 'Allen C. Haskell' to this Trustees of Reservations park. Photos of our preparation and display at the Boston Flower show are on our Facebook page and at this URL: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1yjyy_K1BtCKGprHmNewG7dhiURYZOFU?usp=sharing

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New England Hosta Society

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Save a Tree – Shade a Hosta

Find us on Facebook!

New England Hosta Society

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