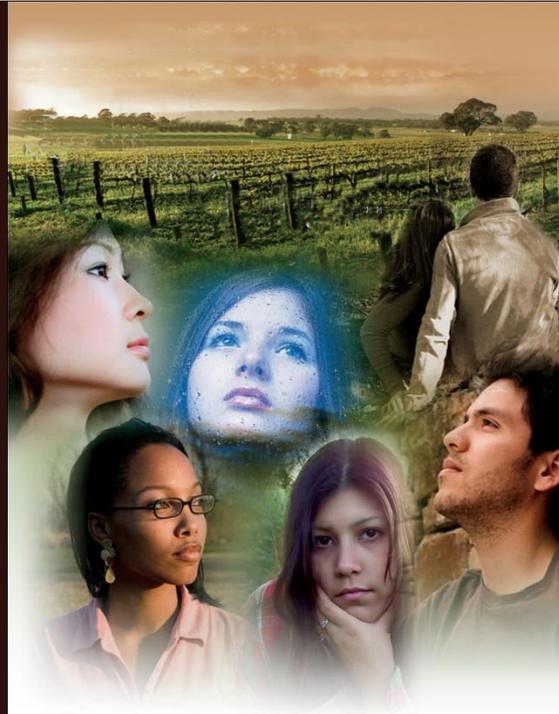


Vine & Branches
The monthly e-newsletter of
Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

June 2012



Rachel's Vineyard weekend retreats for emotional and spiritual healing after abortion are held internationally. Rachel's Vineyard welcomes women, men, couples, grandparents and former abortion providers. Our retreats are held in both Catholic and Interdenominational settings. Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is a resource for clinical training, education, and healing models.

Rachel's Vineyard is a non-profit 501(c) 3 organization. All contributions are tax deductible. We work in partnership with Priests for Life and Gospel of Life Ministries.

Rachel's Vineyard Ministries is available on the web at www.RachelsVineyard.org and through our 24/7 help line 1-877-HOPE-4-ME.

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A Note from the Pastoral Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

It is no secret to you and me that Rachel's Vineyard "works." As Fr. Benedict Groeschel, CFR (a good friend and one of my mentors since my High School days) has said, he has never seen a program of its kind so well done. We know the fruits, moreover, from the "outcome study" that has been done, and we will perform even more comprehensive outcome studies in the future.

"By their fruits you shall know them," the Lord said. "A bad tree cannot bear good fruit," and the continued success of this ministry is not only due to the solid basis it has in both the psychological sciences and in spirituality, but is also due to the fact that those who founded and work in this ministry have constantly sought the Lord and been open to His voice.

Those who, here and there, choose not to implement the Rachel's Vineyard model within their own diocese or professional practice are entitled to their own opinions, but not to their own facts. For our part, we are committed to calling our professional and ecclesiastical colleagues to the honesty that acknowledges the fruits of this ministry and places disagreements squarely in the professional arena, where they can be backed up by solid evidence and reasoning, and not by personal or political motives.

Let us all move forward with joy and determination as we continue to work in the Vineyard to bring healing to the multitudes wounded by abortion!

Sincerely,

Fr. Frank Pavone
Pastoral Director, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries

Different Cultures, Sights and Sounds with One Heart

By Anne Sherston-coordinator for new sites in Australia

People come to Rachel's Vineyard for emotional, psychological and spiritual healing and we are there to help them find that, to meet them where they are at. In saying that, we also need to be open to learn from them.

As mentor for new Catholic sites in Australia and nearby countries over the last four years I have met so many beautiful people from all walks of life, this includes the retreats I have also been running in Tasmania since 2005. The Rachel's Vineyard ministry is growing rapidly in this part of the world and it is a real honor to be part of that. I have had the privilege to assist Brisbane and Perth in Australia during 2008 and 2009, Wellington in New Zealand in 2010 and Singapore during 2009 and 2010. I now have the privilege of starting a new site in Darwin in Australia in August of this year and have recently been contacted to go to Penang in October, which is even farther afield. Enquiries from rural Australia have also been coming forth. The message is getting out there, letting people know there is a way to get through this dreadful sense of powerlessness surrounding their abortion experience.

Travelling to all these new sites is always an education for me as much as it is for the people I mentor. There are many cultural differences even within our own country. I found that it is always helpful to be flexible without taking anything away from the retreat itself. If anything the cultural differences enhance the weekends for the new sites and really make it their own. The retreats in Darwin will bring the Aboriginal element to the weekends on occasions, more so than in other areas of Australia. I have still quite a lot to learn about the aboriginal culture. I would like to know how they perceive some of our rituals such as "The Rock" ritual and all the different water rituals we have. How do they manage their grief, their loss? Abortion wasn't always an issue for the aboriginal people but as time has passed and women have become aware of what is available, abortion is unfortunately becoming an issue amongst this culture.

Going to other sites, even within Australia, has shown me how we all practice our faith differently and it is always a strong reminder that we can't compare ourselves to others. For me I stand in awe of people when I see them get so in touch with God and their faith so deeply. When I had the privilege of visiting Singapore in 2009 and 2010 I admired the strong faith of the Singaporean people. Their faith is their life; they bring it into every part of their day. Going to New Zealand I found their culture is also a big part of their faith and it was so beautiful to watch and listen. The symbolism of some of the items such as the Koru means so much to the New Zealand People. The Koru is the unfolding fern frond, the symbol of new growth, new life, peace and tranquility. The koru also depicts endearment in the form of the relationship of a parent and a child or husband and wife. The koru can also represent a new beginning. Singing a song to Mary in Maori just made me feel so humble; it was so prayerful. This reminds me only too well that we don't have anything if we don't have our faith. The different cultures we come across should never be an impediment to spreading this beautiful ministry.

All retreatants come to these weekends with a lot of reservation because they don't

believe they are worthy of anyone's forgiveness, especially God's. This applies to cultures right across the world. We are no different to anyone else when it comes to our faith, we all grieve - it is just a matter of how we do that.

It is such a privilege for me to help spread the Rachel's Vineyard ministry further afield. I often stand back and realize that it isn't me doing the work but the Holy Spirit. This is so important for all of us to remember that we are not in charge but that the Holy Spirit is... And I am sure we all stand in wonder after a weekend and see the beautiful transformation in the retreatants.



Above: Anne Sherston, coordinator for Australian new sites, smiles for the camera.

"One father is more than a hundred Schoolemasters." ~George Herbert, *Outlandish Proverbs*, 1640

Movie Review-Post Abortive Themes in *The Way*

By Amanda Conklin

The Movie *The Way* written and directed by Emilio Estevez and starring Emilio and his real life father Martin Sheen, offers an accurate representation of many post-abortive women. I recently viewed *The Way* and wanted to share about this unique production. In the film, Martin and Emilio play a father and son. Emilio's character is killed in a car accident as he begins his journey on the Camino De Santiago or "Way of Saint James." Martin's character ends up picking up where his son left off and completing the pilgrimage himself in his son's memory. The Camino de Santiago is a real journey in Spain that many people trek every year. The path ends at the Cathedral de Santiago, which is believed to house the remains of the apostle Saint James.

Along the way, Martin's character meets many people. One of the characters that he ends up walking with reveals that she is post-abortive. At one point she tells him that

she sometimes hears her unborn child and follows it with "I know it sounds crazy." We have heard many women share on retreats and our hotline that they too have had nightmares in which they hear their babies crying. This is a common symptom of Post-Abortion Syndrome.

In a recent interview on the National Catholic Register website, Matthew Archbold had the opportunity to sit down with Martin Sheen and Emilio Estevez to ask them a little bit about the movie. Emilio speaks about the scene in which this woman reveals that she is post-abortive. He says "The character was going to have made this choice to create this enormous hole in the center of her chest. She is essentially our Tin Man." The film's producer David Alexian then chimed in to say, "That's how we deal with our brokenness, regardless of where it comes from, is sharing it. It's so difficult because when you have that issue you want to hide it, bury it, push it further and the more you do that the bigger the problem gets. As soon as you open up and share, the possibility for healing or moving forward begins." This is one of the reasons why Rachel's Vineyard is presented as a group process. This opportunity to open up in a safe, confidential environment and to speak about the abortion experience and grieve it allows for deeper healing to occur for these men and women. The character in the movie also has a chain smoking habit. We see many post-abortive women who turn to drinking, smoking, etc. to help fill the hole which the abortion has created.

I personally really enjoyed the film and was surprisingly satisfied that these A-list Hollywood stars acknowledged the pain that abortion creates. It isn't often that we see main stream movies accurately portraying the real trauma that can haunt women and men after abortion.

A Message to Mothers

By Deacon Frank Zeiler of Baltimore, MD Rachel's Vineyard

"He will shield you with his wings. He will shelter you with his feathers. His faithful promises are your armor and protection." Psalm 91:4

Spring is always a good time to witness the newness of life that takes place in the yard behind my house. This year, a Robin's nest was constructed on the basketball hoop, which stands unused about fifteen feet from the dining room window. I enjoy watching the heads of the four baby Robins popping up from the depths of their nest as their mom is away gathering food. And when mom returns, they become even more active as they are fed. During the cold, wet weather at the end of April, the mother spreads her wings over the nest to protect her young without regard for her own discomfort. This Robin's concern for the life and growth of her young brings to mind my mother and mothers like her who devoted themselves, untiringly, to caring for their children in the good times and the bad. Our mothers always seemed to be there for us.

Finding spiritual and emotional peace after abortion can feel like a hopeless journey for many women who have suffered the loss of a child through abortion. Their experience with a crisis pregnancy may have been related to instances of overwhelming fear, deception, denial, or an abusive relationship history. Sharing the words from a post-abortive mother, "The day that I realized that I was pregnant, I was neither happy nor sad; I was terrified! I wanted God to help me be the Mother I was afraid to be."

According to the latest statistics, twenty-two percent of all pregnancies in the U.S. end in abortion. For every child that is tragically lost, we find grieving parents, grandparents, siblings, aunts and uncles. The circle of impact touches all of us. Abortion is a relational wound impacting relationships and the family unit.

"There are different ways people cope with this hidden pain. The onset and severity of symptoms will differ with each person. Some experience serious emotional illness after abortion, featuring depression, anxiety, sleep disturbance, and even psychotic reactions." ([Sharing the Heart of Christ](#))

Rachel's Vineyard Baltimore offers a healing ministry through its special Rachel's Vineyard Retreats and referrals to professional counselors and clergy sensitive to post-abortion stress and trauma. The retreat is the start of a healing journey for all who attended. The team includes a priest, deacon, professional counselor/therapist or psychologist, and other trained volunteers. The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat process is, first and foremost, a journey of faith where one encounters the crucified and risen Lord.

A priest once shared this thought on a weekend... "A mother's heart needs to know where their child is, who they are with and are they okay."

The first step to healing this spring may be to reconcile with your child. One way is to ask your baby to forgive you.

Our culture seems to deal with the sadness and guilt left after an abortion by simply urging people to forget about it.

The special bond between mother and child can never be broken. It was a God given relationship and many mothers are seeking to acknowledge that sacred connection.

Let's all pray for mothers & children.

Please contact us if you or someone you knows needs healing assistance.

Aftercare Resource-Companions on the Journey

One great aftercare resource that Rachel's Vineyard offers is the online private e-group called Companions on the Journey. The group is only for those who have attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and who are post-abortive. This group is a great way to stay connected to support even after the retreat is over.

Patricia Pulliam, South Texas Regional Coordinator for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign shares her reflection on **COTJ**:

If someone tried to categorize this group they would fail. We are from everywhere and nowhere. We are young and yet very old. We stand tall and also are very close to the ground. If you think you have a problem none of us have heard of you are probably wrong. The thing we all have in common is that we all have been touched by the

healing hand of Jesus and our lives will never be the same. After the Resurrection Jesus was identified by those who knew Him by His wounds. We all bear the sign of the wounded healer... what a privilege.

If you are post-abortive, have attended a Rachel's Vineyard retreat and would like to join this group, please [click here](#).

"Father! - to God himself we cannot give a holier name." ~William Wordsworth

Rachel's Vineyard Recommends

ARIN's Share Symposium-Get the Rachel's Vineyard Discount!

Abortion Recovery International is hosting a "Share Symposium" July 16-18, 2012 in Long Beach, CA. Topics include addiction and abortion, counseling couples, men's outreach and much more! Visit www.sharesymposium.org for more information or to register! To receive a discount, enter coupon code: **RVCHAPTERS**. It will immediately give the Rachel's Vineyard team members \$20.00 off the registration rate. The coupon code is good until June 15th.

Chile Outperforms U.S. and Dramatically Reduces Maternal Deaths by Increasing Women's Educational Level

The American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians & Gynecologists recently released this interesting article about a scientific study which showed that "Definitively, the legal prohibition of abortion is unrelated to overall maternal mortality rates". To read the article, [click here](#).

Rachel's Vineyard 2011 Leadership Conference CDs Available!

All of the talks from the 2011 Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference were recorded live by Vincent & Barbara Sumoski (Love Tape-CD Ministry) and are available on CD for purchase. There were 53 excellent talks. You can purchase CDs individually or buy the entire set. FREE SHIPPING & Conference SPECIALS! Contact rv@sumoski.com or 610-779-8989.

Rachel's Vineyard Social Networking

Click the links below to visit Rachel's Vineyard social networking sites. Join today and send to your friends and family!

Facebook Fan Page: www.facebook.com/rachelsvineyard

Facebook Cause: www.causes.com/rachelsvineyard

Check out our new Youtube videos!: www.youtube.com/user/rachelsvineyard

United in Prayer

We pray for the following intentions:

For Rachel's Vineyard Founder, **Dr. Theresa Burke** who has been struggling with Reflexive Sympathetic Dystrophy (RSD) since she broke her foot at the Rachel's Vineyard Leadership Conference in July. We continue to pray for her complete recovery and remission from this illness.

We pray in thanksgiving:

For the new Rachel's Vineyard retreat sites in **Encino, CA** lead by **Tegra Little**. We pray for Tegra and her team, may the Holy Spirit shower them with the graces needed to facilitate these healing retreats.

"The greatest gift I ever had
Came from God; I call him Dad!"
~Author Unknown

Upcoming Events

Friday, June 08, 2012

Pottstown, PA- Religious Freedom Rally

Kevin Burke will be a speaker at the Stand Up for Religious Freedom Rally in Pottstown, PA starting at 12:00 pm.

Location: Riverfront Park Area Hanover Street & Industrial Highway

For more information go to: <http://standupforreligiousfreedom.com/>

Friday, October 12, 2012 -- Saturday, October 13, 2012

Fort Worth, TX-Rachel's Vineyard Regional Training

Kevin Burke will be conducting a Regional Training in Fort Worth, TX. The training will be hosted by Rachel Ministries of the Diocese of Fort Worth

Friday, November 09, 2012 -- Saturday, November 10, 2012

Diocese of Dallas, TX Pastoral Conference

Kevin Burke will be presenting on Post-Abortion Healing to clergy and mental professionals.

Upcoming Rachel's Vineyard Retreats

Fresno, CA

Contact: Jennifer Butcher 877-629-6626 butcher_jennifer@yahoo.com

Contact: Paula Davalos - Español 888-686-8537 paula.d@fbcares.org

Language: Spanish Friday, June 01, 2012 -Sunday, June 03, 2012

Brisbane, QLD

Contact: Gwen 0407 175 508 wellspringministries@tpg.com.au

Contact: Lisa 0410 122 481 rvqld@live.com.au

Friday, June 01, 2012 - Sunday, June 03, 2012

Oklahoma City, OK

Contact: Joanne Forgue 405-623-3844 rachelsvineyardokc@gmail.com

Contact: Paulette Finnegan 405-623-3844 okcrachel@yahoo.com

Friday, June 01, 2012 - Sunday, June 03, 2012

Portland, OR

Contact: Lori Eckstine 800-249-8074 ProjectRachel@CatholicCharitiesOregon.org

Friday, June 01, 2012 - Sunday, June 03, 2012

Trenton, NJ

Contact: Judy Warenkiewicz 732-536-6871 judywarren543@msn.com

Friday, June 08, 2012 - Sunday, June 10, 2012

Providence, RI

Local Host: Life & Family Ministry, Diocese of Providence

Website Address: www.dioceseofprovidence.org

Contact: Carol Owens 401-421-7833 x118

rachelsvineyard@dioceseofprovidence.org

Friday, June 08, 2012 -Sunday, June 10, 2012

Northern New York, NY

Retreat Location: Guggenheim Center Lodge - Saranac Lake

Local Host: Respect Life Office

Website Address: www.dioogdensburg.org/pro-life/

Contact: Colleen Miner 518-891-2309 cbm510@roadrunner.com

Friday, June 08, 2012 - Sunday, June 10, 2012

Ann Arbor, MI

Contact: Beth Bauer 734-369-3470 lpbbauer@yahoo.com

Friday, June 15, 2012 - Sunday, June 17, 2012

Compiègne, France

Local Host: L'Arche Retreat Center

Contact: Joel Rosenfeld 06-08-42-43-81 j.rosen@free.fr

Language: French Friday, June 15, 2012 - Sunday, June 17, 2012

Lisbon, Portugal

Contact: Padre Fernando Paiva fmaiop@gmail.com

Contact: Psicologa Maria Jose Vilaca 91-735-4602 mjvilaca@sapo.pt

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Wichita, KS

Local Host: Rachel's Vineyard of the Diocese of Wichita

Contact: Bonnie Toombs 316-269-3935 toombsb@CatholicDioceseOfWichita.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Bahía Blanca , Argentina

Contact: Lala Rey Méndez 0291 154 74 4500 lalareymendez@gmail.com

Language: Spanish Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Prescott Valley, AZ

Retreat Location: Mission Canyon

Contact: Debra 928-713-9504 rwrpvaz@gmail.com

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Tulsa, OK

Contact: Mary Lee Ingram 918-508-7142 mllingram@catholiccharitiestulsa.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Litchfield, CT

Local Host: Archdiocese of Hartford

Contact: Marie Laffin 203-631-9030 mlaffin@prolifeministry.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Albany Area, NY

Local Host: Diocese of Albany

Contact: Kathleen Whimple 518-469-0779 Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Contact: Mrs. Pat Mousaw 518-222-1160 Rachelsvineyardalbany@yahoo.com

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Wellington Region, WEL

Website Address: www.rachelsvineyard.org.nz

Contact: Suzanne O'Rourke +64 21 549 528 suzanneor@gmail.com

Contact: Wendy Hill +64 27 254 9222 info@rachelsvineyard.org.nz

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Katy (Interdenom), TX

Local Host: Pregnancy Center of West Houston

Contact: Mary Lee 254-383-1717 ml.mason@att.net

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Dallas (Español), TX

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Contact: Eileen Kuhlmann 972-679-4760 sanacion@racheldallas.org

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Pittsburgh, PA

Contact: Toni 412-352-5348

Contact: Toni Jester 412-621-6953 toniafj1@comcast.net

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Albuquerque, NM

Contact: Lupe 915-867-8016

Contact: Martha bslmrvls@aol.com

Friday, June 22, 2012 - Sunday, June 24, 2012

Denver (Español), CO

Website Address: home.comcast.net/~elvinedoderaquel/site

Contact: Rosalinda Lozano 720-320-2449 ElVinedoDeRaquel@comcast.net

Friday, June 29, 2012 - Sunday, July 01, 2012

Cork, Ireland

Website Address: www.rachelsvineyard.ie

Contact: Bernadette Goulding 087 859 2877 noramalone15@yahoo.com

Friday, June 29, 2012 - Sunday, July 01, 2012

Vienna, Austria

Contact: Claudia Brandhuber (+43) 0699-1021-4241 info@rachelsweinberg.at

Language: German

Friday, July 06, 2012 - Sunday, July 08, 2012

Houston (Interdenom), TX

Website Address: www.GulfCoastHealing.org

Contact: April 281-236-8719 april@gulfcoasthealing.org

Contact: Stephanie Walker 713-690-2210 steph@gulfcoasthealing.org

Friday, July 06, 2012 - Sunday, July 08, 2012

Hankinson, ND

Local Host: Diocese of Crookston, MNLifeCare Center of Thief River Falls, MN

Contact: Ruth Ruch 701-219-3941 ruch@i29.net

Friday, July 06, 2012 - Sunday, July 08, 2012

Allentown, PA

Contact: Sr. Meg Cole, SSJ 866-372-2435 mcole@allentowndiocese.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Paterson/Morris County, NJ

Local Host: Paterson Diocese

Contact: Marie Ryan 973-437-9735 rachel@patersondiocese.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Sacramento, CA

Contact: Annette Evans 916-733-0161 projectrachel@diocese-sacramento.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Memphis, TN

Retreat Location: Our Lady Queen of Peace Retreat Center

3630 Dancyville Rd. Stanton, TN 38069

Local Host: Catholic Diocese of Memphis

Contact: Mary Crone 901-277-5114 rachelsvineyard@att.net

Contact: Mary Pat Van Epps 901-373-1285 marypat.vanepps@cc.cdom.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Dallas, TX

Website Address: www.racheldallas.org

Contact: Lacy de la Garza 972-835-4736 healing@racheldallas.org

Friday, July 13, 2012 - Sunday, July 15, 2012

Corpus Christi, TX

Contact: Fr. Tom Goodwin 361-947-2624 thepadre@goccn.org

Contact: Valerie Uriegas 361-739-4744 valeriejean075@gmail.com

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Williamsburg, VA

Retreat Location: The Well Retreat Center - Hampton Roads/Virginia Beach Areas

Local Host: St. Joan of Arc Church, Yorktown, Virginia

Contact: Linda Riva 757-887-3144 lindajr2@yahoo.com

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Denver, CO

Contact: Ameer Stadler (720) 271-7406

Contact: Lori Frank 303-904-7414 lorgreg@msn.com

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Mesa, AZ

Local Host: St. Timothy

Contact: Karen Ord 480-329-6795 karenord.rv@gmail.com

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Fort Worth, TX

Website Address: www.racheltx.org

Contact: Macaria (espanol) 817-886-4760 misericordia@racheltx.org

Contact: Betsy Kopor 817-923-4757 forgiven@racheltx.org

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

Springfield, MA

Retreat Location: Chicopee & Stockbridge

Contact: Claire Lapointe 413-452-0661 sr.claire@diospringfield.org

Contact: Mary Petisce 413-783-8619 srmaryssj@comcast.net

Friday, July 20, 2012 - Sunday, July 22, 2012

San Gabriel (LA) (Español), CA

Local Host: Duarte, CA

Contact: Amparo (877) 272-7835

Contact: Graciela Sandoval 562-237-3050

Friday, July 27, 2012 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

Lake Charles, LA

Retreat Location: Saint Charles Center

2151 Sam Houston Jones Parkway Lake Charles, LA 70611

Local Host: Diocese of Lake Charles

Website Address: www.lcdiocese.org

Contact: Marjorie Long 337-439-7400 ext317 rachels.vineyard@lcdiocese.org

Friday, July 27, 2012 - Sunday, July 29, 2012

Miami (Español), FL

Local Host: St John Neumann Catholic Church Clamor de Vida y Esperanza Ministry

Contact: Jackie Guillen 305-302-9436 clamordevida@aim.com

Friday, July 27, 2012 - Sunday, July 29, 2012