# KOL the AMI

## Art Lecture Series to highlight Jewish art history

The vast and storied history of Jewish art will be the topic of a two-part adult education workshop, offered by the Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers.

The Jewish Art Primer Lecture Series, featuring Richard McBee, a prominent art historian and painter based in New York City, will take place on April 7th and 14th from 7 to 9 p.m. on Zoom. To register, visit <u>http://tinyurl.com/JCFMcBee</u>. You will get an immediate confirmation email with the Zoom link upon registration.

The lectures are free and open to anyone who wishes to attend.

His first lecture will cover "Dura Europos, Synagogue Mosaics, Manuscripts: 250 CE - 18th Century." His sec-

ond session is a brand new presentation, being unveiled at this series, titled "The Haggadah - A Passover Primer; 14th Century - 21st Century."

McBee is extremely connected in the Jewish art world. He studied painting at the Art Students League of New York and has written for the Forward, the Jewish Week, Jewish Ideas Daily, and Mosaic magazine. He is a member of the International Association of Art Critics (AICA) and the Association for Jewish Studies, according to his website, RichardMcBee.com.

His paintings, including series on the Biblical women Sarah, Hagar, and the patriarchs Abraham and Isaac, have been exhibited and reviewed in several galleries.

This project is made possible with funds from the Statewide Community Regrant program, a regrant program of the New York State Council on the Arts with support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature and administered by The ARTS Council of the Southern Finger Lakes.

# Meta & John Spiegler Holocaust Remembrance Lecture

April 17, 2024 at 7 p.m. Corning Museum of Glass Auditorium

Free and Open to the Public



This year's annual speaker is Maud Dahme. Born in Amersfoort, Netherlands, in 1942 at age 6 her parents sent her and her sister, Rita, to be sheltered with Christian Families in the Resistance, where they sheltered until the Allied Liberation of the Netherlands.

Reunited with her parents, who were hidden underground by Danish gentiles, her family emigrated to the United States in the 1950's settling in New Jersey where she now lives. She was featured in the documentary "The Hidden Child," which was broadcast on PBS as well as being shown at the Holocaust Museum in Wash-

ington D.C. She was inducted into the New Jersey Hall of Fame in 2014 for her active and passionate advocacy for Holocaust Education. Jewish Center & Federation of the Twin Tiers Congregation Kol Ami

#### April 2024 In this issue:

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For a special Oneg service Friday April 5th following the 7:30 p.m. Shabbat Service!

Meet Rabbi Tom's wife, Jerussa, and share in some delightful foods, specialty wines, and more!

> Let's give Jerussa a warm CKA welcome!



# **Jewish Center and Federation**



#### from Past President Marcus Kantz

Shalom Everyone,

This time of year, Jews around the world spend some time and some thoughts remembering. There's a lot to remember. Some of the remembering is very sad and scary: the death of the 6 million Jews who died in the holocaust. But, along with that is the remembrance of the heroism of the survivors. And then, around this time of year, we Jews also remember and celebrate Israel's Independence Day, Yom Haatzmaut, a very joyous occasion. But - yes it seems that there is always a "but" associated with something good - as I write this, there is terrible strife and death today right in the center of Israel, in the Gaza Strip. Of course, there is very little if anything that we, here in the Twin Tiers, can do about it other than pray that the various factions will find a way to bring peace once again to the land.

Here at home what we can do is keep bringing our sense of warmth and family to our Building, our Congregation, and our Federation. Every time I step into our building, or read an article in the Kol Ami, or participate in some activity, I feel that genuine warmth, and I'm sure that you do too. People just show up to do stuff, bringing their Jewish warmth together in the shul.

By the time you read this, the world won't have miraculously become a warm and happy place. But we the people in this world have a job to do. That job, of course, is to do our best to make our small corner of the world just a little bit happier, a little bit calmer, a little bit more miraculous. After all, by the time you read this in March or April, our corner of the world WILL be warmer. It WILL be brighter. The days WILL be longer, allowing us to immerse ourselves in a springier spring, a slightly warmer spring. And, of course, we - each and every one of us - CAN consciously try to smile a little bit more. And, the beauty of it is that, miraculously, Smiles are very, very contagious.

Thus, I wish you all a warm spring, and, of course, Shalom, Peace.

#### "Breath, Body, Mind" Class with Sheila Katz Sunday, April 14 at 11:30 a.m. at CKA Learn simple techniques to reduce stress and anxiety, enhance concentration, and balance your emotions. RSVP to the JCF office at 607-734-8122 or JOIN US office@jewishelmira.org Lindsay **CKA Book Club** April 17 Free books and music for Shmutz by Felicia Berliner Jewish children May 15 ages 6 months-8 years http://www.pjlibrary.org/ Signal Fires by Dani Shapiro communities/elmira-twin-All meetings are at noon, tiers/317 at https://tinyurl.com/ ages 9–12 years CKABOOKCLUB. http://www.pjourway.org Books are available online, at the A project of the Jewish Center & public library,& in the Jerome & Federation & the Harold Grinspoon Etkind Library at CKA. Foundation

May & June *Kol Ami* will be a combined issue.

All information for the May/June issue of *Kol Ami* must be submitted to one of the organizations offices by April 10. Submit your building use/ Zoom room use forms to CKA office to ensure your events dates are on the Jewish Community calendar.

# Anniversaries

Steven Greenberg & Amanda Sharp Jeffrey & Sheila Katz Harriette Sapper Lindsay & Jerry Lindsay

# **Community Kitchen**



Volunteers from CKA and JCF prepare and serve lunch at the Elmira Community Kitchen the first Thursday of every month . The next dates are

#### April 4 and May 2.

If you can help, please contact Gil Sweet. Cash donations may be made through the JCF.

#### from Executive Director Ashley Gillan



I don't remember exactly when I started to love reading. My mother was a teacher, and as so many of you know, that means I was never short of encouragement when it came to devouring page after page of the books I was always dragging home from the library or the school book fair.

I was also one of "those people" who waited at the bookstore until midnight the night the Harry Potter books were originally released (I'm a Ravenclaw, by the way).

So it seems natural that I've found a home here with the Book Club. We read a variety of books, from nonfiction to modern literature to historical fiction, all of which are available through the local library system or to borrow in the CKA library. Our current

# **Birthdays**

Jeff Cadel Melissa Cadel Taylor Dobbs Marissa Dolkart Mindy Elzufon Faith Gray Madeline Hempstead Zachary Hempstead Jeffrey Katz Linda Kaufman Noah Kravitz Elizabeth Lloyd Barbara Luther David Massey John Massey Nancy Nicastro Marc Rubin Elaine Short Marc Stemerman Myra Stemerman

# Mazal Tov

To Suzanne and Tom Hesselson on the marriage of their son Matthew to Diana on Friday, February 23 in Orlando Florida.

To Marc Rubin for being featured in the March issue of Mountain Home Magazine.



list of upcoming reads is listed here in the Kol Ami.

We spend the lunch hour of the third Wednesday of each month chatting about the book, the issues it brings up, and also the things that it makes us think about in our own lives. I've grown to cherish the time I've gotten to know the people in the group through discussing the books that we've spent time reading (or not reading, in some cases; as Susan Cadel says, "life's too short to read something I'm not enjoying.").

Enjoying the extra book a month has opened me up to new reads I wouldn't have picked up otherwise, and I encourage any other readers to join in. I know you're out there! Just contact the office to get put on our mailing list.

In that same vein, at the JCF, we're currently looking at our funds for the PJ Library and realizing we're running low. At the cost of about \$20.00 per child PJ Library helps provide Jewish children in the area with books about Jewish life and traditions, as well as provide the precious gift of reading to them for free.

We're working on getting the costs down on our end, but if you feel like you can, feel free to donate a small amount to the JCF office to help us out. We're all about spreading the love of Jewishness and reading here in this group!

Thank you in advance, from a kid who probably read a little too much.

# Congregation Kol Ami Presents Irving Berlin: A Century of Song

Sunday, May 19 @ 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 1:45 p.m. Refreshments & Delectable Desserts to be provided

Show will be Cabaret Style Featuring Beth Herbst, Les Bresse, Joe Milliken, Cathy Russo With Jordan Windel on the piano



Advanced Reservations Before May 15th: \$15.00 Tickets at the door: \$20.00

Please check the CKA website for RSVP information Security Protocol will be in place, I.D. needed.

Congregation Kol Ami - 1008 West Water St., Elmira, N.Y.

# Kol Ami Updates

For up to date information please check our on line calendar at https://www.jewishelmira.org/calendar or visit us on Facebook at Jewish Center and Federation of the Twin Tiers.

# כל עמי–Congregation Kol Ami



#### from President John Goldman

Once again, I received inspiration from the Shopkeeper's Shabbat service this week. The company was great, the food was excellent thanks to the talents of Gil, Harriet, Stuart and Vickie, and a meaningful yet brief service with discussion led by Rabbi Tom. I distinguish here between real inspiration which prompts me to do something vs. feel good inspiration which leaves me in a better place from when the service began but eventually fades. There are probably more technical terms for this, but I am not schooled on such matters beyond freshman year Psychology 101. I almost always get feel good inspiration from services, but true inspiration is a much rarer experience, but it does happen. How about you? That inspiration is now this article being written a day later.

This weeks' Torah portion talks about the building of the Tabernacle with G-d commanding through Moses that people bring gifts of various materials and talents to build the sanctuary. In fact, people are so generous that eventually there is more than enough materials and they are told to stop bringing things. The artisans and workers then begin their tasks with very specific instructions and objectives.

How does this relate to today? We already have a beautiful sanctuary that was built approximately 70 years ago the same basic process would have had to have taken place as is outlined in the Torah.

Today, we are fortunately concerned with maintenance as opposed to construction. I would argue the idea is essentially the same as is described in this week's Torah portion. Now we need to preserve our sanctuary instead of constructing it, and, perhaps more importantly, preserve what takes place in that sacred space. We are blessed with a great facility that the House Committee maintains with diligence and expertise, so the outlay is relatively low. However, we also have expenses which need to be covered by gifts, also known as dues, pledges, donations (whatever contributions, term you prefer). We have many people giving so freely of their time and talent to provide they great experiences we all enjoy so much. We are truly a fortunate community because people are so generous and committed.

I should also say that, unlike the Torah portion, we are not able to say "stop, we have enough!" Perhaps in our dreams. Therein lies the dilemma. Rabbi Tom mentioned that it was the entire process of building the Tabernacle that brought the community together in ancient times, not necessarily the building itself.

It is our ongoing work today with planning and holding services, events and fundraisers that help bring and keep us together. It is our common mission that bonds us. Make no mistake, the gifts are still needed and then some as we experience operating deficits to maintain what we do. I hope and pray that, as in the Tanach translation I am reading from, "everyone whose heart so moves him [them] shall bring them [gifts]" until the day they are no longer needed.

Nothing has changed since those words were written so many years ago and they remain completely relevant today. Thank you for what you all do.

L'Shalom John

### **CKA** Donations

Donations made In February

#### Archives

☆ In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Linda Kaufman

#### **General Donation**

- In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Jerry & Myra Stemerman
- ☆ In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Marcus & Charlotte Kantz
- In Memory of David Ginsburg by Marcus & Charlotte Kantz
- ☆ In Memory of Roz DuBois' Cousin by Marcus & Charlotte Kantz
- ✤ In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Lee & Anita Adelsberg
- In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Mindy & Joe Gaieski
- In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Ben Lynch
- In Memory of Sue Braunstein by Linda L. Fox

In Memory of all of my family, Frank Levine, Benjamin Malinowitz, Esther Sarah Malinowitz, Louis Levine by Linda L. Fox

#### **Technology Donation**

- ✤ In Memory of Father, Richard Frank, by Andrew Carmen
- Wishing a speedy recovery to Ben Massey by Andra Frank
- ✤ For Myra Thinking of you and wishing you a speedy recovery by Carole Hoffman
- ✤ In Memory of Alex Rabinowitz by Andra Frank
- ✿ Wishing a speedy recovery to Myra Stemerman by Andra Frank
- In Memory of Jill Forleo by Andra Frank, Alyn and Andrew

Adult Education

# **Bagels & Torah**

Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

April 14, 21, 28 *In person & Zoom* https://tinyurl.com/ bagelsandtorah

# **All Things Jewish**

Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. April 11, 18, 25 *Zoom Only* http://tinyurl.com/ckaadultedu





#### **Passover: Engraving Freedom in** our Hearts

Passover is just around the corner. The First Night's Seder falls on Monday evening, April 22. CKA will have our annual Second Night Seder the evening of Tuesday, April 23. I hope that you can join the entire community in sacred celebration of freedom.

In our Torah, we read about the tenth plague that God inflicted on the Egyptians, the killing of their firstborn. Immediately before the plague commenced, God paused the drama and relayed to Moses and to Aaron what seemed to be at best irrelevant information to the narrative:

Exodus 12:2

"This month will be for you the beginning of the months. It will be the first of the months of the year for you."

The great Medieval commentator Rashi (Rabbi Shlomo Yitzchaki, France, 1040-1105) questions the placement of God's declaration at this particular point in the Torah: Shouldn't this declaration of the beginning of time be located at the beginning of the Torah rather than so deep in the weeds of the Exodus drama, asks Rashi?

Rashi

"The Torah should have started with, 'This month will be for you...', for this is the first commandment that was given to Israel."

Rabbi Ovadia ben Jacob Sforno (Italy, 1475-1549) asks this very same question, and reveals a profoundly relevant insight into the placement of God's declaration about beginnings:

Rabbi Ovadia ben Jacob Sforno

"This month will be for you the beginning of the months..." From here on out the months will be yours, for you to do with them as you wish. In the days of slavery, your days were not your own. You had to work for others and do their will. That is why this will be the first of the months of the year for you: because in it you began your liberated existence."

Perhaps, Rabbi David Kasher explains, Sfrono is telling us that that very same moment, right before the actual leaving the slavery of Egypt for the freedom of the desert, is indeed а new beginning for the Israelites, as a free People. "When you are a slave," writes Rabbi Kasher, "in a sense, you do not exist in time, for your time belongs to someone else. Time, for the Children of Israel, really starts with the Exodus."

Rabbi Jonathan Sacks, May His Sacred Memory be for a Blessing, points out that although in Rabbinic literature the holiday of Passover is referred to as Zman Cheruteinu, the Time of our Freedom, the word Cheruteinu does not appear anywhere in all of Hebrew scripture. The closest definition of this word that we have is from its root, Charut, which means 'to engrave," which, on its surface has nothing to do with freedom.

Why then did the rabbis deem it necessary to invent a new word for freedom when the Bible already has the word Chofshi? And, what does engraving have to do with freedom?

Rabbi Sacks explains that when freedom is engraved in our hearts, in our very selves, as our defining ethos, as a Charut, that is the freedom that is eternal, sustainable, indelible. "That" Rabbi Sacks concludes "is the kind of freedom to which we are called as Jews and which we recall ourselves every Passover."

Let us use that freedom first to say I'm proud and tall as Jews, and second to work for the freedom and justice of all."

Chaq Kasher v'Someyach, A Happy and Healthy Passover.

#### Service Schedule

Shabbat and festival services are both in-person and online at https://zoom.us/j/234349277.

Shabbat Evening Service 7:30 PM

Shabbat Morning Service 9:30 AM

#### Weekly Torah/Haftarah Portions & Candle Lighting

April 5-6 7:20 p.m. Shemini Leviticus9:1-11:47 Ezekiel 45:16-46:18

April 12-13 7:28 p.m. Tazria Leviticus 12:1-13:59 II Kings 4:42-5:19

April 19-20 7:36 p.m. Metsora Leviticus 14:1-15:33 Malachi 3:4-24

April 26-27 7:44 p.m.

Ki tissa Exodus 33:12-34:26 Numbers 28:19-25 Ezekiel 37:1-14 

## Special Havdalah with a Meet & Greet for Rabbi Tom's wife, Jerussa Saturday, April 6 at 6:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us for a special Havdalah program to meet Rabbi Tom's wife, Jerussa. Hosted by Vicki Mike & Stuart Trock

On street parking only, please bring a appetizer or finger foods for yourself or to share. Contact the CKA office for RSVP & address information at office@kolamielmira.org or call (607)732-7410.

# Yahrzeits

Apr		Adar II
1	Dorothy Dreer	22
1 1	Madeline Feinfeld	22
1	Harriet Klein	22
1	Abraham Kroshinsky Alvin Ugelow	22 22
1	Fanny Wladis	22
2	Burton Blazar	23
2	Roger Levy	23
2 2 3 3 3 3 3 3 4 4	Jacque Cohen	24
3	Frances Firestone	24
3	Deszo Fischer	24
3	Ronald Stecker	24
3	Harry Werner	24
4	Rachel Bimberg	25
4 4	Mary Etkind	25
4 5	Fay Koenig Bella R. Ginsburg	25 26
6	Benjamin Novidor	20
6	Minerva Sherman	27
7	Howard Green	28
7	Leonard Linchuck	28
7	Julius Shapero	28
7	George Wohl	28
8	Bertram Baker	29
8	Kate Slohm Baker	29
<b>A</b>	:1	Niesen
Apr 9	II Esther Cimmet	Nissan 1
9	Madeline Eiges	1
9	Jerome J. Gladke	1
9	Robert Heyman	1
9	Solomon Horwitz	1
9	Dora Lubowski	1
9	Jeanne Simons	1
9	Miriam Tanzman	1 1 2 2 2 2
10	James Altman	2
10	Abraham Botnick	2
10 10	Anna Epstein Charles Rosenbloom	2
11	Helen Hirshman	
11	Leah Josephson	3
11	Barbara Rosenberg	3
11	Paul Siskin	3
11	Jennie Weiss	3
12	Fanny Chaitt	3 3 3 3 4 4
12	Fanny Fenster	4
12	Benjamin Halperin	4
12	Anne S. Newkrug	4
12 12 12	Morris Sapper	4
12 13	Hyman M. Winston Arthur H. Cohen	4
13	Louis Levine	5 5
14	Fay Cohen	6
14	Morris Cohen	6
14	Lena Eiges	6
14	Robert Gerstel	6
14	Esther Hobalt	6
14	Ralph Obler	6
14	Seth Siskin	6 7
15	Suzanne Levy	1
15	Jacob Seigel	7

15		7
15	William H. Seigel	7
15	Nathan Tanzman	7
15	Jean Weisenfeld	7
16	Marcus Berman	8
16	Samuel Chaitt	8
16	Joseph Cropp	8
16	Lena Karmann	8
16	Lillian Levine	8
16	Esther Sarah Malinowitz	8
16	Anna H. Radin	8
	Annie E. Featherman	9
17		
17	Jessie Hample	9 9
17	Julius Honig	9
17	Sally Israel	9
17	Kate Schrifin	9
17	Jacob Schwalb	9
18	Morris Karshen	10
18	Lena Nathenson	10
18	Nettie Rosenheck Paltrowitz	10
18	Samuel Parker	10
18	Robert Rogow	10
18	Richard Schooler	10
18	Mamie Slohm	10
18	Isabel Snowiss	10
18	Sally Solomon	10
19	Harold Awrich	11
19	Morris Fidelman	11
19	Josephine R. Graubard	11
19	Ray Heyman	11
19	J. Benjamin Rabinowitz	11
19	Simon Siegel	11
19	Harry Warshaw	11
20	Marian Gaieski	12
20	Bernhard Hirschfeld	12
20	Fannie Stemerman	12
21	Jesse Green	13
21 21	Lester Poes	13
21	Aaron Rosenblatt	13
22	Sarah Dreyfuss	14
22	Gilbert M. Freeman	14
22	Molly Golos	14
22	Milton Jacobson	14
22	Geraldine Johnson	14
22	Esther H. Levine	14
22	Andre Levy	14
22	Bessie Locks	14
22	Marian H. Wladis	14
23	Isidor Featherman	15
23	Malke Golos	15
23	David Heyman	15
23	Maurice Robinson	15
24	Bertha Brody	16
24	Samuel Cohen	16
24	Levi Ginsburg	16
24	Ike Samuels	16
25	Clifton Doane	17
25	Pauline Eichenbaum	17
25	Anna Oppenheim	17
25	Martin Shafer	17
26	L. Daniels	18
26	Sally Mack	18
26	Louis Schwaber	18
20		10

27	Abraham Feinberg	19
27	Lillian Levine	19
27	Aladar Mulhoffer	19
27	Asaf Rose	19
27	Lillian Seigel	19
27	Barney Stemerman	19
27	Emanuel Steuerman	19
28	Leigh Rachel Kingdon-Wolfe	20
29	Arthur Baker	21
29	Dorothy Blume	21
29	Henry Daniel	21
29	Jacob Ellison	21
29	Arthur Frank	21
29	Solomon Goldman	21
29	Louis Hample	21
29	Robert Wiesner	21
30	Nathan Altman	22
30	Max Eagle	22
30	Abraham Jacobson	22
30	Leon Rosenblatt	22
30	Ada Silverman	22
30	Alan Solow	22
30	Rebecca Wladis	22

## In Memoriam

Our sincere condolences to Nancy Nicastro and Family on the passing of Kenneth Phesay. Brother, husband, father. Zichronoh Livrachah -May his memory be a blessing

Our sincere condolences to Sharon Birdsall and Family on the passing of Jimmy Houck. Cousin of Sharon Birdsall. Zichronoh Livrachah - May his memory be a blessing

Our sincere condolences to Cynthia Massey and Family on the death of her father, Robert Weinstock. Zichronoh Liv'rachah, May his memory be a blessing.

<b>Office Hours</b>
Congregation Kol Ami:
Monday–Friday,
10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Closed from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m.
<i>Jewish Center &amp; Federation:</i>
Monday–Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

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50	-	2	<b>м</b>	4 Community Kitchen	5 CKA 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service with Special Oneg	6 <b>CKA</b> 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 6:00 pm Special Havda- lah, meet Jerussa
7 JCF 7:00 Jewish Art Primer with R. McBee on Zoom pt. 1 - Zoom	ω	9 <b>JCF</b> 7:30 pm Board Meeting	10 <b>CKA</b> 7:00 pm Executive Board Meeting	11 CKA 7:00 pm All Things Jewish with Rabbi Tom Zoom Only	12 <b>CKA</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	13 <b>CKA</b> 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 5 pm Havdalah Service & Nosh
14 <b>CKA</b> 10:00 am Bagels & Torah with Rabbi Tom <b>JCF</b> 11:30 am Breath, Body, Mind Class with Sheila Katz 7 pm Jewish Art Primer with R. McBee pt. 2 - Zoom	5	9	17 CKA 12:00 pm Book Club CKA 7:00 pm Board Meeting CMOG 7 pm Meta & John Spiegler Holocaust Remembrance Lecture	18 <b>CKA</b> 7:00 pm All Things Jewish with Rabbi Tom Zoom Only	19 <b>CKA</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	20 <b>CKA</b> 8:30 am Shop- Keepers Shabbos 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 pm Havdalah
21 <b>CKA</b> 10:00 am Matzah & Torah with Rabbi Tom	22 Erev Passover 1st Seder (at home)	23 Offices Closed <b>CKA</b> 9:30 am Passover Morning Service 6:00 pm 2nd Night Com- munity Seder	24	25 CKA 7:00 pm All Things Jewish with Rabbi Tom Zoom Only Passover	26 <b>CKA</b> 7:30 pm Shabbat Evening Service	27 <b>CKA</b> 9:30 am Shabbat Morning Service 8:45 pm Havdalah
28 <b>CKA</b> 10:00 am Matzah & Torah with Rabbi Tom <b>JCF</b> 2:00 pm Film series Golda	59	30 Offices Closed <b>CKA</b> 9:30 am Passover morning service with Yizkor		1 43900461		
	Passover					

## **imA lOX** The Voice of my People

#### And the voice of my reopie Vol. 29 No. 4 A monthly publication of

#### Jewish Center & Federation of the Twin Tiers

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President: President:

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