

PDCC E-Light Newsletter

261 Columbia Street Peace Dale, RI 02879 (401) 789-7313 April 25, 2024

SUNDAY WORSHIP 10:00 AM

Office Hours

Mon, Wed, Thurs 10am-2pm

Contact Us

SENIOR MINISTER:

THE REV. A. FRED EVENSON FRED.E@MAC.COM

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT:

MARYLOU McMILLAN
OFFICE@PEACEDALECHURCH.ORG

Birthdays This Week

James Badger
Mark Shovlin
Marilyn Browning
Susan Wallace
Alan Santos
Sandi Waterman
Joy Rich
Gail Birchell

Visit Our Webpage!

peacedalechurch.org

Follow us on Facebook!

Facebook.com/PeaceDaleChurch

Last Week's E-Light

peacedalechurch.org/e-li

You Are Invited!

This Sunday is the One! We will celebrate communion with God and with each other as we remember the Last Supper in a participatory way, inviting us to enter the story. This will be an intergenerational worship service that will include the video Joanne has created reminding us that we are All Invited to God's Table!

You are invited - I look forward to joining you at the table J Peace and Joy, Pastor Fred



Do You Want to Join PDCC?

Sunday, May 5 @ after worship

If you've been waiting for a sign to officially join our faith family, consider this your sign. We would be happy to welcome you into the membership of Peace Dale Congregtional Church! Part of this joyful process is learning more about our church while also getting to know other new members. To that end, we have a one-and-a-half hour "class" about PDCC, UCC, and you.

If you will participate Sunday May 5th, please let us know so we can prepare accordingly. (Talk to Fred, or call or email the office at 401-789-7313 or office@peacedalechurch.org)

If May 5th does not work or you, please let us know that, too!

We welcome you to our warm & welcoming – and busy – congregation!



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Worship Flowers



The flowers of April 28 are given to the glory of God by Brenda Stafford in memory of her friend Gail Balch.

Flowers are a beautiful way to remember a loved one, celebrate a special occasion, or simply give to the glory of God.

If you are interested in donating Sanctuary flowers for April, May, or June please contact Roberta Norman at 401 226-7123.

Hospitality Needs Help!



To continue putting out great coffee hours after the service on Sundays.... Our coffee hour teams need reinforcements.

The 1st, 4th, and 5th Sunday teams all need at least one additional person.

If you would like to join us please contact Christine Grevstad 401 284-6483 / christinegrevstad@ hotmail.com



On the Calendar

Sunday, April 28 @ 10am – Family Worship

Sunday, April 28 @ 1:30pm RI Association SNEC UCC Annual Meeting

Wednesday, May 1 @ 5:30pm – Having It Our Way #5 (see p. 4)

Sat./Sun. May 4/5 – Youth homelessness awareness sleepout

Sunday, May 5 @ 10am – Traditional Worship

Sunday, May 5 @ after worship – New Members Class

Monday, May 6 @ 6pm – Meet & Greet before Board meetings Mondays @ 6:30pm NA Meeting – Learn to Live

Tuesdays @ 9:30am Prayer Circle

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm Bell Choir rehearsal

Tuesdays @ 6:30pm AA Meeting

Thursdays @ 6pm Contemporary Singers rehearse *ALL welcome*

Thursdays @ 7:30pm Traditional Choir rehearsal

Women's Fellowship - 5/9

Will meet on Thurs. May 9th at 10 AM in Hoxie Lounge with an informative session led by our own Lynn McCall, RN, Retired Director of Nursing Services, Realtor, and Senior Real Estate Specialist, who will speak from both a professional and personal perspective and offer some tips for aging gracefully in our own homes, things to consider if/when there is a need to transition to another athome living arrangement or 'right sizing", and some insight on assisted care or nursing home living.

Women's Fellowship is for all PDCC ladies – if you join in on any church activity and/or attend a service you are welcome (you don't have to be an official member.) We have a collation, short devotional and an activity or program. Newer ladies and regulars - let's welcome Lynn with a good turn out!



White Elephants

Yes, we'll take your "reductions in inventory" – meaning all those items you don't use and are cleaning out.

We spiff them up, organize and appreciate them. Keep them coming and thank you! Info contact jane.stabile@ outlook.com or 508 395-1172.

Recumbent Tricycle (Adult-Size)

Someone has donated this treasure to White Elephants.



It appears to be in very good condition and comes with some options including fenders, air pump, rear view mirror, and a rear light. Two manuals included.

Sun EZ-3 USX HD Delta Trike

- Trike Weight 65lbs
- Total Weight Capacity 400lbs
- Wheelbase 59.5" (151cm)
- Total Length 78" (45cm)
- Total Width 32" (81cm)
- X-Seam Range 36-47"
- Seat Height 18" (145cm)
- List Price (less options) \$2349.99

If interested, you don't have to wait for the next fair to purchase this trike. Contact Jane Stabile at 508-395-1172 or jane.stabile@ outlook.com to **MAKE AN OFFER**.

Plant Sale - Sat. 5/11

8:30am – 1pm. Rain or shine. Cash or check.

Church of the Ascension

Corner of Kenyon Ave & Main St

Assorted annuals, perennials, shrubs & trees from members' gardens. And a garden-themed table of gifts & garden accessories and tools. Proceeds to benefit Episcopal Relief & Development for al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.



Social Justice in Action

For THIS WEEK'S list of events and opportunities check out the Social Justice Committee info on the

Missions or Groups section of our PDCC website. Submitted by Joanne Haynes.

VOLUNTEER We Need You for Worship

Deacons would love to have more folks available as **readers** (of scripture) and as **ushers** at worship services (especially for the traditional service).

If you are interested in helping out during the services, please contact Val Lowell, Sandi Robinson, or Jeff Healy.



Collecting Unused Greeting Cards

Don't know what to do with those unused greeting cards from charitable organizations? Don't look any further! Inside the PDCC Narthex is a cardboard box for you to put them in.

Mary Louise and I have resurrected this collection in hopes that people who need cards may use them and they are free. They will be organized into groups: holidays, sympathy, birthdays, blank cards, etc. Currently there is a box of these cards in Tabitha's Closet for guests to take and use.

If you know of any organization/s that may benefit from these cards, please contact Mary Louise or me, Gabby at 401-932-8350 text/call. (St. Jude's will take cards that do not list another charitable organization.)

Plus, this saves our environment by not throwing them away. Thank you.

Submitted by Gabby Klensch

Having It My Way – Making Life Decisions

The 5th session on Wednesday May 1st @ 5:30 PM will be "Managing Our Living Environment" with Nicole Antonopoulos, real estate agent, Darlene Lepore, Senior Executive Director of Brightview Commons, and Justin Oakley of Oakley Home Access.

Nicole will discuss making decisions to stay in your current residence and taking action to make your house livable and affordable. Topics will include how to evaluate your situation, making physical changes, needs for assistance with continual care, and downsizing issues. Diane will cover when to know it is time to move to retirement housing, anticipated living environment, cost considerations associated

with nursing homes. Justin will share assists for aging in place and fall prevention.

Church Family Life sponsors this 7-session series "Having It My Way – Making Life Decisions" to help us to prepare for our last two phases of life. Each session is about 1.5 hours long.

All programs are open to the public so bring relatives and friends. Each session will include a presentation, a questions & answer segment, and refreshments.

You may attend without signing up, but it would be helpful to be able to guestimate numbers. **Sign-up sheet in Fellowship Hall or contact Jane** jane.stabile@ outlook.com 508 395-117

Having It My Way - Making Life Decisions Workshops/Seminars 5/1 to 5/29

	Day/Time	Workshop	Speaker(s)
5.	5/1, 5:30 PM	Managing Our Living Environment	Nicole Antonopoulos, Real Estate Agent/ Darlene Lepore, Senior Ex Dir. Brightview Commons Justin Oakley, Accessibility
6.	.5/15, 5:30 PM	End of Life Decisions – Hospice & Funeral	Lisa Wasson, Nurse Educator from Hope Health Veronica Houston, Funeral Director
7.	5/29, 5:30 PM	Planning Your Celebration of Life	Rev. Fred Evenson Claudia Swain

Workshop dates and times have been confirmed. However, there could be last-minute changes. Please make sure you have signed up with your contact info

Recycling Challenge – Saving Our Earth 1 Plastic Bag @ a Time

We are searching for a new organizer (or pair or group of organizers) of the TREX Recycling Challenge program at PDCC – you know,

Recycling Challenge program at PDCC – you know, the white collection box for plastic bags outside the doors.

Collecting plastic bags & film keeps thousands of pounds of waste out of landfills and helps make eco-friendly outdoor products (like the benches outside the church). Gabby will offer personal training so you can see the way she has done this; you can develop a way that works for you. Contact Gabby Klensch (401) 932-8350.



No Mow May – What's that about?

No Mow May is a catchy name for an environmental movement, started in the U.K., that begs us to reexamine the American lawn. No Mow May can help us understand how we share our lawn with many small creatures by suggesting that we pause lawn mowing for a period of time in May.

Did you know that our lawns cover more than 40 million acres in the United States? It's true. Our lawns represent 2% of land in the United States, making our lawns the single largest irrigated crop we grow.

We mow our lawns, fertilize them, water them and treat them with chemicals that can be harmful to bees and other invertebrates. A lot of resources, including time and money, are dedicated to our lawns. Lawns contribute significantly to habitat loss and provide little benefit to wildlife.

Bee populations have been in decline in recent years due to loss of habitat, parasites and pesticides. This is tragic because bees are responsible for pollinating \$15 billion in agricultural products in the U.S. each year and 80% of our flowering plants.

The emergence of bees coincides with the beginning of the lawn mowing season. The bees are hungry at the same time that we are mowing down some of the flowering plants that could provide them with sustenance. When we resume mowing at the end of May, other sources of food usually appear.

It will be of tremendous benefit to the pollinators we depend on to ensure our own food supply if we cut back on mowing in May.

Choices for participating in No Mow May include not mowing the entire yard for a month or not mowing the entire yard or a portion of the yard for a

JOIN US! For anyone, of all ages, interested in learning more about the "Green Team", please contact George Faucher at glfaucher@ gmail.com and/or Don Hermes at dhermes33@ gmail.com

few weeks. Some people may want to keep a tidy mowed border around the unmowed portion with signage describing their intentions. Expect to see No Mow May signs (available online) sprouting in yards all over South County!

Every one of the choices we make about No Mow May will make a difference in the lives of the pollinators and in our lives as well.

Screening of "Common Ground"



Common Ground is the highly anticipated sequel to the juggernaut success documentary, **Kiss the Ground**, which touched over 1 billion people globally and inspired the USDA to put \$20 billion toward soil health.

Peace Dale Congregational Church, in collaboration with UUCSC and St. Augustine, will be hosting a screening of a "Common Ground", with discussion to follow.

Join the solution-driven movement of regenerative leaders as they make a case for soil health across North America and beyond. We can all find our 'common ground' to heal the soil, our health, and the planet. No action is too small.

Light refreshments will be served.



May 10th at 6:30 Peace Dale Congregational Church 261 Columbia Street Peace Dale, RI

https://commongroundfilm.org/

Church Family Life Events

Events here are provided for your enjoyment. Would you like someone to join you? Then contact jane.stabile@ outlook.com or 508 395-1172

UPCOMING EVENTS

NEW – **Unsung Hero** (PG) at South County Cinema, **various dates and times**. Film based on a remarkable true story of David Smallbone who moved his family from Down Under to the States with 7 children, suitcases, and their love of music. David and his pregnant wife Helen set out to rebuild their lives. Their children go on to become two of the most successful acts in Inspirational Music history: five-time GRAMMY Award®-winning artists for KING + COUNTRY and Rebecca St. James. https://ticketing.useast.veezi.com/sessions/?siteToke n=na7wtdt6y7gsr120d6sed9pfb4

Open NOW – Wicked Tulips, Flower Farm "hosts the largest u-pick tulip events in New England at two locations! You can tiptoe through acres of tulips and experience the sights, sounds and smells of spring. 2 locations are still open: Johnston, RI and Preston, CT. Tickets only online – \$20 includes 10 U-pick tulips; children \$5 (no tulips), under 4 free. "Usually open for only 14 – 18 days" at each location. Accessibility – it's rocky, muddy and rutty. Rain or shine. https://wickedtulips.com/

NEW! Wed. 5/8 at noon – Mamma! Mamma! Free! PPAC Celebrates Mother's Day with the magic of PPAC's Wondrous Wurlitzer. Peter Edwin Krasinski, PPAC's House Organist, will lead us in honoring "Moms," with the music of songs by and for Broadway moms, including Les Miserables' Fantine, Mamma Mia!'s Donna, Gypsy's Mama Rose, Hairspray's Edna and many more. The concert will end with some requests from the audience! ppacri.org/events/detail/mamma-mamma

UPDATE Thurs. 5/16 – The Domestic Violence Resource Center Annual Fundraiser at Shepherd's Run, 4780 Tower Hill Rd., South Kingstown, RI called "An Evening Under the Stars Gala" from 6 to 10:30 PM. Featuring a cocktail hour, seated dinner, live dance music with the band Hot Mess, silent auction. A special company has been hired to ensure that we will be warm under the big tent. Tickets are \$150 PP at https://dvrcsc.org/2024-annual-fundraiser/ Please let Jane stabile know if you are joining us. We have two seats left at our table. Jane.stabile@outlook.com

HURRY! Daffodils are passing Take a springtime drive to enjoy the 1,450,000 daffodils throughout Newport. See the map and events at https://newportinbloom.org/our-activities/daffodil-days/ There's a lot in bloom besides the daffies plus the fantastic homes and sea views make it a lovely trip. Recommend that you go on a weekday.

NEW Sat. 5/18, 2 PM & more dates available – Into the Woods, at Choate Rosemary Hall, Paul Mellon Arts Center Stage at 332 Christian St., Wallingford, CT. "Into the Woods is a 1987 musical with music and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim and book by James Lapine. The musical intertwines the plots of several Brothers Grimm fairy tales, exploring the consequences of the characters' wishes and quests." Musical Director, Nathaniel Baker speaks highly of these talented students. Why not put a group together to support Nathaniel? Free, but tickets must be reserved in advance. 4 shows at https://pmac.ludus.com/index.php?show_id=200430 773

NEW Fri. 5/31 – Breaking the Waves of Hunger Gala at 5:30pm at the Dunes Club, Narragansett, RI Join Jane & Steve Stabile at the Dunes Club in Narragansett for the Johnny Cake Center's largest fundraising event of the year. Join us in the fight against hunger and poverty for a night filled with live music, delicious food, a complimentary cocktail hour, and silent auction. \$150 PP at https://www.jonnycakecenter.org/fundraiser/ Please let us know if you want to be at our table. Jane.stabile@ outlook.com

YOUNG NATURALIST BACKPACKS at PEACE DALE AND KINGSTON LIBRARIES "FREE Do you and your family enjoy exploring nature? If so, patrons with a valid library card may check out one of our backpacks filled with items such as maps, flora and fauna identification guides, magnifying glasses, binoculars, and more that encourage kids and families to explore South Kingstown Land Trust's beautiful natural areas. This program was created in partnership with the South Kingstown Land Trust and made possible by a generous grant from Bank Newport."

Our Faith Helps Relieve Stress

4/24/2024 - by Deborah Ringen, SNEUCC Minister of Health and Wellness sneucc.org/blogdetail/our-faith-helps-relieve-stress-18348611

Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. ~ 1 Peter 5:7

Life can be stressful! It is common to hear people complain about being too busy. Many days we feel like we are on a hamster wheel that we cannot get off, we have too many things to do. Whether it is an exam at school, a big project at work, the pandemic, natural disasters, violent acts, or life changes we may be stressed. Not all stress is harmful though, sometimes it motivates us to get things done well. So, when is stress overwhelming?

April is stress awareness month. The World Health Organization defines stress "as a state of worry or mental tension caused by a difficult situation. Stress is a natural human response that prompts us to address challenges and threats in our lives. Everyone experiences stress to some degree. The way we respond to stress, however, makes a big difference to our overall well-being." (Stress - WHO) Anxiety, worry, and fear are symptoms of stress that can become overwhelming. If anxiety continues and interferes with daily life, it may also affect our health. Stress can lead to high blood pressure, cardiovascular issues, body aches, and more.

There are positive ways to cope with stress. The Centers for Disease Control offers tips (right). Mental Health America (MHN) offers a free screening to check your mental health, visit www.mhascreening.org to check your symptoms. It's free, confidential, and anonymous. After you complete the screening, MHA will help you find tools and resources to feel better

How can our faith relieve stress? Studies have shown that religious and spiritual practices can affect brain activity, and reading scripture can promote positive feelings. Religious practices in community also provide social connection and support. Military veterans who participated in religious activities experienced reduced depression, decreased suicidal thinking and substance use. "Spiritual practices like meditation are linked to increased levels of feel-good chemicals like serotonin, dopamine, and endorphins; and decreased levels of cortisol and noradrenaline, which are associated with stress." (Mental Health America, (MHA), 2024).

Congregations need to remember that clergy are people too. Clergy often feel stressed as they are called to bring comfort and care to people in need. Conflicts in congregations can also be stressful for clergy. Ministry involves giving to others, it is critical that clergy tend to self-care practices too. The Duke Clergy Health Initiative studied practices that help pastors balance the challenges of ministry. Daily Examen, and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction practices reduced stress and anxiety and increased spiritual well-being for study participants. Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction is a process of purposefully focusing on the present moment and letting thoughts and judgements float past our mind. Daily Examen is a practice which reorients us and reminds us of the presence of God. Both practices can be used by anyone to increase a sense of well-being.

Flora Slosson Wuellner, in her book, "Prayer, Stress and Our Inner Wounds" eloquently describes the benefit of spiritual practices, "God, whose name is love, offers us—with every breath we take—a new, transforming energy for our tense, stress-filled bodies, and an inner healing that reaches depths we had not dreamed!" "We rest, let go, breathe in and soak up the healing light of God which embraces us."

Centers for Disease Control tips to reduce stress:

- Take five. Take a deep breath and relax. Even 5 minutes to take care of yourself can help.
- Keep moving. Walk, stretch, play, dance whatever you like to do.
- · Connect with others.
- Develop a daily routine that includes sleep, exercise, and healthy eating.
- Seek support from friends, family, and trusted organizations.
- Talk about your feelings with others. Connect with your pastor or others in your congregation."
- Get help from a professional. Talk to a health care provider.
- Make an appointment with a counselor.
- Contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. "If you or someone you know is struggling or in crisis, find help at 988." Call 988 or text 988 or chat 988lifeline.org.

Read more at Mental Health America. (2024). 4Mind4Body: Spirituality and religion: Religious and spiritual activities can affect body chemistry and brain activity. https://www.mhanational.org/4mind4body-spirituality-and-religion

Tabitha's Closet is Open

We are now accepting donations of SPRING clothing.

Open Saturdays 9:30a-12:30p **SHOP!** Tabitha's Closet, PDCC's new clothing ministry offers **new and gently used clothing** for affordable suggested donations.

DONATE! We ask that donations be laundered and delivered in a clean bag, as we don't have a washer/dryer.

VOLUNTEER! We need you! Tabitha's Closet needs volunteers to help:

- 1) sort and prep the clothing,
- 2) **help in the shop** on Saturday mornings.

Please contact Galen McGovern, our volunteer coordinator at GalenMcGovern1@ gmail.com.

For any questions or to learn more about the ministry, please contact Suzanne Faucher at gsfaucher@ gmail. com



April Mission of the Month: Save the Bay

Save The Bay is a member-supported nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and improving Narragansett Bay and all the waters that flow into it. The Narragansett Bay watershed offers 400 miles of coastline and stretches 1,705 square miles inland, covering most of Rhode Island and much of Massachusetts. Its 3,500 miles of streams and rivers carry water into the Bay from over one hundred towns and cities with 1.95 million people. Our vision, since 1970, is a fully swimmable, fishable, healthy Narragansett Bay, accessible to all.

Since our founding in 1970, Save The Bay has become known for our fierce advocacy. We champion the right of all people to enjoy Narragansett Bay with peace of mind and stand against coastal activities, actions and developments that diminish public access to the Bay.

Besides advocacy, our programs include habitat restoration, education, as well as community outreach, support and engagement.

Visit our website at https://savebay.org/ to learn more about our science driven programs and activities as well as sign up to help with them.

Thank you for your generosity, The Missions Board Give now

Peace Dale Congregational Church supports Save the Bay as our Mission of the Month. You may donate funds by 1) placing your gift in the Missions basket during Sunday service, 2) sending a check to the church office @ 261 Columbia Street, Peace Dale, RI 02879, or 3) clicking the **Give now** button below to donate online (peacedalechurch.org/waysto-give). **Checks should be made out to PDCC**

with
"Save
the Bay"
in the
memo
line.



Youth Corner





Summer 2024 Youth Mission Trip

Sponsored by Peace Dale and Kingston Congregational Churches

JOIN FAMILIES WITH YOUTH IN MIDDLE AND SR. HIGH SCHOOL FROM PEACE DALE CONGREGATIONAL AND KINGSTON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES TO HEAR ABOUT A WONDERFUL NEW COLLABORATION IN YOUTH MINISTRY! STARTING WITH:

JULY 14-20, 2024, YOUTH WORK CAMP WOONSOCKET, RI

WITH GROUP WORK CAMPS

Youth from PDCC and KCC are invited to spend a week in service to low-income homeowners in the economically challenged community of Woonsocket, RI. Join with 100s of other youth from around the country to show God's love in action, build relationships, have fun and grow closer to God! Group Work Camps are extremely well-run service weeks for youth and their adult chaperones.

Check out the website:

https://groupmissiontrips.com/mission-trips

Our location info/webpage:

https://groupmissiontrips.com/trip-types/homerepair/woonsocket-rhode-island

REGISTER BY MAY 12, 2024



To register or get more info:

Meg Kolodziejri megkolodziejri@gmail.com

Rev. Jan revjan@kingcongchurch.org





Gift Cards with a Kick



You get a card for the full amount *and* every

retailer gives money back to the church for the money you spend.

Use RaiseRight to buy **gift cards** for teachers, service providers, and family.

Use RaiseRight to buy **cards for your own personal shopping** of groceries, etc. Remember your reusable bags and gift cards in your everyday shopping trips.

- RaiseRight (formerly SCRIP) table sales are available on Sundays in Fellowship Hall after worship.
- ➤ Cards in stock include: Belmont (\$25 & \$100), Dave's (\$100), Shaw's (\$25 & \$100), Stop & Shop (\$25 & \$100), CVS (\$25), Walgreen's (\$25), Amazon (\$25 & \$100), Applebee's (\$25), Brickley's Ice Cream (\$20), Dunkin' (\$10 & \$25), Marshall's (\$25), Matunuck Oyster Bar (\$50), Old Mountain Lanes (\$25), Panera (\$10 & \$25), Starbucks (\$10 & \$25), Walmart (\$25).

Questions? Contact Deb Shaw at dkshaw5@cox.net or stop by the table on Sunday after worship.



Sharing More Joy: PDCC Podcasts

Interviews with members of our church family about the joys of

their faith – the "Sharing More Joy" series – can be found on the church website under the News tab (https://www.peacedalechurch.org/podcasts).

Prayer Matters



To build fellowship and make full use of the congregational power of prayer, we offer this Prayer Matters space to allow

members of our community to lift up their names and requests for prayer. This adds to the opportunities for congregants to lift up their prayers during Sunday service, and to request the care of the <u>Prayer Circle</u> that gathers every Tuesday morning or of our <u>Called to Care</u> ministry.

How to share your prayer

You may choose to use all or any combination of: Joys & Concerns on Sunday morning, Prayer Circle ministry, Called to Care ministry, and the new Prayer Matters section of the newsletter.

- To lift up your prayer during Sunday Service, simply raise your hand, voice your joy or concern and then say, "this is my prayer"; the congregation responds "this is our prayer".
 Prayer requests made during Sunday service are shared aloud with those in attendance.
- To request the care of **Prayer Circle**, submit the <u>online form</u> or call the church office at (401) 789-7313. These requests are shared only with members of this group.
- To request the support of our <u>Called to Care</u> ministry team, call the church office at (401) 789-7313 or submit the <u>online form</u>. These requests are shared only with members of this group.
- To request your prayer be included in the E-Light newsletter, send email to office@peacedalechurch.org or call the church office at (401) 789-7313 (leave message for MaryLou).

Shalom, Pastor Fred

Peace Dale Congregational Church

261 Columbia Street Wakefield RI 02879

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