WWII veteran casts final vote.

AAPIs vie for key government offices.
BRIDGING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Participants in last year’s Bridging Communities Program viewed Japanese American history firsthand at Manzanar.

LOS ANGELES — The Japanese American Citizens League in partnership with Kizuna, the Greater Los Angeles Area chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress (NCRR) is kicking off the fifth annual Bridging Communities Program.

The Bridging Communities Program seeks to educate, inform and connect Japanese American and American Muslim youths by synthesizing their differences and commonalities through interactive workshops and discussions on topics including identity, culture, religion, civil rights, community history, advocacy and community service.

Open to high school students of all ethnicities, the program was established in 2008 by JACL, CAIR and NCRR in response to numerous incidents involving the discrimination of the Muslim American community in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks. Recognizing the similarities that Japanese Americans faced in the aftermath of Pearl Harbor, Bridging Communities was created to build solidarity and partnership between these two cultures.

Participants will meet on six Saturdays from 9 a.m.-1 p.m. beginning in February and concluding in June. Sessions will be held at CAIR’s office in Anaheim, the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center in Los Angeles and the Islamic Society of Orange County in Garden Grove. Students will engage in workshops and activities that enhance their understanding of identity, culture, religious affiliation and Asian American and American Muslim history. An overnight pilgrimage to Manzanar National Historic Site near one Pine, Calif., also is planned.

The program’s goal is to empower participants with an increased understanding of their own identity and help them gain the leadership skills, cultural and religious sensitivity that will propel them forward as mindful civic leaders in their communities.

For more information or to register online, please contact Emily Nishido, Bridging Communities intern, at (213) 973-4605 or email emily@kizuna-la.org.

COLLEGIATE JAPANESE AMERICAN INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCES ONE-DAY CONFERENCE IN NOVEMBER

Glenn Omatsu, a lecturer in Asian American Studies and the Educational Opportunity Program at California State University, Northridge, will serve as the conference’s keynote speaker, and panels will include Kathy Masaoka of Nikkei for Civil Rights and Redress, Diane Ujiiye of APIsCAN and Gary Mayeda of JACL P.S.W.

For more information, contact Eri Kameyama, program associate, or call (213) 626-4471. For an online registration form, visit www.jacpsw.org.

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

Washingon, D.C. — Plans are currently underway for the 2013 National JACL Convention in Washington, D.C. The convention, set for July 24-26, will be held in commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 (The Redress Bill), which allowed for a Presidential apology and reparations for 110,000 Japanese Americans who were forcibly removed from their West Coast homes and unjustly incarcerated during World War II.

At the request of JACL Executive Director Priscilla Ouchida, the National Archives is releasing Executive Order 9066 and the Civil Liberties Act for a private viewing reception on July 25. The reception, which will be open to convention attendees and invited guests, will bring together the two documents for the first time. Guests also will have private access to the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and exhibits in the Public Vault.

In order to encourage the attendance and participation of as many individuals as possible, convention registration fees will be kept to a minimum. This schedule should also allow for the participation of Congressional members and key personnel in the U.S. government.

The 2013 National JACL Convention will take place at the Renaissance Hotel. Additional convention information will be released in the next few months.

NATIONAL JACl CONVENTION WILL CELEBRATE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CIVIL LIBERTIES ACT; NATIONAL ARCHIVES SET TO DISPLAY EO 9066

By F.C. Staff

Jason Hata was selected by JACL as the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) and the Civil Liberties Act for a private viewing reception on July 25. The reception, which will be open to convention attendees and invited guests, will bring together the two documents for the first time. Guests also will have private access to the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Bill of Rights and exhibits in the Public Vault.

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JASON HATA IS AWARDED JACL NORMAN Y. MINETA FELLOWSHIP

By F.C. Staff

The fellowship, which is funded by AARP and Southwest Airlines, is named in honor of Norman Y. Mineta, former U.S. secretary of transportation. Hata has been working out of the JACL’s Washington, D.C. office on leadership programming and public policy initiatives.

Jason Hata won JACL’s 2012 Mineta Yasui Oratorical Competition.

Florin JACL congratulates scholarship recipient
John Kanemoto

Polaris Tours
Prentes:
2013 Tour Schedule

Mar. 19 ~ Apr. 03 New Zealand & Australia

Apr. 01 ~ Apr. 10 Spring Japan

Apr. 09 ~ Apr. 21 Beautiful South Korea

Apr. 19 ~ Apr. 28 Holland & Luxembourg & Belgium

May 12 ~ May 22 Along the Japan Sea Coast: San Francisco to Fukuoka

May 17 ~ May 28 Northern Spain

May 18 ~ Jun. 02 Ireland & Scotland

Mar. or Apr. or May Summer Las Vegas Show: TBA

Jun. 21 ~ Jun. 29 Cape Cod & The Islands:

“Nantucket, Martha’s Vineyard, Newport”

Jul. 03 ~ Jul. 12 Japan By Train:
Hiroshima, Kyoto, Osaka,
Kanazawa, Kyoto, Tokyo

Sep. 09 ~ Sep. 20 Tohoku & Hokkaido:
“Simplistic & Natural Beauty”

Sep. 20 ~ Oct. 02 England & Wales & Scotland

Oct. 04 ~ Oct. 08 Aluequerque Balloon Fiesta

Oct. 09 ~ Oct. 18 Treasures of Tuscany & Provence:
“France & Italy: Plus Monaco”

Oct. 19 ~ Oct. 31 Chilean Fjords & Patagonia & Easter Island

Oct. 21 ~ Oct. 30 Autumn Japan:

“Takayama, Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takyama, Tokyo”

Kii Peninsula & Shikoku & Okinawa:

Koyasan, Kii Kamakura

Nov. 06 ~ Nov. 22 Winter Las Vegas Show: TBA

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WHAT'S THE BEEF?

By John Tazuchi

World War II veteran Frank Tanabe receives help from his daughter, Barbara, to complete his absentee ballot while his wife, Setsuko, sits in the foreground. Sadly, Tanabe passed away on Oct. 24.

Honolulu — A photograph of a 93-year-old World War II veteran casting his last ballot has captured the hearts of millions of internet users.

The photo, shown Frank Tanabe lying in a hospital bed at home as his daughter, Barbara Tanabe, helps him fill out his absentee ballot. A half-million people saw the picture on Reddit after his granddaughter posted it there on Oct. 18, making it one of the most popular items on the social media network for a day after.

"True Patriotism," was the top-rated comment on the post. "This is America. Amen," was next, followed by "Thank you, Citizen."

Doctors diagnosed Tanabe with an inoperable cancer tumor in his liver two months ago. He's been in hospice care for the past three weeks at his daughter's home. His condition has been deteriorating, and he's been speaking little lately.

Tanabe had been determined to vote regardless, eagerly asking when the ballot would be arriving in the mail, his daughter said. She kept telling him, "Don't worry, it's coming." He filled it out immediately when it landed in the mailbox on Oct. 17.

WHERE'S THE BEEF?

By John Tazuchi

What is it, I wonder, that in some quarters of the JA community there is so much animosity against the JACL? If it's based on World War II and everything that happened then, I get it. After all, I grew up with some of the residual anger that the fliers felt and some for good reason.

But that was such a long time ago. That's a continual flogging of a dead horse that has been dead for more than 60 years.

Maybe it's the age-old feeling that the JACL is an elitist organization, an impression that seems to have come from so many of its members being college graduates and career professionals. There are rumblings and grumblings in the community, but most of our outspoken critics are themselves professionals of one sort or another. Therefore, that can't be it.

Or, maybe it's that our critics see the JACL as too big and connected that it has lost touch with the community — that we don't have a pulse in the community. There might be some truth to that among some chapters in places such as Los Angeles and San Francisco where the communities are so large, but there are a lot of chapters in those areas and many are tied closely to the community. And outside of California, the JACL often is the community.

So, where's the beef?

Is it the fact that in its early days, the JACL took on city and state governments to enforce discriminatory laws aimed at Japanese Americans and other Asian groups, and in its success in doing so, maybe revealed a bit too much in its achievements? These are 18- to 21-year-olds among those chapters in those areas and many are tied closely to the community.

So, where's the beef?

> See VETERAN on page 8

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Poston Elementary School Unit 1 at the Colorado River Relocation Center in Arizona was named a national historic landmark by U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on Oct. 17.

The Poston Elementary School Unit 1 was nominated by the National Park Service on the grounds that "the property is significant in the areas of politics and government (The Relocation Decision), ethnic heritage (Japanese American history) and social history (History of Minorities in the U.S.)."

Poston was the second of 10 concentration camps established for the confinement of Japanese Americans during World War II, and it is the only camp that retains an above-ground complex of elementary school buildings.

This year, 26 national historic landmarks and one national historic landmark were designated as places that possess exceptional value and quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States. There are only 2,527 national historic landmarks sites across the country that bear this national distinction.

The National Historic Landmarks Program, established in 1935, is administered by the National Park Service on behalf of the Secretary of the Interior.

Sen. Daniel K. Akaka Receives JAVA's Lifetime Achievement Award

Washington, D.C. — Sen. Daniel K. Akaka (D-Hawaii) was honored with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his major accomplishments on behalf of veterans by the Japanese American Veterans Assn.

Sen. Akaka, America's first senator of Native Hawaiian ancestry and the only Chinese American member of the U.S. Senate, received a framed citation, an inscribed desk clock and a replica of the Congressional Gold Medal that was bestowed last year upon the 100th Battalion, 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the Military Intelligence Service.

"When I became a U.S. senator, I was determined to correct the injustice done to persons of Japanese ancestry, particularly those who served in the uniform of our country," Akaka said. In addition, Akaka commended JAVA and other Japanese American veterans organizations and museums for publicizing the Japanese American World War II experience to the American people.

"You have championed issues that are important to veterans. You are a true friend and supporter of veterans and their families," said JAVA President Gerald Yamada of Akaka.


Floyd Mori Named Interim CEO of APAICS

Washington, D.C. — JACL National Executive Director Emeritus S. Floyd Mori has agreed to serve as interim president and CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies. Mori will replace outgoing CEO Gloria Chao while a search committee is formed to find a permanent leader for APAICS. Chao will remain president and CEO through November.

Mori, who retired in June from the JACL after serving as executive director for seven years, will continue APAICS's mission to promote Asian American and Pacific Islander participation and representation at all levels of the political process.

"APAICS continues to play a critical role in developing new leadership in the API community," Mori said. "I appreciate the opportunity to work with members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and the API community in this new role as interim CEO."

Compiled by R.G. Sniff and JACL
ARE ASIAN AMERICAN VOTERS UNDECIDED BETWEEN OBAMA AND ROMNEY?

A recent survey shows that many Asian Americans are undecided about which presidential candidate to support in the upcoming election.

By Nela J. Ke
Reporter

The 2012 presidential election is less than a week away, but a recent survey indicates that nearly one-third of Asian Americans polled are undecided between President Barack Obama and Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney.

Officials with the National Asian American Survey interviewed 3,576 Asian Americans and found that 43 percent are in favor of Obama and 24 percent support Romney. But 32 percent of Asian Americans are undecided about which candidate to cast their vote for.

The ethnic group with the strongest support for Obama, according to the survey released on Sept. 25, is the Indian American community. Romney supporters are comprised mostly of Filipino Americans, according to the survey. About 45 percent of the Japanese American community polled favor Obama, and Indian American voters favor Romney.

But some Asian American voters say they are confused about which presidential candidate to support on Nov. 6.

Most of my family is in the military and the other part is law enforcement, and so traditionally, they have voted conservative," said Julia DeCharme, 32, chair of the Asian American Republican Coalition, who is Filipino and Mexican American. "All of our family is Catholic, and so that's probably why none of us are voting for Obama."

Some 38 percent of Filipino American voters support Romney, according to the National Asian American Survey. In the 2008 election, the survey indicates that Filipino Americans favored Obama over Sen. John McCain.

As a son of two Chinese American immigrant parents, Kevin Huang, 30, says he's casting his ballot for Obama because of "the caring for middle-class Americans."

"For me, the choice is really clear in this election," said Huang, a student studying politics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "He talked about hope" four years ago and "I still believe there's still hope for another four years for Obama."

"The Asian American community is the fastest-growing ethnic group in key states, according to a survey released in June by the Pew Research Center. Some 36 percent of immigrants arriving in the United States as of 2012 are Asian, according to the U.S. Census data."

Asian American community leaders say it is crucial that political parties engage the Asian American voting bloc in the 2012 election.

"Taking these votes for granted in the short run will have a bigger impact in the long run because they're on a fast rise and they're very loyal," Asian American Justice Center President and Executive Director Voei Manu said in a press release. "They're looking for leaders who will stand up for them and address their issues."

The Asian Pacific American Institute in another recent poll found that the Asian American community is untapped by political parties in states such as California, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, and Virginia. The poll, which was conducted in partnership with APA Vote and AAPI, surveyed 717 registered Asian American voters from April 5-15. The findings show that only 23 percent say their vote has been contacted by the Democratic Party in the past two years and 17 percent by the Republican Party.

"Every vote counts, especially in a tight election if AAPIs vote at the same level as they did in 2008, it could mean increasing margins for the party they prefer," said Christine Chen, APA Vote executive director, in a press release. "Political leaders must engage this rapidly growing voting bloc in the conversation. We're working with dozens of community-based groups to get AAPIs more engaged but locally we've barely been contacted."

The economy and employment — followed by healthcare and education — are the top priority issues for the Asian American community according to the poll conducted by the National Asian American Survey.

"Why is he attractive to our community? Well, No. 1, we have a lot of Asian American business owners and besides business, we own a lot of restaurants here," said DeCharme, who lives in La Jolla, Calif., about why he's voting for Romney. "The No. 1 fear is we don't know what's going to happen tax wise, employee wise and health care wise. People don't want to hire because they don't want to shell out the extra money if they're forced to pay health taxes." "Other Asian American voters say they identify more with Obama because of his background growing up in Hawaii and Indonesia (where he lived for four years). But some voters say that the presidential candidate who successfully engages the Asian American voting bloc could swing the election.

"We might seem like a small portion of the population, but we're still a margin of victory that politicians can still win in the election," Huang said. "I think Obama has done really well with the Asian American vote because he understands the Asian American population, coming from Indonesia where he was living and having an Asian American sister."

"I think that other politicians need to acknowledge that Asian Americans are a really big and powerful voting bloc in the American election."

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Huang is a student at the University of California, San Diego. He is also a member of the Pacific Islands Caucus of Asian American Community Advocates.
CITIZEN

CALIFORNIA

A NATIONAL GUIDE TO NOTABLE COMMUNITY EVENTS

CALENDAR

>>EAST

A Community Briefing on Tule Lake Pilgrimage
BOSTON, MA
Nov. 13, 6-9 p.m.
Tufts Medical Center, Wolff Auditorium
800 Washington Center
Members of Genki Spark will present a report on their experiences during the recent four-day pilgrimage to Tule Lake in California.
Info: www.thegenkispark.org

Daniel Ho Hosts a Free Mini Guitar Workshop
SAN MARCO, CA
Nov. 5, 7 p.m.
Guitar Center
53 W. Hillsdale Blvd.
Hawaii musician Daniel Ho and the Guitar Center invite the public to attend a free guitar clinic and live performance, followed by a Q&A session.
Info: Call (855) 312-8270

>>PNW

Denso Teacher Training Workshops
SEATTLE, WA
Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
Wing Luke Museum of the Asian American Experience
719 S. King St.
Denso workshop co-facilitators Tom Ikeda and Janet Hayakawa will teach participants how to use materials to develop analysis and reasoning skills. This workshop is for educators and preservice teachers only. Teachers who complete the workshop, create a lesson plan and complete a post-workshop survey will receive a $100 stipend.
Info: Call (206) 623-5124

Asian Pacific Community Counseling's Dragon Multicultural Fair
SACRAMENTO, CA
Nov. 15, 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Riverside Elks Lodge No. 6
6446 Rivercrest Blvd.
The Asian Pacific Community Counseling's annual Dragon Multicultural Fair will feature local and Hawaiian artists' wares such as T-shirts, quilts, artwork and more. All of the proceeds will benefit APCC.
Info: Call (916) 392-6783

Contra Costa JACL Food Demonstration
EL CERRITO, CA
Nov. 17, 1-3:30 p.m.
East Bay Free Methodist Church
5395 Polk Ave.
The Contra Costa JACL Food Demo will be led by Yoko Olggaard and her dad.
Info: Call (510) 232-5410 or visit www.ebfmo.org

Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn.'s Japanese Film Forum
SACRAMENTO, CA
Dec. 8, 2-4 p.m.
Asian Community Center
7275 Park City Drive
Cost: $5/General admission
Rev. Bob Oshita of Sacramento Buddhist Church will discuss Japanese and American rituals related to death by using clips from the 2008 film "Departures." The event is sponsored by the Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn.
Info: Call (916) 427-2841 or email jkpo21@yahoo.com

>>NCWNP

Asian American Community Center
SACRAMENTO, CA
Nov. 12, 6-9 p.m.
Japanese Language and Culture Program Event
Asian American Community Center
7275 Park City Drive
Cost: $5/General admission
Rev. Bob Oshita of Sacramento Buddhist Church will discuss Japanese and American rituals related to death by using clips from the 2008 film "Departures." The event is sponsored by the Jan Ken Po Cultural Assn.
Info: Call (916) 427-2841 or email jkpo21@yahoo.com

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Codina, Josephine, 77, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 20, she is survived by her husband, Frank; children, Carlos (Nancy), Yoandra (Renato) Salazar, Martin (Valetta), Mary (Robert) Cotsie and Diana (Benjamin) Marquez, two sisters, one brother, 15 gc, 6 ggc.

Hatana, Issa "Jim," 76, Torrance, CA, Sept. 16, he is survived by his wife, Tomie Hatana, brother, Masakazu (Reiko) Hatana, sisters-in-law, Toy Hatana, Anna Taka, Hanako Koshyama, Tsuyeko Shishido, brothers-in-law, Yoshio (Kay) Shishido and Kei Wada.

Inaba, Mitsuru, 77, Riverside, CA, Aug. 14, he served in the U.S. Army for two years, during WWII his family was interned at Manzanar, he is survived by his wife, Meiko, son, Douglas (Reisa) daughter, Laurie Oshiro (Gary); sisters, Midori Fuji, Haru Kuroyama, Sefu Hata and Loka Inaba, brothers, Akira Inaba and Anthony Inaba; 5 gc.

Ito, James Osamu, 97, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 17, Jim is a veteran of the MlS; he is survived by his wife, Toshi, daughter, Chrystyn Kodama, son, Lutine Ito; 7 gc.

Jinbe, Peggy, Akio, 88, Los Angeles, CA, Oct. 2, he served by his husband, Seishu, children, Bonnie (Glenn) Wate, Iris (Wiburu) Takashima and Joyce (Kirk) Edom, sister-in-law, Chieko Chomori and Emi; 6 gc, 9 ggc.

Kimura, May Ayame, 96, also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives; 9 gc, 17 ggc.

Koyama Kubo, Eniko "Emmy," 91, Hardin, MT, Sept. 22; Emmy was predeceased by her parents, Shiro and Yashiko Fujita Kubo, brother, Ben; husband, Tom; Tom, great-grandfather, Samantha MacDiarmid, and in-law David MacDiarmid; she is survived by her daughters, Carol MacDiarmid, Kathryn (Clarence) Wandler, Bernice (Gay) Cook, Marion (David) Robinson and Elaine (ScottZimmerman), sisters-in-law, Mary, Harry (Shen), Robert (Nadine); 30 gc, 33 ggc.

Saito, Larry Y., 92, Portland, OR, Sept. 26, formerly of Nycsa, WWII MIS veteran, recipient of the Congressional Gold Medal, predeceased by his wife, Mary, survived by daughters, Pamela Saito, Jeanne Saito Ahabara, Sonia (John) Kreag and Lori (Steve) Abbott, sister, Chiyo Kato, sisters-in-law, Kae Saito, Masae Saito, nieces and nephews, 4 gc.

Shibuya, Isabel Tsuneko, 91, Los Angeles, Sept. 20, she is survived by her sister, Laura Yaeko Shibuya, also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Takasugi, Michio "Mich," 90, Oct. 9, she was born to Roy Baldwin Park, CA, Oct. 12, she is survived by her husband, Seiichi Kishaba; children, Frances Miyake, Marion (Allen) Tesoro, Raymond (Terry) Kishaba, Linda (Orlando) Montoya, Milton (Sharon) Kishaba, also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives, 5 gc, 2 ggc.

Kishaba, Otome, 92, Baldwin Park, CA, Oct. 12, she was predeceased by her beloved husband, George, and her son, Ronald; she is survived by her son, Gary K. (Elaine) Saito and Bradley (Debbie), brother-in-law, Ken (Mary), daughter-in-law Doronan Saito, sisters, Clara Ok, Alice Nakano, Isabell Ishihara, Florance (Leo) Uchida, Amy (Max) Muggi, Frances Yamomoto, Helen (Don) Sorayama and Glen-dine (Don) Ishimaru, also survived by many nieces, nephews and other relatives, 5 gc, 2 ggc.

John Jiro Saito
July 4, 1929-Oct. 16, 2012
Born and raised in Los Angeles, John Saito was interned at Poston before serving in the U.S. Army, he worked with the Los Angeles County Probation Department and Human Relations Commission and served as regional director during the redress campaign with JACL; he is survived by his wife, Carol Ann; children, John Mark and Jennifer (Brian), grandchildren, Hayley Ann and Joey Fukui, brother, Shinobu "Doc" (Yoko) Saito; sister-in-law, Winifred (Arthur) Uyesato, and nephews, Michael, Gerald, Ronald, Phillip and Robert Uyesato.

Elaine Reiko Akagi
Seattle JACL co-president Elaine Reiko Akagi passed away on Oct. 18 in Silver Spring, MD. Born in Detroit, Mich., she began her work with JACL; when she joined the youth council of the Detroit Chapter. In 1987, she moved to Seattle. She was presented the JACLer of the Biennium Award at this year's National Convention. A celebration of her life will be held on Dec. 8 at 6 p.m. at the Nisei Veterans Committee Hall. Rememberances can be made to the Seattle JACL Elaine Akagi Scholarship Fund, the King County Animal Humane Society, the Japanese Cultural & Community Center of Washington or the Seattle NVC/NVC Foundation.
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- Personal information concerning healthcare, policy and Social Security.
- Community resources and volunteer programs in every state via local chapters.
- A wealth of AARP member discounts from trusted brands offering savings for hotel, car rental, dining, entertainment, pharmacy, health clubs and retail goods.

Our Beginnings
In 1958, Ethel Percy Andrus, Ph.D., high school principal, founded AARP. She launched a movement that allowed Americans the right to lead a life of independence, dignity and purpose. The result is an organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our members while offering a wide range of unique programs, products and services.

Our AARP Family
We're a non-profit, non-partisan association for people 50+ committed to enhancing lives through information, products and community services. We provide advice and support for financial security, health, community and general well-being. We advocate for Social Security, Medicare, better benefits, employment stability and safer living conditions. With 37 million members strong and growing, we believe in the power of community. As AARP members enjoy the fulfillment and satisfaction of leading lives on their own terms and discovering the best of what's next.

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