

Mensa Newsletter Of Central Indiana





What did these volunteers see???

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Publishing Statement

Central Indiana Mensa, a Local Group of American Mensa, Ltd., publishes *MIND* monthly. Mensa is a not-for-profit organization open to all persons scoring in the 98th percentile on a standardized intelligence test. Mensa neither endorses nor opposes the opinions published in *MIND*, which are those of the individual contributors.

Contribution Guidelines

MIND contributions may be sent to mind.editor@yahoo.com, or Teresa Gregory, 6076 Dewey Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46219. Contributions may be edited for length or to remove offensive material, and may not include personal attacks. No anonymous contributions will be published, but the Editor will withhold the author's name from the public on request. Contributions should be in hand no later than the first Friday of the month for the following month's edition.

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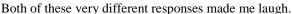
Old Dog/New Tricks

Teresa Gregory, Editor

I sent my children an email with the subject line: This is breaking my heart...

My son has been helping Jan Pfeil Doyle and me with our logo design for next year's Annual Gathering. When he saw the line, he thought I was emailing with more logo issues. (It has all been worked out and approved! Yeah!)

I had just seen my daughter at her house a few days earlier, and her first thought was that something had happened to one of my cats.





My great train adventure to California was supposed to begin early on Friday morning of Mother's Day weekend. I was scheduled to arrive on Monday. My email was letting them know that I had canceled the trip. I informed them around 5:00am EDT, about 25 hours before my departure time.

Plans were going smoothly and on schedule (a red flag). MIND was almost done a week early. The Outdoor Gathering would start the day after my return home. I had some volunteer "shoppers" who were going to help with that. I bought my first DSLR camera and I had several instructional guides to study during the trip.

I was felled by streptococcal bacteria. Yup, strep throat. According to the Mayo Clinic website, "Strep throat occurs most commonly in children." That did not make me feel special at all. It started with an innocent Tuesday afternoon nap before attending a meeting. I woke feeling very tired, and when I took my temperature it was over 100 degrees. I canceled my meeting and didn't really leave my bed until a trip to my doctor the next afternoon. He knew what it was.

By canceling the trip (barely) more than 24 hours before departure, I was able to save my entire Amtrak fare for another trip within the next 12 months. I was going to fly home on Southwest, so it was easy to cancel that without losing money.

A week later, I'm still recouping. I have had strep many times in my life, but not in the last 20 years. It was never like this. The main difference is my throat was never sore.

I talked to my son on Mother's Day and said that I would definitely reschedule this trip. I had dreamed of it in the distant future, but now I had held it in my hand. In the meantime, maybe I can learn to use this new camera before I go to Florida for the Annual Gathering in July. My hotel room is supposed to have an ocean view.

LocSection

Jan Pfeil Doyle

Mensa*Cares!* – We had a nice turn out for our Mensa*Cares!* service project at the historic Link Observatory. We did everything from vacuuming to telephone line testing to weed-pulling to window washing to bush trimming to cleaning the track that the observatory dome turns on. Who knew work could be such fun! See pictures elsewhere in *MIND*. Kurt Williams presented an overview of the observatory's history and its Space Science Institute that offers turnkey space education resources for teachers of grades 4-12



(<u>www.discoverspace.education/science.html</u>). After that, we enjoyed each other's company and some down-home Hoosier food at Gray Brothers cafeteria in Mooresville. Unfortunately, the weather was cloudy so we didn't get to look through the telescope – maybe next time!

Card Shower - Many of you may know Jud Horning, a long time Mensa member in Central Indiana. Jud will be celebrating his 70th birthday on June 26th and we'd like to shower him with cards for the occasion. Jud's health has been failing the last few years and he had to move from his apartment to Manorcare at Summertrace several months ago. If you would like to help Jud celebrate his birthday, please send a card to:

Jud Horning Manorcare at Summertrace, Room 221 B 12999 N. Pennsylvania St. Carmel, IN 46032

Better yet, drop in to see him sometime. He loves to have visitors.

Annual Gathering – The Annual Gathering ("AG," U.S. Mensa's national convention) is coming up July 5-9 in Hollywood, FL. Leo and I are planning to make the trip to Florida for what is one of our favorite Mensa events. Several other members of CIM will be there, too. It's not too late to sign up to go. You can find more information at www.ag.us.mensa.org. I'll be looking at the AG this year with different eyes - I'll be trying to learn all I can about how AGs run to help prepare for ours here in Indianapolis next year.

CultureQuest – CIM again fielded two teams for Mensa's annual quiz bowl. One team was led by **Teresa Gregory**; her team members were **Rich Gibson**, **Pat Milligan**, **Amie Robert**, and **Karen Steilberger**. The other team was led by **George Dunn** with team members **Jon Applegate**, **Ann Hake**, **Nancy White**, and **Bob Zdanky**. The results will be announced at the AG in Hollywood, FL – stay tuned.

Living Better with Less Part 5: My Personal Story

Hi, I'm Karen Zwick and in this fifth and final part of my Living Better with Less series, I'd like to share a few reflections on my own personal decluttering journey along with a few tips for keeping things decluttered.

This past year has been a year of significant change due to the end of my 36-year marriage. In the past 10 months, I've prepared a 3,000-square foot house for sale and just recently moved to my own condo of 1,400 square feet.

My decluttering efforts of the past 10 years eliminated a LOT of the work many have to do when preparing for a significant downsizing. I'm grateful that my exspouse and I were able to amicably divide up the household items. This, of course, resulted in even more downsizing. There were still a number of items I sold on Craig's List, donated to Goodwill, or gave away to friends in preparation of my move. With each item that was let go, I felt lighter.

The only items that I moved to my condo were things that I use, need, and love. I feel relaxed and comfortable in my new "nest". And, there is a lot of empty space in my condo. I will take my time and be very selective about anything new that comes into my space.

Tips for Staying Decluttered

If you have decided to declutter all or part of your home, how do you keep it decluttered? Here are a few tips that have worked well for me.

For every new item you bring into your home, let one item go. For example, if you buy a new shirt, let a shirt go. This keeps the volume of items steady.

Don't shop sales. Many are tempted to buy things they don't really need or want just because they are on sale. Of course, if there is something I really need, I love to get it on sale. But, I don't go shopping unless there is something specific that I need or want.

Before purchasing anything, ask the following questions:

Is this item really needed?

Do I have a place to put this when I get home?

How much extra work will this purchase add to my life?

Am I buying this item for the right reasons?

Consider spending money more frequently on experiences than stuff.

Get comfortable with empty/open spaces.

For those interested in living better with less, I hope this series of articles has provided some helpful ideas.

Finding the Right Financial Planner

Dom Jervis

Has anyone seen the commercial that urges one to hire only a Certified Financial Planner (CFP), in which a DJ is given a haircut, a suit and some buzzwords to use on people to see if they would trust him to manage their money?

Maybe it's bias due to my Background, but I've despised that commercial from the first time I saw it.

I would see through this yutz-putz in seconds. In fact, I believe I could do so by just by dropping this on him:

"Given that I have no pension and do not yet draw Social Security, what do you think of the strategy of doing annual Roth Conversions equal to the sum of the Standard Deduction plus the Personal Exemption, minus interest income, short-term capital gains, and any other revenue that would be included in the calculation of taxable income, and of course ensuring that any Qualified Dividends and Long-Term Capital Gains that are added into the calculation of that Taxable Income do not result in TI exceeding the 0% Taxation Bracket Threshold?"

Wouldn't you just LOVE to be a fly on the wall to witness that?

BTW, I've had complimentary consultations with Certified Financial Planners. One tried to sell me a combination Insurance Product/Investment Vehicle. BIG RED FLAG RIGHT THERE!!. Insurance is insurance, and investments are investments, and that's that. I went into excruciating detail as to why I would become a linebacker for the NY Giants (I can think of at least one of you out there who might be thinking "Yeah right"...but he is too much of a gentleman to actually say it...Thank You for that, Sir!) before I would buy this boondoggle.

Another one said "You might want to look into Long-Term Care Insurance (WAY too early for me to do so at the time he suggested it...probably best for me to get that Research Ball Rolling within the next six months or so) and also look into Umbrella Liability Insurance. We checked it out. Since I live with her, I'm already covered under Mom's Policy.

The only other thing he said was "Enjoy your Retirement!" Wanted to ask him "How long did you have to go to CFP School to learn how to say that?" ROFL

Maybe I need to invest in one of those electronic gizmos that lets me fast-forward through commercials. But for now, guess I'll just have to make do with the Mute button.

My thanks to all for tolerating my latest "vent." Hoping maybe you found a "Nugget" in it.

The Spoonflower Prank

Teresa Fisher

From time to time I come up with great ideas. Sometimes they're marketing schemes, like my brainchild to manufacture band-aids with photorealistic wounds printed on them. Other times they're pranks, like the idea I had to attach a baby doll in an infant carrier to the roof of my car and drive around, seeing how many honking, waving drivers I could collect in my rearview mirror. (I never managed to work out the bugs in this prank, mainly, how I could keep those people from killing me when they found out what I had done.) And perhaps the less said the better about my photo op idea where you are behind a wooden stand and stick your head in a hole with an Easter-themed picture painted on the other side. It would be a rabbit. Sure, that's it – a rabbit.

My current great idea is a prank. It would take some money and effort to accomplish, but it would be so worth it to see the look on your victim's face. There is an online company called Spoonflower that custom prints fabrics, either from designs others have submitted, or your own artwork or photos. You can have your design printed on two dozen kinds of fabric from plain cotton to canvas to silk, and if you allow it, others can use your designs, for which you will be paid. Their catalog shows kitchen towels printed with handwritten recipes from the cook's grandmother (awwww), and all kinds of personalized wedding items.

Let's say your victim is someone you met through an online dating service. You've exchanged emails and photos, and perhaps you have seen each other's Facebook pages. The next step is to meet in person, so make that first impression truly memorable. (You may need to enlist the help of a friend who sews.) Gather up as many photos of your date as you can (even one will be sufficient), and have them printed on enough fabric to make a shirt or blouse for yourself. Think how surprised your date will be when you show up wearing a shirt covered in their own photo! (Spoonflower also makes custom-printed wallpaper and giftwrap, so if you really want to wow your date, you can make use of those products too.) They have the appropriate fabric weights to make matching pants and a lined jacket, but that's overkill, don't you think?

The two of you can't help but bond over this hilarious first date. Won't it be fun when you and your future spouse tell everyone the circumstances of your first meeting? No need to thank me. I give my gifts freely.

And a Note on Last Month's Story

My local newspaper is delivered by the mail carrier. On the same day that the May MIND was delivered containing my story about having been in The Harbor Lights band, the newspaper had in it the obituary of one of the other two remaining members.

MENSA Cares!







New Member

David Boswell	Indianapolis	IN
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[Ed. Note: after several months of waiting, we finally have new member reports. Welcome! If anyone is a new member or a new move-in and is not included in this list, please let me know.]

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Another Card Shower!

Joanne Ortman is still in a nursing home near Munster. I write to her monthly and occasionally get a call from her and Don, with me on speaker phone. Her ability to speak is very limited, but she can listen just fine.

Joanne's birthday is June 11, and I'm sure she would love to get cards. Send them to her at:

Joanne Ortman 7619 Forest Avenue Munster, Indiana 46321

Teresa Fisher

June 2017 Events

Indy Lunch Bunch – 1st and 3rd Wednesday at 12:00 noon, Double Eagle Café, 650 N. Meridian (at the Scottish Rite Cathedral), Indianapolis. Contact: Karen Steilberger, <u>steilkr@sbcglobal.net</u>

Ham 'n' Eggs (Hamilton County Eggheads) – 1st Saturday from 9:45 a.m. - 12 noon. Atrio, 11700 Illinois St. (Meridian & 116th St., Carmel, IN, located at IU Health North). Located just off the atrium on the first floor on the left as you enter the building from the north entrance. Breakfast served till 10 a.m., then lunch starts at 11 a.m. Drop in any time for casual conversation, lively discussion, and good food and beverages. Contact: Alison Brown, 317-846-6798, SIGHT@indymensa.org.

Bridge Club – 1st Sunday, 2 p.m. Join Bob Van Buskirk for casual, friendly bridge. Contact Bob at 317-359-6907 or vnbuskirk@yahoo.com. Location will change each month. Call ahead.

Monthly Gathering – 2nd Friday, 6:00 p.m. – 12 Midnight. **All Souls Unitarian Church, 5805 E. 56th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46226**. See last page of *MIND* for map and directions. Members: \$5.00, Non-Members: \$7.00; Children 6-12: \$3.00, under 6: free.

Program information was not available at publication time. Check the IndyMensa.org calendar, the online version of MIND, or MeetUp.

Mensans Dining Out – 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m., June 18, Ma Ma's Korean Restaurant, 8867 Pendleon Pike, Indianapolis, IN 46226. For more information, contact Bob Zdanky at 317-219-3773.

Paducah Area Group Meeting – 3rd Tuesday of every month, 7 p.m. Anyone in the area is welcome to join fellow Mensans for dinner. For location and more information on this group, contact Charles Rawlings, rawlings@siu.edu

June 2017

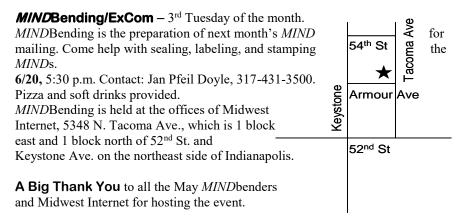
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
4 Bridge Club	5	6	7 Indy Lunch Bunch
11	12	13	14
18 Mensans Dining Out	19	20 MINDbending/ ExCom; Paducah Area Group Meeting	21 Indy Lunch Bunch; Summer Solstice
25 Book Club	26	27	28

June 2017 (cont.)

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3 Ham 'n' Eggs; Cal. Deadline
8	9 Monthly Gathering	10
15	16	17
22	23 Cinder	24
29	30	

If you lose your MIND (oh, my!) or want additional information, check www.indymensa.org or join our Meetup group, https://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa. Meetup is free to join and you'll get reminders of upcoming events. It's a great way to stay in the loop.

June 2017 Events (cont.)



Book Group – 2 p.m., Sunday, June 25. We will discuss *The Design of Everyday Things* by Don Norman. We will be meeting at Rich and Jackie Gibson's house on the NE side of Indianapolis. Please contact Rich at hoot.gibson.tds@gmail.com or 317-735-2895 for more details or to RSVP.

Cinder– 4th Friday, 7 p.m., 721 East 55th Street, Indianapolis. A SIG for the Gen X and Gen Y crowd. Contact Ethan Blocker-Smith at MensaCinder@gmail.com.

For last minute changes to events check the Central Indiana Mensa group on Meetup.com. http://www.meetup.com/central-indiana-mensa

July 2017 MIND calendar items due 6/3/17 to: biltmore@topdogcom.com.

Four To The Fore

George Havnes, RVC4

This month's column marks the end of my 2015-2017 term as your RVC. I am grateful to all the Mensans in Region 4 who worked alongside me to serve other Mensans and our organization. I am thankful for the camaraderie and friendships I've developed with many of you during my tenure as your RVC this past term.

The July 2017 RVC4 column will be one of two things: The first scenario will be a continuance of "Four to the Fore" indicating a successful reelection for me as your Regional Vice Chair. The other scenario will be a new



RVC taking the helm and giving the column a new title and new direction. Whichever scenario occurs, Region 4 will continue to be nine awesome local groups.

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Petra's Punny Page

Petra Ritchie

- 1 Theatrical performance about puns: a play on words.
- 2 Understands: situated below the bleachers.
- 3 Fishing net: a lot of little holes tied together.
- 4 Fitness instructor: works with figures.
- 5 Fireproof job: father is boss.

Have some clever puns to contribute? Email: petraritchie@msn.com

Books On The Runway

Margy Lancet Fletcher

Title: The Birds of Pandemonium: Life Among the

Exotic and the Endangered **Author:** Michele Raffin

Year: 2014

Book Description: Pandemonium is defined in my trusty Oxford American dictionary as "uproar, utter confusion." But, as aviculturist Michele Raffin demonstrates in *The Birds of Pandemonium*, her high-spirited and passionate account of rewards and



challenges of nurturing 40 species of rare birds, cacophony can be a joyful noise. Each of these birds has a distinct, endearing personality, with varying degrees of devilry, romantic devotion, wariness, resourcefulness, and tenacity - definitive evidence of native intelligence and emotional depth. The story of Pandemonium is also one of evolution: the author's from an animal-loving businesswoman who took pity on an injured pigeon to a respected avicultural expert and founder of a non-profit bird conservation organization; and Pandemonium Aviaries from a small, primitive collection of homemade and discarded cages to an expansive, fully-equipped facility. Additionally, the author relates intriguing information about the relevance of birds in human culture (see the excerpt below) and the effects - often devastating - of human behavior on bird populations. Michael Kern's dazzling photographs of the residents of Pandemonium Aviaries are a vivid and poignant reminder of what we will miss should these glorious creatures permanently disappear.

Has this book changed the way you think, your attitude toward life, or even your life itself? If so, how? My eclectic literary tastes have directed me along a variety of migratory paths, but occasionally come home to roost in avian territory because of my lifelong affinity for birds. I found this magnificent virtual tour of a highly unique aviary, courtesy of an adept writer who entertains while imparting wisdom, an exhilarating escape from despair into a celestial realm of beauty and redemption.

Who should definitely read this book? Why? Amateur and professional ornithologists top the list, which also includes life science and history enthusiasts, environmental activists, and even mystery lovers. After all, what is more exciting than the rescue of a hapless creature - or species - from the jaws of death?

How long might it take to read this book? This book is teeming with

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intriguing characters - both avian and human - and imagery as vibrant as the exotic birds featured within. The captivated reader will fly through the pages of this modest-sized memoir in just a day or two.

Provide a short characteristic section, an awesome sentence, or an inspiring quote: "Before there were lab rats, pigeons contributed to groundbreaking scientific research. The evolutionary theorist Charles Darwin was fascinated by pigeons. In 1855, he began raising specialty breeds such as pouters, fantails, short-faced tumblers, and carriers at his home in England. In his masterwork, On the Origin of the Species, he declared that 'the diversity of the breeds is something astonishing'... Darwin's study of pigeon genetics as a means to explore his theory of natural selection has just received an amazing update: Genome scientists are now sequencing DNA in forty pigeon breeds to study just how evolution works. Nearly 150 years later, these new genetic studies support Darwin's contention that all pigeon breeds are descendants of the rock dove, a bird that once ranged from Asia to Europe and North Africa... Pigeon behavior helped shape modern psychology. B. F. Skinner's work in the field of cognitive behavior proved the power of operant conditioning by experimenting with pigeons. During World War II, Skinner also began training his lab birds to peck at silhouettes of known enemy targets intended to create - yes - the pigeonguided missile. He whirled his feathered cadets in centrifuges, subjecting them to increased g-forces, loud noises, and flashing lights. Mercifully, for birds and humans, the project was abandoned."

Additional Remarks: In view of our current administration's blatant, tragic disregard for our environment, saving the loveliest birds on our planet from extinction is a cause we can support wholeheartedly and with a clear conscience. For more information on Pandemonium Aviaries, please visit the website: www.pandemoniumaviaries.org. It is up to us to ensure the quality of life on earth, and this is an excellent place to start. Have a heavenly summer.



More Mensa Cares!





Central Indiana Mensa ExCom 3/21/17

The regular monthly meeting of the Central Indiana Mensa ExCom was held at Midwest Internet on Tuesday, March 21, 2017.

LocSec Jan Pfeil Doyle called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm. Members present were Jon Applegate, Ethan Blocher-Smith, Jan Pfeil Doyle, Ann Hake, Diane O'Brien, Karen Wilczewski, Kurt Williams, Bob Zdanky, and Karen Zwick.

The committee reviewed the minutes of the February ExCom meeting. Karen Zwick moved that the minutes be accepted as presented. Jon Applegate seconded the motion, and the motion was carried.

The committee reviewed the Treasurer's report. Jon Applegate moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as presented. Diane O'Brien seconded the *Continued on next page*

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motion, and the motion was carried.

The membership report is STILL not available while the National computers are being revamped. Angry muttering ensued.

Old Business

Outdoor Gathering: The OG will be held in the customary location in Versailles State Park in southern Indiana, May 19-21, 2017. Registrations remain open. We will not have an RG or OG in 2018 in order that we may concentrate our energies on the 2018 AG to be held in Indianapolis. The RG and OG are expected to resume in 2019.

2018 Annual Gathering: Planning continues steadily. The theme/naming contest had nearly 200 entries and choosing was a delightful exercise for the committee (Jan Pfeil Doyle, Teresa Gregory, Ann Hake, Kurt Williams, and Karen Wilczewski). The choice for the name, theme, and publicity campaign will be presented to the planning committee at National for final approval, and winner(s) will be announced subsequently.

Culture Quest team registration deadline is March 31. Culture Quest itself will take place on Sunday, April 30, 2017 at 4:00 pm.

New Business

Jan Pfeil Doyle has a number of old address labels in her possession that need to be discarded in a manner that protects the individuals' privacy. The possibility of shredding the labels (and the cost thereof) was discussed. Jon Applegate stated that he would be able to burn the labels, and this course was accepted.

American Mensa has created a nationwide day of service for April 29, 2017 called *MensaCares!* Local groups or individual Mensans are encouraged to undertake community service on this day. CIM's project will be to clean at the Link Observatory in Mooresville.

Diane O'Brien, the Assistant Gifted Children Coordinator, is looking for ideas for places to visit and activities for the gifted families / children program. Various ideas were discussed. Any additional suggestions would be welcomed.

There being no other business, Karen Zwick made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen Wilczewski seconded the motion. The motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Hake, Secretary

Treasurer's Report

Karen Zwick, Treasurer

Balance Sheet (as of 04/17/2017)

Bank Accounts	03/20/2017	04/17/2017
Checking – Regular	\$7,205.21	\$6,372.04
Checking – Scholarship	906.50	906.50
Checking – Youth Membership	69.34	69.34
Checking – RG/OG Fund	9,379.47	9,434.47
Checking – Youth Activity Fund	489.40	489.40
Total Assets	\$18,049.92	\$17,271.75

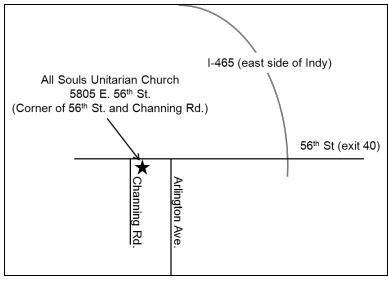
Profit & Loss Statement (03/21/2017 – 04/17/2017)

Income	
401.3 – OG Income	55.00
Total Income	\$55.00
Expense	
501.1 – Monthly Gathering Hospitality	89.43
505 – Food for ExCom/MIND Bending (Feb and Mar)	197.28
505.1 – MIND Printing (Apr)	325.84
505.2 – MIND Postage	200.62
510.1 – New Member Dinners	20.00
Total Expenses	\$833.17

Mensa Monthly Gathering Location All Souls Unitarian Church, The Beattie Room, 5805 E. 56th St., Indianapolis

- From I-465 on the east side of Indianapolis, take the 56th St exit west (exit 40).
- Turn left on Channing Rd (1.2 miles from the I-465 exit).
- The church parking lot is on your left.
- · Go to the Beattie Room.





Region 4 RVC

George Haynes RVC4@us.mensa.org,

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(812) 825-2080 (answering machine)

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Kokomo Vacant

Lafayette Vacant

Muncie Vacant

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Gifted Children David Bonner, gcc@kids.indymensa.org, (317) 973-0258

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