

Words on the Wind

by The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Dear First Church Members and Friends,

This October, our community will explore what it means to be a people of deep listening. What happens when you listen deeply to your loved ones? To people who are different from you? To other members of your community? What happens when you listen deeply to your own inner voice? To the whispers of the universe?

We are in the midst of many shouts this month, living in a swing state during one of the most consequential elections of our lives. How can listening deeply to voices not usually heard—voices from the margins, voices of the ancestors, voices of future generations—affect us?

In Wisconsin in 2016, the election was decided by 22,748 votes. If each one of our members and friends reaches 18 Wisconsin voters to get out the vote, our congregation alone would reach that deciding number of voters. Your First Church UU the Vote team is asking *every* *single* *member* of First Church to get involved in this election (see their article on page 6 or just sign up here.)

Listen deeply this October: to the past, to the future, to the silence, to the unheard, to the whispering universe, to your inner voice. Answer what calls you. May you feel connected to all that is.

With love, Jennifer

MONTHLY THEME

What does it mean to be a people of

DEEP LISTENING?

SUNDAY SERVICE ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

OCTOBER 4

"Dwell in Possibility" Lois Lowry, Pulpit Guest

The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education
Tristan Strelitzer, Choral Director
Jobey Clarke, Worship Associate

Deeply listening to one another can open up worlds of possibility and allow us to experience another person's point of view. Lois Lowry, famous author of *The Giver, Number the Stars*, and her new book *On the Horizon*, among many others, will join us for this Sunday's worship service. Lowry will share a Story for All Ages and have a conversation with Reverend Jennifer about Dwelling in Possibility, witness, and listening deeply to another human being.

OCTOBER 11

"Vote Love for the Future of Democracy: UU the Vote"

The Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, UUA President
The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom
UU the Vote Team

In the midst of global pandemic, rising authoritarianism, and uprising, lives hang in the balance and the future of democracy is on the line. In response, Unitarian Universalists are answering the call of our faith, building powerful partnerships to mobilize our communities to #VoteLove and #DefeatHate in the 2020 elections. Join UUA President Susan Frederick-Gray, the UU the Vote team, and a lineup of powerful, prophetic UU voices as we explore the intersections of faith, justice, and democracy in this service.

(Continued on page 2)

SUNDAY SERVICE ONE SERVICE AT 10:00 A.M.

LIVE ON YOUTUBE

OCTOBER 18

The Ordination of Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson 2:00 PM - NO MORNING SERVICE

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education Rev. Dr. Michael Tino The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom Rev. Dena McPhetres Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director

In Unitarian Universalism, only a congregation has the power to ordain and officially designate a person as UU clergy. After twenty years of serving our faith in numerous professional capacities, it is our sacred honor to ordain our own Minister of Religious Education, Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson.

Join us for this rite of transformation of a relationship that already exists, which will become more vivid, full, grounded, and soaring during the ceremony. We who participate also will be changed.

Virtual Reception at 4:00 p.m. and a Socially Distanced Parade at 4:30 p.m.

For more details click here https://www.ordainkimberlee.org/

OCTOBER 25

"Listen to the Quiet" The Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson, Minister of Religious Education Alissa Rhode, Lead Music Director Kevin Gibson, Worship Associate

How do you listen deeply to something with no words? Listening to silence, or trees, or water, or fire can help us understand the world beyond our small concerns. In troubled and troubling times, it is important to cut through the chaos and listen deeply to the non-human world, and to our own inner teacher. What wisdom is stored within? Join us for this worship service that explores listening deeply to our inner teacher, and to the universe.

Splinters from the Board

by Mark Miller Board of Trustees

The Board of Trustees held our first meeting of the church year on August 25 using video conferencing because of the ongoing pandemic. We approved the consent agenda, which consisted of minutes from the last two meetings (including the post-annual meeting), the renewal of our covenants, and the General Assembly report. We were given the year-end financial report by Finance Team Chair Noreen Gilbertsen and Director of Administration Jean Johnson.

The impact of the pandemic was mixed, but pledge fulfillment was solid as were gains on investments. Overall, the picture is positive when comparing actual numbers to budgeted ones.

The Board found that Rev. Jennifer and the staff have complied with the Monitoring Limitations 4.4 Financial Planning & Budgeting, 4.5 Financial Condition, and 4.7 Continuous Operations. Also approved was the Congregational Sponsorship Procedure for supporting those going into ministry. Rev. Jennifer also sought approval for a decision that she felt was part of the already approved interpretation of Limitation 4.3, asking to give the staff a one-time grant of another week of vacation based on the great work performed to re-orient the church operations and programs in light of the pandemic. This was approved.

Rev. Jennifer gave the Senior Minister's Report and gave additional information highlighting COVID goals from the staff retreat and how they affect the church's Ends. A lot of work is going into making the digital transition. Jennifer and Jean are finding a way to hire an outreach coordinator to do digital communications to promote our events both to the congregation and to those beyond it.

Jennifer also disclosed that the church received a generous anonymous donation in memory of Bill and Barbara Fernholz.

Minutes of the meeting are posted on the First Church web-site. Members of the Board of Trustees welcome your thoughts and concerns at any time. Our contact information is listed on the church website.



Ordination, It Only Happens About Every 44.5 Years

by The Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy, Minister Emeritus

It is with joy that we, as a congregation, will gather—virtually—on October 18 at 2:00 p.m., to ordain Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson into the Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Kimberlee invited me to share what I knew of previous ordinations by our own First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee. From my research, here is what I found:

06/10/1928 Robert Dale Richardson's ordination was said at the time to be the first and only ordination of a church member raised in the church. Richardson was the son of Emmet and Harriet Richardson, two leading laypersons. Richardson returned to preach at the centennial celebration of the Society in 1942.

~1982-83 Arthur Von Haack was ordained by the congregation on a Sunday morning, although he was not ultimately fellowshipped by the Unitarian Universalist Association.

10/07/1996 Jacqueline Ann Ziegler was ordained. She is the first woman to have been ordained at First Church. Jackie retired in the summer of 2020, finishing up as Interim Minister in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

05/06/2007 John A. Cullinan, a member of our congregation, was ordained. John has been settled as minister of the Unitarian Church of Los Alamos, New Mexico since 2007.

Clearly, this question of ordinations at First Church has not been exhaustively researched, especially during the years 1842-1900. Nevertheless, these are the four ordinations of which we are aware that have taken place at our church.

On average, therefore, First Church has ordained someone only once every 44.5 years! So, clearly, you don't want to miss this one, folks!

I look forward to "seeing" you on October 18 at 2:00 pm. Please join us to see how UUs ordain someone to the ministry. It may be your only chance.

Cheers and love, Drew

It's Time For Our Annual Congregational Survey!

by Jane Cliff Vice President, Board of Trustees

Your response is needed to First Church's second annual congregational survey! This is not just any ordinary survey. The information you provide is of critical importance to the Board of Trustees and the Executive Team (Reverends Jennifer, Dena, Kimberlee and Director of Administrator Jean Johnson). It will help us see if and how we are making progress over time in realizing our congregation's vision as articulated in our eight Ends Statements.

We know that working to achieve our Ends is a journey. This year's survey will tell us where we are as of the closing of last church year (June 2020) with our Ends so we will be able to look back and gauge how far we have come in a year, two years, and beyond. It will ground our ongoing practice of measuring our progress and identifying areas in which First Church needs to dedicate additional time and resources.

Please respond at www.uumilwaukee.org/survey after October 1. While completing the survey online is the preferred method, you can call me (414.962.9034) or email me. My email is located on the First Church Member Portal, and I will send you a paper copy.

The last day to complete the survey is October 18. The Board of Trustees will share a report on what we heard by the end of the church year. Thank you in advance for completing the survey. The brief 10-15 minutes that it takes is time well spent!



ADULT SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Registration Extended for A Geography of Grace

by Diane Horne, Beth Monhollen & Dale Skaggs

We are working on getting the Zoom technology to support captioning for our new Adult Spiritual Development program, A Geography of Grace. As a result, we're extending the registration for a start date of October 17. We thought we would share what we do when we gather. We sit in a circle together. We spend time reflecting on "third things" such as poetry, essays, photographs, focused on a theme of some sort of geography (forests, deserts, the sea, prairies.)

We explore our responses through interior landscaping (or inscaping) in our journals. We then bring back the gifts we have discovered and share with the group. We abide by touchstones to create safe space. Sharing is always optional, and is bordered by silence. Deep listening is practiced, with no fixing, no saving, no advice giving.

We deepen our relationships with ourselves, first and foremost. We also deepen relationships with the other group members. And possibly with this thing called grace.

We listen to our inner teacher.

We share into the circle, and listen deeply when others share. We revel in silence. We laugh, cry, take a deep breath and sigh at the wonder of this human thing called life.

We experience joy and curiosity, connection and growth.

If you feel a call to join us on this inscaping journey, please look here for more information about the program. Registration is limited to 14 participants. We hope to see you in circle on October 17. The program will meet (via Zoom) every third Saturday beginning October 17 through to May 15 (except December). Sessions will run from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost of the series is \$40 for members and \$60 for non-members. Register online at Bit.ly/UUGeographyGrace.

Sanctuary Reflections A Place to Go after Church

by Diane Horne & Lisa Gies

Are there some Sundays when you want to talk about the church service with other church members?

Like right after church? Consider coming to Sanctuary Reflections. You get to see other folks from church (well, on Zoom anyway) and talk about the service and how it moved you, inspired you, whatever your response was. The facilitators include Alexis Fielek, Lisa Gies, Mike Hogan, and Diane Horne.

Join us any Sunday at 11:00. We'll have the Zoom room open for you. Use this link to receive the Zoom information to join: https://form.iotform.com/202315402290946.

Discover T'ai Chi at Home

by Lillian Schley RE Administrative Assistant

Are you feeling like you need a breath of energy? Try T'ai Chi as a spiritual practice, to improve balance, coordination, and memory. Instructor Deb Solis will lead a 6-week virtual class for beginners. T'ai Chi is an ancient Chinese movement discipline combining slow, graceful martial arts movements with relaxing deep breathing. Deb Solis, MFA is the Youth Program Coordinator at First Church and has been a T'ai Chi instructor for 38 years. Six Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 p.m., October 6-November 17 (no class November 3).

Connect & Reflect Thursdays are Back

by Diane Horne

Does it sometimes seem like a long time between Sunday services? If you would like a chance to connect with fellow First Church members, consider coming to Connect & Reflect on Thursdays at 6:00 p.m.

We share a short reading and reflect on a few questions, always starting with checking in with how it goes with your spirit. Facilitators include Javier Dorantes, Diane Horne, Deb Manske, Beth Monhollen, and Pat McFarland. We'd love to see you and help you bridge the days between Sundays. Click here to receive the current Zoom link.





Ordination Introductions by Kimberlee Tomczak Carlson

Minister of Religious Education

This month First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee will be ordaining me! I want to thank you all for this recognition of my journey in becoming a minister and bestowing me with the honorific Reverend.

I am incredibly grateful to the countless people who have worked with me in serving our faith. It is my honor to introduce Michael and Elandria,* dear friends on my journey who will be a part of my ordination ceremony on October 18, 2020. The three of us began as a morning coffee club getting up at dawn during UU young adult conferences to share the French press and quiet company before the hubbub of the day began.

I met my dear friend Michael when I was hired as a regional consultant for young adults by the UUA in 2004. Michael was the director of the Young Adult Office for the UUA at the time and a seminarian with a doctorate in biochemistry. I was a bit intimidated as a public-school teacher but Michael's warmth, dedication to humanity, and keen appreciation of art put me at ease. Michael has been a source of wise guidance on many occasions, a fellow Generation Xer who appreciates snark and trusted colleague. My family likes to call him the Carlson Family Pastor, but his career has been much more than that.

Rev. Dr. Michael Tino (they/them) is the minister of the UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester in Mount Kisco, NY, and a member of the Lead Ministry Team of the Church of the Larger Fellowship. Michael has served our faith as a member of the UUA staff and the UUA Board; he currently serves on the Ministerial Fellowship Committee. They live in Peekskill, New York, with their husband, Eric, and their seven-year-old daughter, Nora. Michael will be preaching the sermon, "Our Collective Power," at my ordination and his honorarium will be donated to the UU Church of the Larger Fellowship's prison ministry which serves 1200 incarcerated Unitarian Universalists.

Elandria Williams and I also met when they were an Anti-Oppression teacher, and soon I became one of her conference organizers and friend. Elandria always shows up when I need her, and I know I am not alone in that. She is a source of strength and courage for me and will be offering the prayer at my ordination.

Elandria loves Unitarian Universalism and has done an enormous amount for our faith. They served as comoderator of the UUA from 2017-2020. Elandria is a member of the Tennessee Valley UU Church in Knoxville, Tennessee. Over the past twenty years they have served on UU boards and Anti-Racism Transformation Teams, as DRU-UMM GA Coordinator, and as a founding member of Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism. Elandria spent a decade working at the Highlander Center and is currently the Executive Director at Peoples Hub.

I cannot wait to hear what each of them share during my ordination on October 18 and I hope you are looking forward to joining us too!

Blessings, Kimberlee Minister of Religious Education

*Elandria died unexpectedly on September 23, 2020 at the age of 42. Her death is a tremendous loss. There will be both grief and joy in the room during this ordination ceremony, and we send our care to all Elandria's loved ones, including Kimberlee and her family.





Crossing Paths 6th-8th Grade

by Deb Solis Youth Program Coordinator

Parents & Student Orientation October 11 at 2:00 p.m. Classes begin October 25 at 2:00 p.m.

Crossing Paths is an interfaith learning program to help youth build and clarify their own UU identity through engagement with other faiths. This interfaith journey will include Unitarian Universalism, Judaism, Christianity, Catholicism, Quakerism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Paganism. Find full course descriptions on our website at https://uumilwaukee.org/religious-education/middle-school/.

At orientation October 11, we will offer an overview of the program, how scheduling will work, and answer questions. Orientation is mandatory for families who plan to participate.



Trunk or Treat: Halloween for the Whole Family!

by Lillian Schley RE Administrative Assistant

On November 1, Unitarian Universalist Church West in Brookfield will host a Trunk or Treat event in collaboration with other UU churches in Southeastern Wisconsin. Trunk or Treat is an opportunity for families to reserve a spot in the UUCW parking lot, decorate their car and load up on treats, and safely socialize while children trick or treat from car to car. We can't wait to see your creative costumes and festive decorations! Because of Trunk or Treat, there will be no virtual RE classes on November 1. More information about timing, safety, and reserving a space will be coming soon in the RE Weekly Newsletter. Sign up here.

JOIN US FOR

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

ALL ARE WELCOME!

- PreK-2nd Grade 9:15 a.m.
- Families Together 11:15 a.m.
- 2nd-5th Grade 12:00 p.m.
- Middle School 2:00 p.m.
- Youth Group 4:00 p.m.







First Church All-In For the Election Challenge

by Jerry Fredrickson Member of UU the Vote Team

Nora Rasman, our intrepid UU the Vote Wisconsin lead organizer, is challenging all members of three state Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations—First Unitarian Society of Madison, Fox Valley UU Fellowship, and First Church—to a commitment to action for the November 3rd election.

Could you imagine what impact we could have if every member made just a two-hour commitment? If you are someone who could spare two hours to help, go to

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/ e/1FAlpQLSfspe4_T1TTFUeWHuPx6RuJ35kpFrDOC6WcI2qqwEb SUgDL-g/viewform.

Enter your contact info, select First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, and make your choice(s) under Milwaukee commitments. You will then be notified of the particulars of the choice's) you made. Can we top First Unitarian Madison? Let's do it!

ALL IN THE FAMILY

Our heartfelt condolences are with Jean Groshek whose father died from COVID-19 on September 12. Our hearts are with Mariah and Cecilia Groshek as they mourn the loss of their grandfather.

"All in the Family" announces members with births, adoptions, surgeries, deaths of family members, significant illness, an honor or award to celebrate. We invite you to submit to "All in the Family" by using the Chanticleer submission form.

A Crash Course in Reparations In Preparation for Justice-Making

by Mary Devitt BLM2WUU Coordinator

Our five-congregation collaborative, Black Lives Matter to Wisconsin UUs, is focusing our current work toward racial justice within a framework of reparations, in recognition of the long arc of our history which is in some serious need of our efforts to help bend it toward justice. We take a broad view of reparations, which includes financial redress and the closing of the racial wealth gap, as well as white folks putting our shoulders to the wheel along with our BIPOC siblings in bringing the energy of this moment in history to fruition.

To that end, we recommend action in support of protest and witness as a priority. We also encourage continuing self-education on the important topic of reparations. The following list includes some of the latest thoughts about how we might go about repairing the harm that the descendants of chattel slavery have experienced, and the continuing legacy of inequality. We hope that community learning by members of our congregations will enrich our ongoing conversation and inform our work on this important project.

"Resurrecting the promise of 40 acres: The Imperative of Reparations for Black Americans," report by William Darity and Kirsten Mullen. June 2020 https://rooseveltinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/
RI Report ResurrectingthePromiseof40Acres 202005.pdf

"Why we need reparations for black americans," by Rashawn Ray and Andre M. Perry. April 2020 https://www.brookings.edu/policy2020/bigideas/why-we-need-reparations-for-black-americans/

Reparations Now toolkit - Movement for Black Lives. 2019 https://m4bl.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/Reparations-Now-Toolkit-FINAL.pdf

The Reparations Syllabus, University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing Services. An evolving document. https://reparations.lib.umn.edu/



Two Opportunities for Post-Election Reflection

by Rev. Jennifer Nordstrom

Facebook Live November 4, 12:00 – 12:30 p.m.

Gather with your ministers and fellow First Church members and friends on Facebook live on November 4, from 12:00 – 12:30 p.m. to reflect on the November 3 election. Your ministers will share spiritual grounding and reflection and listen to your questions and comments on the election. Join our First Church Facebook group, and be there at noon on Wednesday, November 4 to participate.

Zoom Video Conference November 4, 7:00 – 8:15 p.m.

Gather online with the First Church Community to reflect on the November 3 election. We do not know what will happen in this election, and we may not even know the results by the evening of November 4, but we do know community makes sharing times of joy and challenge better. The evening will begin with a reading and short reflection from your ministers, followed by small break-out groups where you can share your thoughts and feelings and reflect with other First Church folks. A youth break out space will be available. Mark your calendars now, and we will send out Zoom information in late

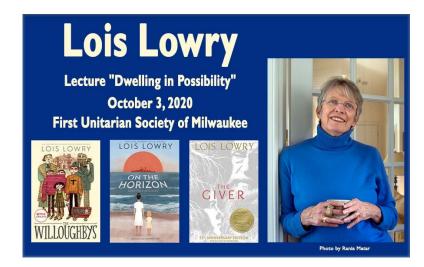
IN MEMORIAM

Lisa Radtke January 20, 1965 ~ September 7, 2020

Lisa Radtke died of natural causes at the new home she shared with her husband Mike Radtke in Columbus, Ohio on Monday, September 7, 2020. Lisa was 55 years old, and was a member of First Church for 27 years. She served on staff as our Membership Coordinator from 1997 to 2004.

A Memorial Service for Lisa Radtke was held online Saturday, September 26 at 2:00 p.m., and we lit the Candle of Life for Lisa during our worship service on Sunday, September 13, 2020. Mike welcomes condolence cards at his new address in Ohio, which you will also find in the member portal.

Memorial Gifts in Lisa's name can be sent to the Susan G Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and the Hunger Task Force.



Register Now! Dwelling in Possibility: Lois Lowry to Give Morter Lecture

by Cheryl Maranto Irma Morter Lecture Team

Please join us for a virtual event with Newbery Award-winning children/young adult author Lois Lowry. Her books explore complex issues that children and adolescents grapple with as they grow toward adulthood. She will explore what strength, wisdom, and energy we can gain at this moment when we are confined to our dwelling places.

- The event will be livestreamed via Zoom.
- Ms. Lowry's talk will be followed by moderated Q&As.
- Over 150 people have already registered!

Register here: https://bit.ly/UULoisLowry.

The annual lecture is supported by a bequest from Irma Morter. This opportunity to walk the path of personal reflection and finding our best place in the work to be done reminds us of the vital importance of "Individual Responsibility."



SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

11:00 a.m. Sundays

On Zoom and YouTube Live



OCTOBER 4

"Youth Empowered in the Struggle (YES!) at Voces de la Frontera"

Presenter: Alejandra Gonzalez (she/her/hers) Youth Organizing, Statewide Director

A membership-based community organization led by low-wage workers, immigrants and youth, Voces de la Fronter protects and expands civil rights and workers' rights through leadership development, community organizing and empowerment. The youth arm of Voces de la Frontera, known as YES!, is a grass roots, multiracial/multiethnic organization with school-based chapters. Will Introduce: Lorraine Jacobs



OCTOBER 11

"Organic Gardening & Landscaping for Your Own Good!"

Presenter: Barbara Aho, Organic Landscaper, Teacher

Interested in the urban garden space, Barbara visualizes how to maximize the natural beauty while moving plants to healthy spaces based on each plant's needs. Barbara uses natural, organic products exclusively and no pesticides. "It's important to have a private space where you can go outside...." She adds, "We have these little bits of nature, and we need to use them for our rejuvenation." Will Introduce: Christian Becker



OCTOBER 18

"An Address from Lt. Governor Mandela Barnes"

Presenter: Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes

Elected in 2018, Mandela Barnes is the first African-American to serve as Lieutenant Governor, and is the second African-American to ever hold statewide office. He will speak about his current work in Madison and the State.

Lt. Governor Barnes uses a platform of sustainability and equity to fight for solutions that invest in opportunities and fairness for every child, person, and family in Wisconsin, regardless of zip code. He is Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change. He is also co-Chair of the New DEAL Climate Change Policy Group which is a national network of rising state and local elected leaders.

Born in Milwaukee and a product of Milwaukee public schools, Lt. Gov. Barnes worked in the City of Milwaukee Mayor's Office and later became an organizer for Milwaukee Inner City Congregations Allied for Hope (MICAH), a Milwaukee-based interfaith coalition that advocates social justice. He served two terms in the State Legislature. Will Introduce: Bruce Wiggins

(Sunday Forum continued on page 10)

SUNDAY MORNING FORUMS

11:00 a.m. Sundays

On Zoom and YouTube Live



OCTOBER 25 "The Jali Fruit Company"

Presenter: Josh Shefner, Founder and CEO-Agricycle Global Inc.

Jali Fruit Co. sells high-quality, dried fruit from around the world through directly trading with smallholder farmers. They cut out the middleman and make sure every batch of dried fruit is ethically sourced and top quality. Jali provides simple machines that work without electricity and train women cooperatives around the world to use them to preserve their ancestral fruit abundance. Will introduce: Mark Mueller

September Share the Plate

by Dawn Blackmore

Voces de la Frontera is our October Share the Plate recipient. Serving Southeast Wisconsin's immigrant community since 1998, Voces de la Frontera's mission is to protect and expand civil rights and workers' rights through leadership development, community organizing and empowerment.

Contributions to this organization will go to their New Sanctuary Movement campaign, which directly supports and advocates for families facing deportation. There is an ongoing need for funds for families who are bearing the brunt of harsh immigration policies, including the detention and deportation of family wage earners. Contributions will go to the New Sanctuary Movement Emergency Fund serving families in dire need.

To make a monetary donation to Voces de la Frontera, please visit their website at https://vdlf.org/

DONATE TO VDLF

HOW TO REACH US

114.273.5257

first.church.office@uumilwaukee.org www.uumilwaukee.org 1342 N. Astor St., Milwaukee, WI 53202

Staff members have varying hours. Please contact them directly to set up an appointment.

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