



Moundridge, Kansas  
www.edenmennonite.org

# EDEN ECHOES

March 2019  
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## The Application Process

There was a time when advertisements on websites would ask you questions about the ad itself, so that the companies could determine which ads would actually be effective for the user. I remember regularly responding that the ad “didn’t apply to me.” That was ten years ago. Now, online advertisers have realized that they no longer have to ask specifically about a particular ad or product. Now, they just track your browsing history to know what your interests are, what you’ve bought in the past, etc. So now, the ads that apply to you find you all on their own. On the one hand, I’m creeped out by the notion that a computer algorithm is watching me so closely. On the other hand, it is really nice to think that I don’t have to sit through ads that don’t apply to me. It’s so much more efficient and satisfying to know that ads will immediately have specific meaning for me and my life.

I think we can all appreciate the ways in which life is increasingly tailored to suit our particular needs and desires. We spend lots of mental energy already as we filter the things we see and read in the news and other media, because we are trying to pick out just those bits of information that actually apply to us. Our brains can really only handle so much information, so it just makes sense that we filter out the stuff that doesn’t apply to us and only take in the information that really has meaning for our own lives. This is the challenge of life in the digital age. So, we are grateful when someone else can filter all the other stuff out for us and hand us just the information we really need. Mostly, this shows up in advertising, but I also have encountered it in news feeds that have determined the types of stories that have been of interest to me. The more we get used to being handed only the things that apply to our lives, I wonder how that affects our understanding of the church.

Unfortunately I think the effect is already here. In many stories about people’s responses to churches, I’ve heard about the importance of a church or a sermon that “applies to my life.” It seems that the litmus test for a good sermon is if it is directly meaningful for the lives of listeners. So, in some contexts, worship services become focused on practical teaching about how the Bible applies directly to the lives of the congregants. Now, by itself, I don’t think this is a bad trend. The Good News of Jesus is good news for the whole world, so of course it is meaningful to all people. The problem, as I see it, is when the application process is removed from the context of a supportive, discerning community.

When Paul writes to the Thessalonian church, he encourages them to not just receive every word of prophecy that comes within the church, but to test it. By this, I believe he means that the community should work together to figure out what God’s word means for us, how it applies to our lives. Similarly, Paul encourages the Philippian church to “work out your salvation...” It seems that the ongoing work of faith is to discern together what God’s will is for our lives. This is what I believe we do in Sunday school and in Discipleship Groups, which is why I may sound like a broken record at the end of the worship hour when I remind our congregation that our time is not over, but continues in the Sunday school hour. I truly believe we can’t have either one of those hours without the other.

In worship, we proclaim the wonderful grace of God. We sing, we read the Holy scriptures, and we pray. In all we do in the worship hour, our focus should be to honor and glorify God. There may be times when a sermon offers some practical examples of what God’s goodness means for our lives. But, because our gathered body is so diverse in age, work, experience, etc. the application process must be very general. The sermon will rarely, if ever, be able to offer specific practical application that applies to everyone in the room. This is why we need Sunday school. Sunday school is the opportunity for us to more deeply engage Scripture and begin to make sense of it in our particular daily lives. We can do this far better in a small group, where we can ask deeper questions of each other,

There’s more→→→→→→→→

### In This Issue

Anniversaries	7
Announcements	2
Birthdays	7
Deaths	3
Invitation to Share	4
Just For Kids	6
Thank you notes	5
Up-coming Events	8

support one another in prayer, and think creatively of what faithful responses might look like in each of our particular contexts.

So, please do not limit your participation in the life of faith to just the worship hour. We need each other to faithfully navigate the world in which we live. Together, our call is to proclaim the glory of God and determine what it means for our daily lives. Let's do both. Together.



The Eden Leadership Team met February 11, 2019 at the Eden Church Office

**Members present:** Jay Goering, Mark Stucky, Keith Albrecht, Barbara K.

Stucky, Kenneth L Stucky, Jerry Lankford, Becky Koller, Marcia Goering, Josh Regier, Pastor Derek, Bernie Kaufman, and Candy Unrau

**Jay Goering lit a candle to symbolize the presence of the Holy Spirit.** Members read Eden's Mission and Vision statements together. Jay read scripture from Colossians 1:15-23 in Lectio Divina format. He led the group in prayer.

The January ELT minutes were approved as revised.

Budget report: Austin Goering was unable to attend the meeting, but submitted data which Jay shared with the group. Income: \$35,861.77 Expenses: \$29,863.52 Net: \$5,998.25 He noted that payroll is coming up on 2/15/19 and budget payments will be due at the end of the month.

### Commission reports

**a. Peace and Witness:** Mark Stucky reported that they met 2/6/19 and are planning another baby shower for a refugee family on 2/17/19. They are collecting baby items and also food gifts for this family. He reports that their commission recently referred a community member in need to Helping Hands, a ministry of Associated Ministries. Helping Hands has guidelines to screen potential recipients of assistance, and the Peace/Witness commission plans to give financial support to Helping Hands. The commission is also working on plans for Peace Sunday on April 28. Ben Kreider who works with victim offender prison ministry will be the guest speaker. Mark also reports that two Eden young adults are considering voluntary service assignments.

**b. Worship Commission:** Berni reported that Peter Goerzen will be the speaker for a community wide Holy Week service April 14 hosted at Eden Church. There will also be a community wide Prayer Walk on April 17 at 4:30 p.m. A Maundy Thursday service will

be planned 4/18/19 for Eden only with a simple shared meal and possibly hand washing instead of foot washing. Michael Unruh, executive director of Camp Mennoscah, will speak at our church on a Sunday morning in June, final date to be determined. There will be a Sunday morning service that focuses on gift discernment 9/8/19.

**c. Education and Discipleship:** Marcia reported that the 2/13/19 meal will be followed by a game night for kids and adults. On Ash Wednesday, there will be no classes, but choirs will meet as usual. On 3/20/19 there will be a service night with the project being making jars of trail mix to be sold at the Kansas Relief Sale.

**d. Stewardship:** Kenneth reports that they have not met since the leadership retreat, but plan to meet early next month. Some of their goals include to review trends of giving and expenses, and discuss ways to help the congregation keep informed.

**e. Deacons:** Barbara shared that the deacons met 1/21/19. All were present and responsibilities were reviewed. Bret Gillmore will be chair, Kathy Neufeld will be secretary, Marcia Hiebert will be treasurer, Tim Regehr will be Endowment rep and Barbara is the ELT rep. They are working on the visitation schedule and the upcoming 5th Sunday event.

**f. Trustees:** Keith reported that they have installed five new soap dispensers in the men's and women's bathrooms. Feedback has been positive. He also reported that they are looking into repairing the floor covering in the men's bathroom. Another upcoming project is improving the driveways up onto 18th Ave. Mark Vogts has agreed to take a look at this. With wet weather this winter and several funerals, the cemetery is a mess. It has been too wet to try to fix the bad areas. They are planning a church work day on March 30th. If the weather is bad that day they will wait until April.

**g. Pastor Derek:** He reported that January was a big month for Pine Village interaction. We had the Sunday morning worship there, Derek was involved in a Chapel service, and the every other month Wednesday lunch was held in January. He mentioned that visitation was limited at Pine Village due to a quarantine of one hall due to influenza. Pastor Dianne will be returning home and back to church on Sunday 2/17/19.

**5. Jay gave a recap of the leadership retreat.** He felt that the personality testing was especially helpful and will help in understanding communications styles.

There's more →→→→

**6. Fiber-optic high speed internet access was discussed.** Evidently the fiber optic cables from the Moundridge Communication Network come up to the corner of 18th Ave and Cherokee Rd. Installation could be done to give access to the church building with the use of satellite dishes and routers. The additional cost is unknown at this time—but may be as low as \$20 more per month not counting the installation costs. If we had high speed access, we could potentially live stream services, funerals, etc. This would also make Eden more accommodating for hosting conferences. Outreach and evangelism could be enhanced. Other costs may be necessary, such as a new computer equipment, etc. The consensus of the discussion was that we need more information on the costs before we can move forward.

**7. There was discussion about cancellation of services** for weather. Who makes the decision and how does it get communicated to the congregation? It was discussed that for Sunday morning worship, the decision should be made by pastoral staff in consultation with the deacons and custodian. Wednesday night cancellations should be made by the Christian Education commission with consultation with the choir director and the custodian. The individual calling off service should know how to access the one-call system. For the sake of continuity, would it be best to have the Pastors/church office secretary make the final call?

**8. Next ELT meeting will be March 11, 2019** at 7pm at the Eden Church office. Meeting was adjourned. Candace Unrau, secretary



The Education/Discipleship Commission would like to invite you to participate in our service night project on Wednesday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. We will meet at 6:45 p.m. There will be **no meal that evening**, only the service project is planned. We will be putting together trail mix jars to be sold at the MCC sale (KMRS). There will be a sign-up sheet out soon with a list of ingredients that we will be asking for donations from the congregation. Please join us and bring your family & friends for a night of fellowship and giving!



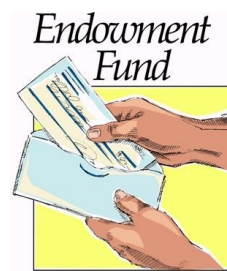
### Invitation to Share

The project for the month of **March is Health Kits:**

- 1 toothbrush, (adult size; leave in wrapper)
- 1 large bar bath soap
- 1 fingernail clipper
- 1 hand towel (larger than fingertip, dark color).

Place contents in a fabric double drawstring bag, 11" x 16".

If you would like to support this project you may write a check to Eden with "invitation to share" in the memo line and mail it to P.O. Box 406, or take it to the Eden Church Office at 109 E. Hirschler, Moundridge, KS 67107.



The Eden Endowment Fund Committee, (Ken Preheim, Dick Gehring, Eugene Goering, Fred Schrag) will be **accepting grant applications until March 3, 2019.** Grant applications should follow the Endowment Policy guidelines. A copy of the policy and grant applications are on the information stand in the fellowship hall. The committee has decided to grant up to \$15,000.00 this year. Grants will be awarded by May 1, 2019.



The Trustees are planning a work day on Saturday, March 30. Filling in some graves and ruts in the cemetery will be the main focus. We also have some small trees in the lagoon that need to be taken out and we may find something to paint or clean in the church building for those who would rather do that. Plan on starting about 8:00 a.m. Hopefully we will be done by noon. Look for further announcements as the day approaches. If the weather is bad that day, we will postpone it until late April.



## Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association Annual Meeting



Kip Wedel will discuss Anabaptist attitudes toward American civil religion at SMCHA's annual meeting on Sunday, March 10 at First Mennonite Church of McPherson at 2:30 p.m.

Wedel is an associate professor of history at Bethel College, where he teaches courses in American history, political science, and peace studies. He is a native of McPherson County, completed his PH.D. at Kansas State University, and has taught at Bethel College seven years.

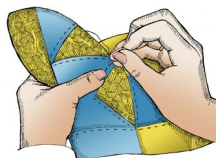
Recently, his article titled "Wrong Kingdom: Why Anabaptist are Suspicious of American Civil Religion" appeared in the book *Civil Religion and American Christianity*, edited by Liam J. Atchison, Keith Bates, and Darin D. Lenz and published by BorderStone Press. An essay by SMCHA member Jim Juhnke appeared in the same volume.

Wedel's article describes why Anabaptists have traditionally been troubled by civil religion. In his talk on March 10, he will explain what civil religion is, the nature of the Anabaptist case against it, and what he found when he examined one Mennonite church's debate about whether or not to display an American flag on their premises.

On the agenda at the annual meeting will be an overview of the 2018 year, election of SMCHA officers for 2019, and opportunity for members to give counsel and ask questions. The Handbell Choir of First Mennonite Church will provide music. All are invited to enjoy poppyseed rolls, (made by Deanne Loganbill) and refreshments provided by First Mennonite members and stay for visiting and fellowship. No reservations are needed, so bring friends and enjoy the time.

### Quilters' Opportunities

Volunteers are welcome and needed each Tuesday evening 7-9 p.m. at the MCC Center in North Newton to help sort and price items for the sale as well as each third Saturday of the month any time between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Quilting donations are also welcome and needed, i.e. quilting fabrics, quilting supplies, vintage linens, unfinished quilting projects, etc. Donations may be collected by sale liaisons at their churches and brought to sale meetings or brought directly to the MCC Center with the indication that they are for Quilters' Corner. If you have questions contact Ann Yoder Smith, 919-604-3282, [rws.ays@gmail.com](mailto:rws.ays@gmail.com).



List your quilt in the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale Quilt Auction Buyer's Guide. Deadline is March 11. Please deliver your quilt, comforter or quilt related item to a quilt committee member or to a Relief Sale meeting or taken to the MCC Center in North Newton. Quilt forms are available online at [Kansas.mccsale.org](http://Kansas.mccsale.org). For more information, get in touch with Kyle and Robin Schrag, Dennis and Teresa Graber or Wayne and Laurie Schrag, or contact Jan Diller, quilt committee at 620-217-1704 or Charlene Driggers, at 620-947-1749.

The Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale will be held at the Kansas State Fairgrounds in Hutchinson on April 12 and 13.



### Get Ready for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale

By working together for the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale, we have the opportunity to share with the needy of our world. Each year, it is the sale board and supporting committee's goal to raise funds to cover the budget leading up to the sale. The purchasing committee needs cash gifts for 48 items ranging in cost from \$450 for tea to \$8,800 for building rentals. By meeting the budget prior to the sale, all proceeds sale weekend can be donated to MCC. If you or your Sunday school class can support the sale budget in this way get in contact with Kyle and Robin Schrag, Dennis and Teresa Graber, or Wayne and Laurie Schrag.

What can you bring as your gift to the hungry and hurting at home and abroad? Quality woodwork and needlework items, cotton tea towels, hobby items, crafts plants and baked foods are much in demand. Don't feel capable of baking or hobbies, challenge yourself to participate in the Run for Relief, a 5 K run/walk the Saturday of the sale and spend the winter months gathering your pledges.

KMRS's purpose is to raise funds for MCC. It takes a whole host of individuals playing their part in order that we might carry out the Lord's bidding to care for the "least of these" found in Matthew 25. Consider donating items to the General, Silent and even our Kid's Auction. During the cool winter months, divide house plants and start vegetable plants to sell at Plants and Things and tea towel sets completed for Kansas Crafts. After the sale in May, motorcyclists are invited to participate in the MCC Ride for Relief. Go to: [www.kansasmccsale.org](http://www.kansasmccsale.org) or like us on Facebook at the Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale.

Stay up-to-date on all things relating to Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale by liking us on Facebook and Kansas Mennonite Relief Sale or our website at [www.kansas.mccsale.org](http://www.kansas.mccsale.org).



**Thank you for helping to provide healing and hope** to the children and families served by St. Francis Ministries. Your contributions last year provided funding for programs and places that provide love, attention and care to people in need.

St. Francis serves 30, children and adult in Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi, Arkansas, Texas and Nebraska with additional services in Central America in El Salvador and Honduras. Your gifts provide a better life for all who are touched by our work and ministry.

With your generous support, our much-needed work can continue and for that we are very grateful.

If you would like to learn more about the impact of your gifts or to explore additional areas of our ministry, please visit our website at [www.thesaintfrancisfoundation.org](http://www.thesaintfrancisfoundation.org).

With gratitude,  
The Very Rev. David B. Hodges



### Western District Women in Mission Spring Supper

All women are invited to the Western District Women in Mission (WDWM) Spring Supper on Thursday, March 21 at First Mennonite Church in McPherson. Speaker: Sheryl Wilson, Executive Director of KIPCOR will speak on *What is well with your soul? Finding your peace*. Special music will be by Michelle Unruh and Laura Unrau. The offering collected during the program will support women through the ministry of Mennonite Central Committee. RSVP by March 14 by emailing [westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com](mailto:westerndistrictwomen@gmail.com) or call Marlene Faul at 316-283-3342.



March 10, 2019



Lillie Krehbiel (94) passed away on Tuesday, February 19. Services were held on Saturday, February 23 at the Bethany Home Chapel in Lindsborg. Graveside service was at Eden. We extend our sympathy to her daughters Joyce (Mark) Vogts, Suzanne (Troy) Miller and stepson Perry Krehbiel (June) and all of her extended family.



Arlene Thiesen, (87) passed away at Mercy Hospital on Saturday, February 23. A graveside service will be held at Hopefield Cemetery at 10:00 a.m. on March 6. A memorial Service will be held at Eden on Saturday, March 23 at 11 a.m. We extend our sympathy to her children Jerry Stucky, Kathy (Al) Neufeld, Doug (Celia) Stucky, Kevin (Julie) Stucky and all of her extended family and friends.



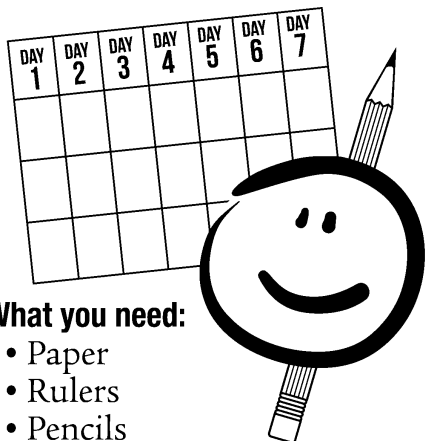
Our best registration discount ends March 1! Register online now for Summer Youth Camps at Camp Mennoscah at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org)! This discount is \$20 off camp fees when you register and pay in full by March 1. Call us at 620-297-3290 with questions.

The Youth Volunteer Weekend at Camp Mennoscah is Mar 15-16 and youth in grades 7-12 are heartily welcomed. There will be singing, worship, s'mores, service projects, and likely some silliness. Parents and sponsors do not need to attend. Register online at [campmennoscah.org](http://campmennoscah.org) in Summer Youth Camps or call [620-297-3290](tel:620-297-3290) for assistance. Full scholarships are available.

"Learn to light a candle in the darkest moments of someone's life. Be the light that helps others see."  
—Roy T. Bennett

# DAYS OF CREATION

Play this game to remember when God made each of his masterpieces.



## What you need:

- Paper
- Rulers
- Pencils
- Markers or crayons
- Dice
- Bibles (open to Genesis 1:1–2:3 for reference)

## What you do:

1. To make game boards, draw a grid with four rows and seven columns, totaling 28 squares.
2. Across the top row, write DAY 1 in the first square and continue through DAY 7.
3. Take turns rolling one die, or all players can roll at once. For the number rolled, draw something God created on that day (in the correct column).
4. When you fill an entire row, draw a smiley face in the DAY 7 square. The first player with two smileys wins.



# Decode The days

At this time of year, God's creation "springs" to life.

*Directions: After reading Genesis 1:1–2:3, write the correct Creation day number under each picture. Then add up each day's total and write it on the correct blank below.*


Day 1 (light) \_\_\_\_ Day 2 (waters) \_\_\_\_ Day 3 (land and plants) \_\_\_\_ Day 4 (heavenly bodies) \_\_\_\_

Day 5 (birds and water animals) \_\_\_\_ Day 6 (land animals and people) \_\_\_\_ Day 7 (God rested) \_\_\_\_

Answers: Day 1 = 3, Day 2 = 3, Day 3 = 10, Day 4 = 6, Day 5 = 10, Day 6 = 15, Day 7 = 2



- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1- May Juhnke<br>Terri Neufeld<br>David Schrag<br>Michael Stucky   | 17- Gary Schrag   |
| 2- Virginia Kaufman<br>Tillie Zerger   | 18- Zachary Graber<br>Karen Kaufman<br>Shelly Krehbiel  |
| 3- Anton Klassen   | 19- Patty Clark   |
| 4- Clarence Goering<br>Cory Graber<br>Carol Lichti<br>Douglas Waltner  | 20- Matthew Thiesen   |
| 5- Lonnie E. Schrag<br>Marika Stucky<br>Dianne Schmidt<br>Dennis Wedel   | 21- Daniel Graber<br>Elaina Graber (Nathan & Krista)<br>Nathaniel Graber<br>Sawyer Kaufman (Brandon & Morgan)<br>Marcy Schrag |
| 6- Grant McGinness (Paul & Claudia)<br>Glenna Schrag<br>Wanita Schrag  | 22- Alexa Hoffmann (Phil & Kristy)<br>Herb Stucky, Jr.<br>John Elmer Stucky   |
| 7- Claudia McGinness   | 23- Whitney Fast  |
| 8- Waneta Goering  | 24- Jake Krehbiel   |
| 9- Matt Harmon<br>Emily Knight<br>Venita Patchin<br>Gail Stucky  | 25- Ashton Goering (Blair & Kelly)<br>Robert K. Stucky<br>Erika Zahn  |
| 10- Steven W. Schrag<br>Sara Hocking   | 26- Marcia Hiebert<br>Lynn Kaufman<br>Sandra Koontz<br>Cole Stucky  |
| 11- Doug Stucky  | 27- Kennedy Krehbiel (Dustin & Amy)<br>Zachary Roberson (Steve & Robyn)<br>Taylor Sechrist<br>Delbert Stucky<br>Wes Stucky    |
| 12- Janice Graber<br>Marge Kaufman   | 28- Larry D. Goering<br>Patricia Mead   |
| 13- Roland Kaufman<br>Jessica Neufeld<br>Brian Schrag<br>Boston Smith (Ian & Shayna)<br>Erland Wayne Waltner<br>Addison Westfall (Jacob & Tonya) | 29- Lachlan Goering (Patrick & Jennifer)<br>Marvin J. Goering<br>Morgan Kaufman<br>Clinton Krehbiel                           |
| 14- Ren Flickinger   | 31- Dylan Juhnke (Vaughn & Dee)<br>Richard L. Stucky<br>Elliot Thompson (Chris & Kristeen)                                    |
| 15- Kathy Flickinger<br>Ty Unrau   |   |
| 16- James Neufeld<br>Jeff Snyder   |   |

If there has been an omission or mistaken date please notify the church office.



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|---|--|
| 1- Derrick & Laura Law<br>Alan & Tina Waltner     | 21- Perry & Betty Kaufman<br>Paul & Sherri Marsh<br>Russell & Lynelle Stucky |
| 2- Merlin & Lisa Goering<br>Morris & Diana Stucky | 24- Duane & Carol Stucky   |
| 7- Paul & Claudia McGinness                       | 27- Wayne & Laurie Schrag  |
| 8- Duane & LaDonna Wedel                          | 28- Todd & Sandy Arnold  |
| 16- Dick & Kaylene Gehring                        | 29- Keith & Connie Schrag  |
| 19- Daniel & Annette Knoll                        | 30- Larry & Betty Krehbiel   |
| 20- Robert & DeLonna Barnett                      | 31- Orville & Mary Ann Waltner   |

## Up-Coming Events

<b>March 4:</b>	7:00 p.m. Deacons/Pastors mtg.	<b>March 20:</b>	6:45 p.m. Service Night
<b>March 6:</b>	6:00 p.m. Fellowship Meal		6:45 p.m. Eden Worship Band
	6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service		7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
	6:45 p.m. Adult Bible Study		8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus	<b>March 21:</b>	Noon: All items for the April <i>Eden Echoes</i>
	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir		due in the church office
<b>March 7:</b>	6:30 p.m. Edu./Disc. Commission mtg.	<b>March 24:</b>	Third Sunday in Lent
<b>March 10:</b>	First Sunday in Lent	<b>March 27:</b>	6:45 p.m. Eden Worship Band
	Daylight Saving Time Begins		7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus
<b>March 11:</b>	7:00 p.m. ELT mtg. at church office		8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir
<b>March 12:</b>	7:00 p.m. Worship Commission mtg. at church office		8:30 p.m. Men's Chorus
<b>March 13:</b>	6:45 p.m. Eden Worship Band	<b>March 30:</b>	Workday at Eden
	7:30 p.m. Ladies Chorus	<b>March 31:</b>	Fourth Sunday in Lent
	8:00 p.m. Chancel Choir		
<b>March 17:</b>	Second Sunday in Lent		

February 2019						
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March 2019						
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31						



Address Services Requested