

The Christian Community North American Newsletter

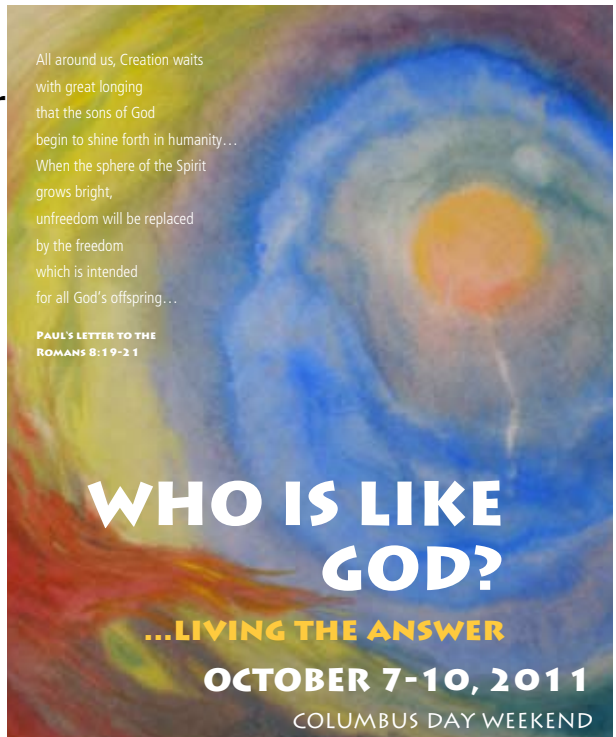
Volume 19, Nr. 2, Fall 2011
www.thechristiancommunity.org
www.christiancommunityseminary.org
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Who is Like God? Living the Answer

A **Regional Michaelmas Conference** is offered Columbus Day Weekend, Oct 7 -10, 2011 at The Christian Community in Boston, 366 Washington St. Brookline, MA 02445. Registration deadline is **Sept 27, 2011.**

Keynote addresses are "Man's Healing, Heaven's Joy" by Rev. Erk Ludwig; "Michael Wants Co-Workers" by Rev. Oliver Steinrueck; "What has gone wrong with us!" by Rev. Carol Kelly; "Becoming the 10th Hierarchy: An Image of Humanity in the Future" by Rev. Jonah Evans. Conversation groups and workshops include guided outings into the city, singing and more. Saturday evening harp concert by Rita Costanzi. Daily Act of Consecration of Man and Close of Day Services.

Conference fee, including refreshments and dinner is sliding scale, \$90-\$160, and does not include accommodation, breakfast or lunch. For more information or to register online go to <http://www.thechristiancommunity.org/tacberk/confboston.html> See online conference brochure for area accommodations. Mail your registration fee to Rev. Liza Marcato, 10 Green River Lane, Hillsdale, NY. 12529. You can also call Rev. Liza Marcato, 518-325-1166 for further information.



Nothing Gold Can Stay

Robert Frost

Nature's first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf's a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.



Taco M. C. Bay

* 22. September 1933 in Beatenberg, Switzerland

† 5. August 2011 in Überlingen, Germany

Frank Hörtreiter

The first three Erzoberlenkers (central coordinators) of The Christian Community were also members of the circle of the founders in 1922. When Taco Bay succeeded Rudolf Frieling in 1986, this did not only mark a change of generations. As Erzoberlenker he mirrored the worldwide growth of The Christian Community. Born in Switzerland, Taco Bay worked with his Dutch wife as a remedial teacher in Scotland and was ordained as priest in 1962. He celebrated ordinations in English, Dutch, French and German. Taco Bay passed on his post during his lifetime in 2005—a novum in history of The Christian Community. Afterwards he worked in New Zealand and at Lake Constance. His successor is Vicke von Behr.

Fall 2011

Open Courses, Week-long Retreats

Our life is an apprenticeship to the truth.... No facts to me are sacred; none are profane; I simply experiment, an endless seeker...the coming only is sacred. Nothing is secure but life, transition, the emerging spirit. -R.W. Emerson

Do you need to replenish your inner life? Do you want to deepen or strengthen your sacramental life in order to continue and invigorate your outer journey? To this end we will be opening some of our courses to members and friends in the form of weeklong retreats. The retreats also offer a wonderful opportunity to participate in the life of the

seminary and to develop a more intimate relationship to our Movement for Religious Renewal. Come and join us!

In addition to providing training for the vocation of priest, the Seminary of the Christian Community wishes to support all those seeking a relationship with the living Christ by offering workshops, week-long courses and retreats.

Oct. 3 – 7, 9:30 – 10:45 am

Christ and the Earth

The earth is a living organism with soul moods, and even a self, all of which are undergoing a fundamental change since the Mystery of Golgotha. Daniel Hafner, Toronto

Oct. 17 – 21, 9:30 – 10:45 am

Apostles of the Living Light: Paul -Mani – Rembrandt

Themes of reconciliation between light and darkness, good and evil, of serving and transforming. Gisela Wielki, Chestnut Ridge

Nov. 7 – 11, 9:30 – 10:45 am

Christology. Erk Ludwig, New York

Nov. 14 – 18, 7:30 pm – 8:45 pm

Traces of the Ancient Mysteries in Modern Life

The theme of this course will be the relationship between the ancient mysteries and spiritual experiences in our time, emphasizing the mystery motifs in modern life. Bastiaan Baan, The Netherlands

Nov. 21 & 22, 7:30 pm

Christ: A Central Theme in Anthroposophy

Two lectures in celebration of the 150th Anniversary of Rudolf Steiner's birth. Douglas Sloan, Prof. Emeritus \$10/12 suggested donation

Nov. 28 – Dec. 2, 9:30 -10:45 am

The Gospel According to John

This book of initiation is given to us to connect us with its Source, which is at the same time the source of esoteric Christianity. Daniel Hafner, Toronto

Location of courses:

At the Christian Community, 15 Margetts Rd. Chestnut Ridge, NY.

Cost:

Course only, five sessions: \$50 Full participation includes all classes and breakfast, but not lodging: \$200

Lodging:

Please arrange with Holder House: www.threefold.org/housing or contact the seminary if you would like to be housed with someone from the congregation.

For more information, the daily schedule and to register, please contact:

Rev. Gisela Wielki, 15 Margetts Rd. Chestnut Ridge, NY 10952. Tel. 212-877-0208; Cell phone 773-472-7041.

e-mail: info@christiancommunityseminary.org

www.christiancommunityseminary.org

Autumn is a second
spring where every leaf
is a flower.
Albert Camus



Delegates Meeting

The Annual Delegates Meeting of the member congregations of The Christian Community in North America will be held in Denver, CO on Thursday, Oct 13 – Saturday Oct 15, 2011. The theme for the meeting is 'Strengthening our Belonging' and will stress membership and inter-congregational relations. Sunday Oct 16 will be a day for Treasurers to meet. The Delegates are chosen and sent by the Boards of each congregation, ideally two per congregation. Past delegates have come home from these meetings excited and with a renewed and expanded experience of our Christian Community.



New Altar Painting in Denver

Jim Hindes

Janneke Rosenbrand, a long time member of The Christian Community in Holland, was commissioned a year ago to paint a new altar picture for our Denver chapel. She began the work already in Europe with sketches and experiments with colors and forms. On July 18, 2011 she and her husband arrived in Denver to begin the work. In preparation for her arrival, David Johnson built the wooden surface that serves as the foundation for the painting.

The painting was mounted in August, and it will be consecrated in October when the 2011 North American Delegates Meeting will be held here in Denver. Christ is timeless and yet also always totally "up to date." The painting helps to allow us to imagine, however imperfectly, Christ as He lives today, as He comes to modern human beings in prayer. This is a modern imagination of God as He works as Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Goin' South

Richard Dancey



My wife Margaret and I flew on Monday, Feb 28, from Chicago to Washington, DC, picked up the reserved rental car at the airport, and the Southern Swing was underway. So much work had been done by Lark Bergwin-Anderson in Washington, working out and planning the itinerary, the contacts, the venues, the publicity. Lark deserves high praise and great thanks for her tremendous efforts, skills and diligence. We stayed at the Karpoffs in Washington, who are members and old friends. The first talk was given at The Christian Community in Washington to friendly, familiar, encouraging faces. And then we were off, like Abraham into strange lands.

But we had something Abraham did not have—a GPS, surely one of the greatest Satanic gifts of God. The voice of our GPS sounded to me remotely similar to the voice of our Lenker, Oliver Steinrueck, though clearly disguised. Margaret assured me my fantasy had got the best of me. I was impressed by his minutely detailed knowledge of the geography of the South, even before we had any standing altars down there! Anyway, the GPS, whoever he was, became our trusted, overly-depend-upon companion.

The trip, covering 2500 miles, over three weeks long, to ten cities, with twenty talks on the gamut of themes I had offered, was an amazing grace. The audiences ranged in size from seventy to six, averaging out to a little over twenty. We were very grateful for those numbers. But they were also deceptive. The talk with six was really good and with young people. The question period after each talk was as important as the talk itself. And the time in each city meeting with all kinds of people, often able to be doubled because there were two of us, was an absolutely vital part of the adventure. Except in two cities, we were hosted by people connected to us, and our hosts were so glad to have us there, gracious and considerate of our needing breathing room, too. Did you know in Nashville there is a full-sized complete replica of the Parthenon, with a sixty-foot statue of Athena holding Nike in her right hand? And if you ever visit Atlanta, you must visit the historical area devoted to the life and work of Martin Luther King.

Margaret and I never had a honeymoon. Well, after forty-two years, this wasn't exactly a honeymoon, but it came pretty close for us. What a wonderful invigorating experience. And, most amazingly, without a single glitch! I kept waiting for some little bump. It never came. Somebody up there likes us. Somebody was carrying us in their hearts and prayers. The spiritual world was saying, 'This is a good thing. Keep at it'.

So—the question that comes- and now lives at the end of this future initiative is—what next? Where do we go from here? How can this be followed up? How can we keep working on reaching even further into the unknown, into the social network, the strange lands, the new frontiers? They are out there. They are waiting.

We want to thank everyone who helped make this initial initiative possible and helped it happen in the grace-ful way it did.

Let's keep at it. Keep moving. Into unknown, uncharted territory. Into the future.



Autumn burned brightly,
a running flame through
the mountains,
a torch flung to the trees.
Faith Baldwin

A Golden Thread

Susan Locey

The course of our life becomes more meaningful when we begin to sense the golden thread that runs through all the random events. This golden thread draws together a path with direction that underlies all our steps in development. And it traces a hidden intentionality and orientation to certain goals that have perhaps been unconscious and hidden to our inner vision by the distractions of everyday life. What is this golden thread, and what is the higher wisdom that knows to wield it and work with us?

As we ponder these questions, we may recognize that we are not the only ones whose existence reveals continuity and meaning even through leaps, plunges and metamorphosis. All life seems bound to such an underlying connective principle—even the life of our mother earth may obey the destiny of dying and becoming, held to a fragile bond that unites the future with the past. Is this a golden thread of molecular continuity, based on a foundation of available DNA? Can we find in the significance of the infinite selections made from this available gene pool more than random survival?

We can dare to conclude that not all the threads are woven with threads of gold! Some are “experiments” or playful adaptations along the way. To differentiate the gold from the experiments involves the test of time. Enduring value within the connection of one stage to another is the proof of “gold.” All else is subject to the catharsis of the furnace of time that separates the impure from the eternal.



Traces of rich minerals on our planet are reminders left over from ancient times. Early metallurgists imagined the earth being “impregnated” with metals from other planets. Alchemists understood mining in ancient times as a process that removed the ore while the metals were still in an embryonic state. Gold especially was understood as a product from the sun. In occult ancient times the earth was united with the sun, and during the separation from this creative sphere of light, traces remained “impregnated” in the earth, which hardened and coagulated into gold.



The earth has become the guardian for the embryo of gold. Deep within the earth this embryo lies waiting, becoming “mature.” The birth of this golden embryo is the emergence of a new world, a new humanity. At the end of the Apocalypse, John witnessed and described this birth of the new world, which he called the New Jerusalem. It is the very positive re-creation of the earth after cathartic trials had brought to an end the old and corrupt world.

The very ground of this new world, which descends from the spirit in spite of being born from the depths, is pure gold. But this is not the gold that we know as ore. The gold ore we have until now fashioned into ornaments, melted into bricks, raised as the Holy Grail, lusted after, cursed at and blessed! This future foundation of the new world is a different kind of gold—it is transparent!

A week-long retreat on these and various other aspects of gold—its spiritual origins, fallen history and future redemption—is being offered as a conference July 21st to 29th 2012 on Vancouver Island as a contribution to the raising of thoughts and hearts to becoming part of the new creation. Everyone is welcome to come!

The Christian Community—Movement for Religious Renewal is organizing this conference. For further information visit our website: **www.LivingGold2012.com** or email us LivingGold2012@gmail.com.

[See page 10 of this issue for early bird registration discount. Twenty-five percent off the conference fee if you register and pay before the end of January, 2012.]

Autumn Sun

Christy MacKaye Barnes

Down through the hastening
Cloud reefs of heaven,
Over the darkening
Wastes of waters,
Sun-swords strike
Light'ning-like,
Waking the world at last,
Striking the dahlias
And gongs of the great sun-flowers,
Warming red petals,
Red haws and asters,
Till they glow back again,
Fiery, sun-like!

Strike, too, O Michael,
Red human hearts as well
Lightning-like let surprise
Waken our clouded eyes.
Kindle our thoughts with sight
Till they leap crystal-bright.
Forge us, O Autumn Lord,
Fiery, sun-like
Into your sword.



St. Michael, Richard Kroft

Heart of Gold

Shirley Johnson

Next July 2012, our church is hosting an international conference on beautiful Vancouver Island. Why are we doing this? Well, you see, Vancouver, like Denver, is somewhat cut off from the rest of our congregations in North America. I distinctly felt this when attending conferences in Toronto and Sacramento. In fact, I felt a little like a fish out of water (okay, I'm a Vancouverite, eh). After awhile though, it dawned on me: these conferences were actually more like a great big family reunion! So what do you do? Well, you throw a great big shin-dig and invite all your friends and relations – the more the merrier.

The theme for this North/South America Conference is called, "Living Gold". Over the past year we have worked off and on with this topic. What does gold stand for? How has it been used in the past? What have been the consequences of man's lust for gold? In today's declining world markets, does it still have relevance for today and even more importantly, for the future? What does the term, "living gold" mean,

particularly out of a spiritual context? How does one translate or transform that into reality?

Here is my own interpretation. Take the phrase, "heart of gold". To have a heart of gold means to act out of a desire to help someone or something, without any thought of a return. It means to give something purely for the sake of giving. It means using your heart rather than your head. When you can turn off your brain and listen to your heart, it will always tell you the right thing to do. This is what we wish to strive for.

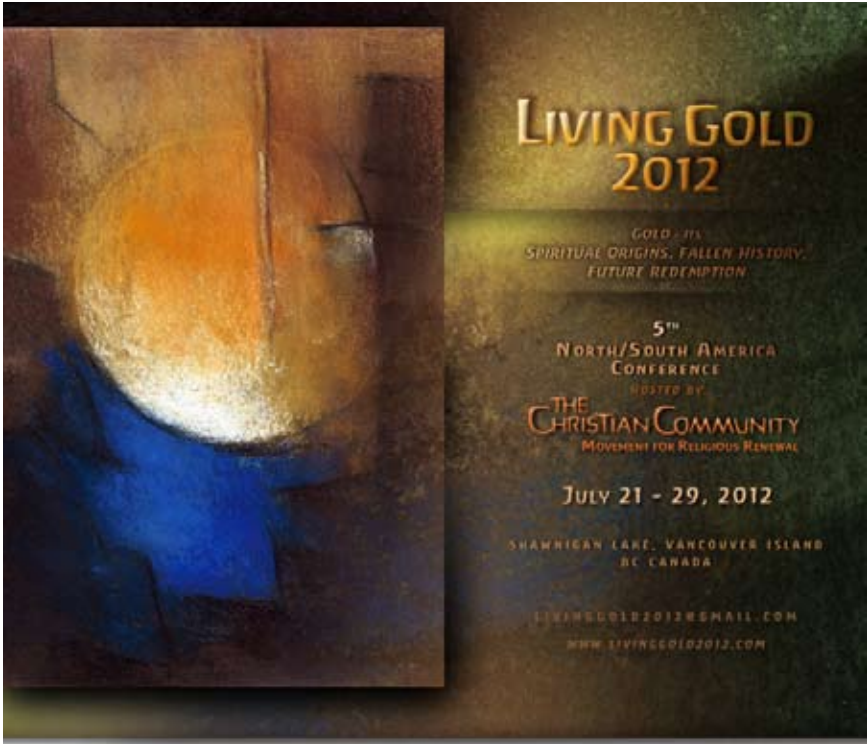
Well, you say, that's all fine and good, but the fact is, we all have to live in the real world. We all have responsibilities, needs, worries, etc. The purpose of this conference is not to tell you how or what to do. In listening to the lectures, attending the workshops, we hope to simply help you start the process of listening to your heart rather than your head. We can't promise a "Eureka!" moment, but you never know.

The costs for the conference are very reasonable. We could have easily charged three times as much, considering it goes for a week. Our desire is to make it as accessible for everyone as possible. There will be a special lecture every morning on a particular aspect of gold, and a plethora of wonderful workshops in the afternoons.

In addition to the topic itself, you will also have the opportunity to meet and make new friends, particularly from countries in South America. No matter how hard things are for us economically here in North America, we know that our neighbors to the south have it much, much worse. We also know how rich they are, in terms of culture, music, and sports. [see page 10 of this issue for early bird registration discount!]

We plan to link up congregations from North America to our "family" members in South America for fundraising endeavors. In doing so, we will be that much more connected when we meet next July. There will be cultural presentations every evening. I can tell you that our members are particularly hoping for some dancing – a shiver of anticipation happens every time someone says the word, T A N G O – and maybe some Spanish guitar???! This is a golden opportunity to discover not only our differences but similarities. What can we learn from each other? In what ways can we perhaps help each other? These are 2 more "golden" themes: friendship and knowledge. How can one put a price on such treasures?

If you haven't been to British Columbia before, you are in for a treat. I can't promise Mounties in red serge, beavertails, or Moosehead beer, but I can promise it will be the experience of a lifetime. How does that Jeanette McDonald/Nelson Eddy song go? Oh yeah, "When I'm calling you, Will you answer true?" Turn off your brain and listen to your heart – the Spirit is calling!



Registration is now open for the
Living Gold Conference.
Conference Fee is \$399 per person.

However the fee is discounted to **\$299** if you register
and pay by **January 31, 2012.**

The fee will be discounted to **\$349** if you register and pay
by April 8, 2012.

So register early!
www.LivingGold2012.com



Ten Lepers, James Christensen

September 11, 2011

J Michael Brewer

And it happened, as he was on his way to Jerusalem, that he was going between Samaria and Galilee. And on entering one of the villages, he met ten men with leprosy, who stood at a distance; and they raised their voices and said: "Jesus, master, have mercy on us!" And seeing them, he said: "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And it happened that as they went, they were cleansed.

One of them, seeing that he was healed, turned back and praised God with a loud voice, and he fell on his face at his feet, thanking him for what he had done; and he was a Samaritan.

In answer, Jesus said: "Were there not ten who were cleansed? Then where are the nine? Was no one to be found to turn back and praise God's revelation except for this stranger?" And he said to him: "Arise and go your way; your faith has become a healing force in you. -Luke 17: 11-19

It is very likely that we all remember where we were and what we were doing ten years ago. The twin towers of the World Trade Center had come to symbolize the role of our country in the global economy; the Pentagon remains a symbol for our role, for better or worse, as the focus of what stability there is in the world. But near to the World Trade Center there still stand two other great symbols of our role as a country in the world. There is the Statue of Liberty with its inscription of invitation to all who are in need, and there is Ellis Island, through which so many of those who responded to that invitation passed, in order to make a home in what for them was the promised land.

But wherever there is a promise, conditions tend to be added. Ellis Island was not just an open gate; it was a place of quarantine, where the clean and the unclean were separated. In the time of Ellis Island leprosy was no longer the greatest concern; but the rules concerning tuberculosis were every bit as strict as the laws that we find in Leviticus concerning leprosy. Leprosy is an illness of the human form; the illnesses guarded against on Ellis Island were above all to do with human breathing. Today there is the temptation to look for ideas that we would like to exclude, again out of concern for contagion.

In fact we may also realize that we are all immigrants or the descendants of immigrants. Whether our ancestors arrived through Ellis Island, or before or since, we are all strangers in this land. We may have come searching for a promised land; we may have been forcibly settled in this land as convicts or slaves; even those who were here long before the explorers came as homeless people seeking a new beginning.

A new beginning can occur at any moment, brought about by an illness, a personal or world catastrophe such as that of ten years ago, or a freely taken decision. Every new beginning arises from a cleansing that can, if we will become a healing. And where there is possibility for healing, there is also the possibility to turn and recognize our Healer, to thank and bless Him.

D.C. Youth Group Goes to Europe

Patrick Kennedy

This past June a group of 18 teenagers, two priests and two young adult staffers attempted a traveling youth conference that began in Vienna, Austria and ended in Rome, Italy. Our goal was to expand our horizons, to meet a Christian Community in Europe and to come face to face with our spiritual and religious history over the past 2000 years. From an ancient temple to Isis in Bologna to St. Peter's cathedral in



Rome; from the Pantheon to the temple of Vesta in the Roman Forum, we wanted to explore the roots of our spiritual history and witness the ruins of ancient, pre-Christian civilization and the rise of Christianity.

This culminated with a visit to the Vatican where we saw Raphael's Transfiguration, The School of Athens and The Dispute of the Sacrament, Michaelangelo's Sistine Chapel and Last Judgement and in St. Peter's, the incomparable Pieta. Interspersed, of course, with Gelato, cooking Italian Food together and performing our fifth and best performance of the play, Everyman, in Vienna. Abigail Dancey and Emma Heirman worked creatively with Revs. Jonah Evans and Patrick Kennedy to pull off an unforgettable trip.

For more photos, go to our youth website: www.ccyouth.homestead.com

Another Magical Year at the Christian Community Camp 2011!

Rev. Carol Kelly & Rev. Marcus Knausenberger



Somehow the proximity to the Susquehanna River causes all sorts of unusual weather patterns; the most common one being a day of sunshine, which breaks out in minutes into a full-blown thunderstorm, (just as we are about to take the canoes out) and then a peaceful calm for the rest of the evening, then another full blown thunder storm as we are trying to get the campers to go to sleep!

Such was the weather for much of Camp this year - even on the last day of camp when our focus was on the final bonfire! The wood for the bonfire had been stacked and piled high into teepee form for days already. The pathway leading to it was crowned with an arch and lit magically with paper lanterns flanking either side of the path. On our final evening we walked out onto the wet grass in front of the dining and assembly hall and watched wide-eyed, as the oldest boys and girls lit sky lanterns and sent them up towards the circling stars. Sighs and exclamations could be heard in the crowd and the lovely lanterns sailed high up over the trees. Then we began the long walk to the clearing in the woods where the last fire was to be lit. We sang, the oldest boys and girls lit the fire, we sang and sang and sang and waited. The wood was still soggy from the many rains! Would it ever ignite? We had never seen it fail before! We sang some more. We were getting cold, wet and shivery. We needed some warmth and light! At last, after much coaxing, it took hold and we were saved! "Rise up oh flame, by thy light's glowing, show to us beauty, vision and joy!"

Working and playing are all rolled into one at Christian Community camp. We heard the story of "Modoc" the elephant who survived many amazing trials, and of "The Magician's Nephew" who had a significant



role to play in the creation of Narnia. We made moccasins, cloth bags, bracelets, boomerangs, bull-roarers and boxes. We paddled up and down the Susquehanna River, went swimming, delighted the gnomes with their very own quinoa garden and gnome farm stand, chalet, flying fox and hammock. We made pizza from scratch, chocolate chips, burritos and pancakes. We cleaned up, woke up, spoke up and soaked up the sun.

There were groups such as "no-see-ums", "invisible stumps" "invisible air guitarists", "storm spirits" and "handsome dancing phantoms." They were all a part of our theme this year, which was "the invisible."

Air and wind, gravity and levity, light and laziness, energy, hunger, weight and balance: These invisible elements weave into our lives every day. Sometimes they go by completely unnoticed but we all experience them whether we are aware of it or not. At camp there is one other invisible element which weaves us all together, making us one "family", bringing us closer to community, closer to life, closer to the Divine in us.



May ever more children and young people be a part of this great tapestry!

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