



Swedish  
Covenant  
Hospital

FALL 2010

# THE *Caring* TIMES

A SWEDISH COVENANT HOSPITAL PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNAE OF THE SCHOOL OF NURSING

## Dear Nurse Alumnae,

Once again we gathered together to celebrate our School of Nursing, and our friendships, at the annual reunion on Saturday, June 26th. The 50th and 45th anniversary classes from 1960 and 1965 were well represented, each with over 20 women in attendance.

The morning began with a welcome coffee and fellowship time, followed by a Chapel service and tour of the hospital. This year the luncheon was held at the Doubletree Hotel in Skokie. A highlight of the afternoon was the return of Verna (Isaacson) Fogel to lead the Roll Call. Verna celebrated her 70th anniversary and stepped up to the microphone, looking every bit the professional, with her crisply folded SCH cap on her head and her blue wool SCH cape (see p. 4) around her shoulders. Thank you, Verna!

We heard from Mary Shehan, VP of Nursing, about the completion of the hospital's journey toward Magnet designation. Congratulations to today's nursing staff for attaining this prestigious award.

During the business portion of our luncheon, we raised the question of how long our organization can be viable, and where we will continue to hold our yearly luncheons. Our goal and hope is to continue our annual reunions until the last class has their 50th reunion – 2019. As our numbers dwindle, we may move our luncheon gatherings to the hospital. Please read future *Caring Times* to learn the date and location of next year's reunion. If you haven't attended a reunion recently, I encourage you to make plans to join your classmates soon for one of our SCH reunions. Like all good things, there will come a time when a yearly meeting will be no more.

Thanks to Cam Johnson, our liaison to the hospital, for helping to coordinate hotel accommodations, luncheon details and alumnae mailings. Contact him if you need an address of a classmate, wish to offer comments for the *Caring Times*, or have ideas and suggestions to keep our association up and running.

I am forever grateful to be part of the "Sisterhood" that comprises the Swedish Covenant Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association.

Susan Tanner  
Class of '68



# 2010 Reunion



**Class of '40**  
Verna (Isaacson) Fogel



**Class of '45**  
First Row: Phyllis (Churchill) Roberg  
Second Row: Janet (Hansen) Tebo, Doris Ahlstedt



**Class of '50**  
Jane (Brassington) Rigsbee,  
Lois (Lindblom) Bridges



**Class of '55**  
First row: Miriam Freeman,  
Carol (Hamstra) Fitzgerald,  
Ruth Ann Jacobson  
Second Row: Beverly  
(Johnson) Sparks, Betty  
Merington, Patricia (Moxon)  
Martin



### **Class of '60**

First Row: Marjorie (Hartog) Vander Aarde, Lorene (Anderson) Schultz, Marcia (Goodrich) Lee, Class Faculty Advisor Alma (Joel) Labunski, Betty (Rogers) Sanders, Barbara (Larson) Diedrich, Kathe (Reitenbach) Baffes, Bette (Haugen) Hoerth  
 Second Row: Mary (Palmquist) Haubold, Marian (Holmgren) Ecklund, Carole (Baker) Egly, Susan (Madden) Neumarkel, Carol (Hall) Gemelli, Rhoda (Harlow) Hess, Vera (Ivey) Franklin, Carolyn (Anderson) Deboer, Joanne (Yezeck) Springstroh, Marge (Tripp) Taylor, Diana (Dye) Erickson, Jana (Gilman) Price, Ardyce (Anderson) Johnson



### **Class of '65**

First Row: Joan (Johnson) Bickner, Cheryl (Johnson) Bengtson, Margaret Olsen, June (Wilmington) Smith, Carol (Fellows) Josefson, Jan (Thompson) Schmidt, Margaret (Lambert) Markey, Jill Jarrett  
 Second Row: Phyllis (Smith) Roeder, Jean (Gustafson) Mark, Phyllis (Edfeldt) Johnson, Helen (Ford) Rausch, Pat (Olson) Buckner, Norma Singer, Margaret (Nelson) Krehbiel, Phyllis Anderson, Joyce (Coryell) Weinbrenner, Barbara (De Jonge) Bergst, Tina (Lautt) McKnight, Darolyn (Scott) Christiansen, Judy (Kiser) Pyne, Wanda (Peterson) Mango



**Verna Fogel shows off her Swedish Covenant cape**



**Carol Olson with missionaries Marge Lachler and Lois Bridges**



**Class of '65 Alumnae enjoying a chat**



**Linda Olson, Dean of North Park University Nursing department, speaks about current trends and practices in nursing education**



Class of '60 ladies looking at their wonderful "memory books"



Celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup> reunion, the class of '60 sings a beautiful song accompanied by Mary Haubold

## Scholarship Information

A reminder to all that our scholarship program is still active! If you have a relative who is currently studying to become a nurse, he/she might be positioned to receive a scholarship from SCHNAA. The primary requirement is to be at least halfway through the nursing program. This usually means they are going into their senior year at school. To receive an application, the student should contact Phyllis Anderson by email at [PRAnderson8@comcast.net](mailto:PRAnderson8@comcast.net) or by phone at (847) 864-0648.

## NURSE ALUM REFLECTION: Life Story of a Nurse and Missionary

### **Jana (Gilman) Price, Class of '60**

**Early History:** My parents, sister and I came to know the Lord when I was 11. Shortly after this I heard about overseas missions and was deeply moved with a desire to serve the Lord in this way. It was during High School, when I had a prolonged illness that I felt the Lord leading me into nursing. I felt a very clear direction to attend Swedish Covenant School of Nursing. I learned so much during those three years and had many memorable experiences as one of the 2nd floor girls. It was more difficult for me



than I had expected and found it very stressful to be examined for all the clinical experiences that we were tested on. The part I loved most about nursing was the puzzle that came together for a diagnosis. I guess it was that same interest that drew me into linguistics a few years later.

**After school:** I worked for one year in Milwaukee's Deaconess Hospital and then entered the New Tribes

Mission's missionary training in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania, where I met my future husband, Joe Price. He had just gotten out of the navy and felt God leading him into foreign missions also. We were married in 1962. We completed our training in 1963 and were asked to be on staff at the NTM Language Institute in Waukesha, WI. Joe worked on maintenance and I taught language, linguistics and field medicine for 5 years. We then began to prepare to go to the field in Venezuela. While awaiting our visas for that country I worked in nursing again, this time in Arkansas, where Joe's parents lived.

In March of 1970 we arrived on the field in Venezuela with our two sons, ages 3 and 5. We worked for 2 ½ years in support work, I taught Spanish to missionaries at that time. At the end of that time our youngest son was born.



That year, 1972, we opened a new work in a previously unreached tribe of Indians called the Panares. We started from scratch; learning a language among a people that spoke only their own language. When we asked permission from the people to move into their village we told them we would bring medicine, teach them to read and write and teach them about God.

The medical work brought many unusual challenges. Not long after we arrived there was a measles epidemic, during which many babies died with respiratory complications. There was one group across the river that we were able to vaccinate and keep the disease from spreading. There were many opportunities and necessities for doing more than I had trained for. I did a lot of suturing of wounds, from a toddler who split his scalp open with a knife given to him to play with, to my own son's hand after a machete accident. I then moved into an advisory role with my husband and our coworkers sharing the dispensary hours.

I began language study by writing down everything the people said to me, making a guess at the meaning, cataloging all of the phrases. I analyzed all of this language material and made up language lessons for the other 3 team members. I also processed the sounds of the language to develop an alphabet, and then wrote literacy primers, which Joe used to teach the men to read and write and then to teach them how to teach their wives and children.

In 1974 we were finally able to present the gospel to this group and a little later there was an overwhelming response. I began the translation project in 1980. The New Testament was completed in 2002, Old Testament Portions in 2005 and the Jesus film in 2006.

In 1990 I became the translation consultant and have worked with translators in numerous languages. This has required me to travel to other Latin American countries to help with translation

projects there. I have continued to do this work to date and thrill to see more of God's Word in the hands of our tribal brothers and sisters.

In 2005 we were evicted from all tribal areas in Venezuela by the president of that country. The Panare church remains strong and is reaching out to more of their own people who have not heard the gospel. The same is true of several of the other tribes in Venezuela where missionaries were forced to leave.

Last year I was asked to join the teaching staff of Perspectives on the World Christian Movement; teaching one of the 15 lessons in the course. I teach Pioneer Church Planting. This class is held twice a year.

We officially retired this year and have been enjoying our 7 grandchildren. Five of them live near us in Florida and the other

two just a 7 hour drive away in Atlanta.

Being in the jungle all those years I lost touch with SCH alumni. Recently I found one of my dearest friends from those years, Rhoda Hess, on Facebook, which has led to my being back on the list of the living.

I count it a great privilege to have seen God do amazing things. There have been many struggles and sacrifices, but I would do it all again, I have experienced God's incredible grace and mercy, teaching me and growing me in Him. I am thankful for the part that my nurses' training played in that journey.



## From the Desk of **Mary Shehan, RN** *Senior Vice President, Chief Nursing Officer*



### **Magnet Designation Achieved**

**S**wedish Covenant Hospital has been on a three year journey towards Magnet designation. The Magnet Designation Program recognizes health care organizations that demonstrate excellence in nursing services and adherence to national standards. On May 19, 2010, the American Nursing Credentialing Center announced that SCH is a Magnet hospital.

As the Chief Nursing Officer at Swedish Covenant Hospital, I am very proud of our employees and their dedication and commitment to our patients. Although Magnet recognition is nursing-driven, our journey has clearly been supported by all areas of the organization as well as with our Medical Staff.

It is important to remember that Magnet organizations recruit and retain high caliber nurses, demonstrate improved patient outcomes, achieve employee and patient

satisfaction and are the gold standard of excellence in nursing for which our community will come to rely upon when selecting health care.

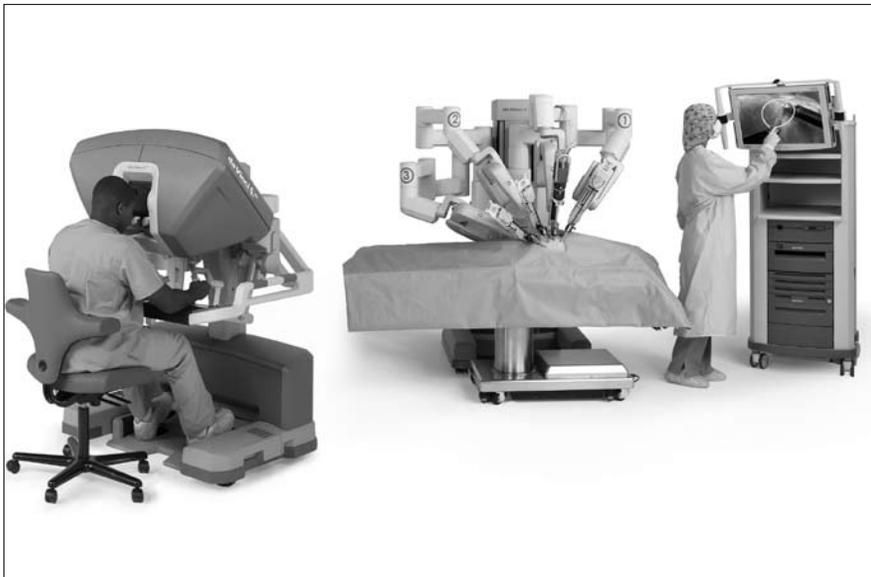
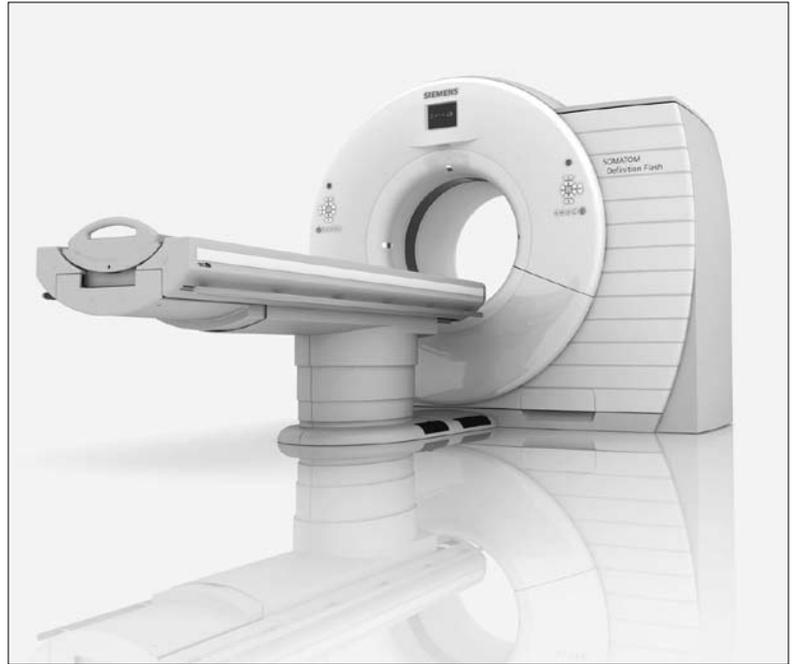
Moving forward, the "bar" for successful re-designation will be higher. On July 14th I presented the nursing staff with their Magnet lapel pins, graciously supported through our Swedish Covenant Foundation Board. As I pinned our long term employees as well as our new employees, I encouraged them to wear their pins proudly. I stated that these pins represent my commitment to support professional development, nursing education and excellence in patient care. I congratulated the nurses on their dedication, hard work, and commitment to continuous improvement. I am very fortunate that Swedish Covenant Hospital administration and Board of Directors support this commitment as they have established the Nursing Education Fund to support nursing today and into the future.

# Technological Advancements at Swedish Covenant Hospital

Swedish Covenant Hospital is now home to the latest in Computed Tomography (CT) technology. The new 16-slice CT scanner is the fastest available and is capable of new minimally invasive tests, including angiography, cardiac imaging, perfusion and advanced vessel imaging. Not only is it the fastest, but also the one with the lowest radiation exposure.

While the new CT scanner represents the most up-to-date technology, it also offers greater comfort for patients by providing a faster scan. The advanced CT technology is part of a completely renovated, patient-centered radiology clinic and expanded lab.

The new architecture also offers improvements in cardiac imaging. The Somatom Definition Flash is the only CT scanner on the market that enables the use of noninvasive cardiology diagnostic techniques as routine applications at the lowest possible radiation exposure levels.



The Hospital also recently acquired the third generation da Vinci Si robotic surgery system for use in various types of surgeries to help patients heal faster.

This technology allows robotically trained SCH surgeons to operate more precisely, efficiently and safely on their patients. In brief, the robot translates the surgeon's natural hand movements on the instrument controls into corresponding micro-movements of instruments positioned inside the patient through small incisions. These small incisions and precise movements mean better outcomes for patients through reductions in trauma, blood loss, risk of infection, post-operative pain and average length of stay.

These investments in innovative technologies, which are keys to improving the quality of care provided to patients, are just a couple of examples of how Swedish Covenant Hospital is growing to serve the needs of the community and focused on excelling as the leading independent hospital in Chicago.

# SCH Nursing Alumnae Board Updates

In 2010, the Board said goodbye to two of its longtime wonderful leaders: Judy (Behl) Cruz (class of '68), who moved to Florida, and Darline Wilke (class of '52), who sadly passed away on May 24th (see page 10). We miss them and thank them for the many years of loyal service. Fortunately, two SCH nursing graduates have stepped up to help. We are grateful to see the passion and enthusiasm they have for the Swedish Covenant Hospital Nursing Alumnae Association. Please welcome new Board members Phyllis Anderson and Sharon (Lindblom) Eager!

## **Phyllis Anderson, class of '65**

Phyllis graduated from the North Park College/Swedish Covenant Hospital five-year program that offered both a BSN and an RN. She worked in the SCH intensive care unit for several years before moving to a supervisory position in intensive care at Illinois Masonic Hospital. Still later, at Bethesda Hospital (Chicago), she worked as a clinical specialist in wound care and started an experimental community outreach program. Using a mobile bus laboratory, she and a respiratory therapist held screening sessions in various community locations. From this point—when it became clear that Bethesda Hospital would close—she went to California for a year as head of a new hospital hospice program. She came back to head the hospice program for the VNA North in Evanston and later other leadership positions there. After earning her MBA from

Lake Forest Graduate School of Management, she held a number of leadership positions in home care and hospice; she still serves as a volunteer in a hospice program, visiting patients and families to help with the difficult times that incurable illness brings. She lives in Evanston, IL, and enjoys friends and family, continued learning and travel.

## **Sharon (Lindblom) Eager, class of '63**

After graduating from SCH School of Nursing, Sharon was determined to become an L&D nurse, but was diverted to Rehab, then to Peds, IV Therapy and Ortho. She married husband, Jim, in 1966 and moved out East in 1970, where Jim attended Western Maryland and received his degree in special education. It was back in Chicago in 1974 where Sharon tried her hand at real estate, but found this too time consuming with four little girls, and resumed nursing in Peds (at home and at the hospital)! Later, following encouragement from Dr. A. R. Peterson, she decided to work at a nursing home where she stayed on as DON for 15 years. Sharon then went on to office nursing, but needed “hands on,” so she became a Rehab/Wound Care nurse at a retirement community named Lake Forest Place. Sharon resides in Deerfield, IL, and is now retired. To her delight, two daughters became nurses, one is in the financial world and the eldest home schools her 3 children. Sharon still keeps busy caring for her family, especially the grandkids, and thanks God for his goodness.

## **A look back at the SCHNAA Board 30 years ago.**

Can anyone identify all of these ladies?



# In Loving MEMORY

Virginia (Erickson) Styrlund '34  
January 15, 2010

Virginia (Palm) Verme '43  
April 29, 2010

Darline Wilke '52  
May 24, 2010

Vineva (Nieman) Yover '52  
May 7, 2009

Della Herzog '65  
June 14, 2010

Charlotte (Heetderks) Lobb '50  
January 13, 2010

Virginia Ohlson '37  
April 10, 2010

Sara (Friesen) Peters '51  
February 5, 2010

Lucille Skarsten '39  
February 15, 2010

Pauline (Peterson) Andrews '31  
April 11, 2009

Eva (Ahlberg) Bradshaw '36  
August 30, 2009

Esther Carberry '61  
December 18, 2009

Doris (Hulten) Erickson '38  
March 27, 2010

AnnCeora (Holtin) Gunnard '43  
June 2, 2009



**Darline J. Wilke (1928-2010)** was a much loved and respected alumna of Swedish Covenant Hospital School of Nursing. Born and raised on the south side of Chicago, Darline “came north” to SCH and received her diploma in nursing from SCH in 1952. She remained connected to SCH and the Nurses’ Alumnae Association all her life.

Dar, as she liked to be called, began her nursing career working in the emergency room at SCH. She then spent a year as a district nurse with the Frontier Nursing Service in Hyden, Kentucky. Students and friends of hers alike enjoyed her stories from that experience. Rural healthcare, and especially FNS became a research interest of hers. She presented papers on the topic in both Sweden and the USA.

Returning from Kentucky, Dar at first resumed her staff position in the ER at SCH. But soon she was promoted to night supervisor, a position she held most of the next 15 years, from 1954-1969, taking a 2-year break in 1958-60 to work as a Community Health Nurse for the Suburban Cook County Department of Public Health.

In 1968, having received her Bachelor’s and Master’s Degrees in Nursing from Loyola University, Dar began teaching in the nursing program at North Park College. She remained on the faculty there, earning a Doctorate in Education from Loyola University in 1988, until her retirement in 1995, and was then granted Professor Emeritus status.

Dar relished her role as academic advisor for pre-nursing and nursing students, and the opportunity it gave her for one-on-one contact with students, who appreciated her encouragement, positive outlook, and cheerfulness.

Dar’s research interests expanded during her academic career to include lifestyle and nursing care of aging adults, and academic advising and success predictors for students. She was certified as a Geriatric Scholar for Illinois Geriatric Education.

Dar was much loved by colleagues and students for her good humor, her ready laugh, her positive and easy-going spirit, and her willingness to learn new things. An example is how readily she took to computers, even joining Face Book in her retirement and teaching computers to the elderly at the Covenant Village retirement center in Northbrook, IL, where she lived her final years.

Dar loved being involved. She belonged to several professional nursing organizations, numerous community groups, served on committees at SCH and NPU, served on the Executive Board for the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, and sang in the choir and was very active at her beloved church, Winnetka Covenant.

Throughout her academic career Dar was an active member of SCHNAA, at various times serving as President, Director, and Board Member. For many years she chaired its Scholarship Committee, and enjoyed the annual Alumnae luncheons.

Other loves of Dar included her dear friend and companion of many years, Velma Wheeler, who preceded her in death, her family and many nieces and nephews, and her cherished cats.

But most of all, Darline Wilke loved and trusted God. This was evident in all her dealings with fellow human beings. She is sorely missed, but she leaves us with wonderful memories and an example of a life lived for God.

*Written by Louise W. Hedstrom*

## **Virginia M. Ohlson (1914-2010)**

was an incredibly influential leader in the realm of nursing and a greatly admired alumna of Swedish Covenant Hospital School of Nursing. The daughter of Swedish immigrants, Virginia grew up living in the North Park neighborhood with her parents and two sisters. They were a devoted family who attended North Park Covenant Church.

Virginia's desire to help people combined with an interest in public health nursing lead her to enroll in nursing school at Swedish Covenant Hospital, where she would serve as president of her class. She claimed, with some amusement, that her entry into the nursing profession must have been preordained from birth. When she began her studies at the Hospital in 1934, the room assigned to her as a student in the converted nurses' dormitory was actually the very same room in which she was born almost two decades earlier.

After several years of working with the Evanston health department, Virginia was recruited to go to Japan to serve as a civilian nurse on staff in the Nursing Affairs Division of the Public Health and Welfare Section of the General Headquarters, Supreme Command for Allied Powers, headed by General Douglas MacArthur. This coincided with MacArthur's invitation to churches in the United States to participate in the rebuilding of Japan and to share American values. Seeing the inadequacies in the hospitals and nursing schools over there, she worked hard to re-establish nursing education, registration, licensure and practice, elevating the standards which had dropped during World War II. On a separate trip to Japan, she served as a key member of a team that studied radiation outcomes of the atomic bomb on the people of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. It is no wonder that in 1991, Virginia was awarded the *Butterfly* award, the Third Order of the Precious Crown, by his Majesty the Emperor of Japan in recognition of her meritorious service to the people of Japan. She was the first nurse, and the first non-Japanese citizen, to receive this very

prestigious honor.

Virginia received other notable awards as well. In 1995, she was recognized by the American Academy of Nursing as one of their "Living Legends." Later, in 2002, Virginia was honored by Swedish Covenant Hospital by receiving its very first Spirit of Compassion Award for her contributions to global health through her lifetime devotion of service to the profession of nursing.

Virginia clearly embraced learning and, according to the Chicago Tribune, "continued to pursue her own higher education. She received a bachelor of science degree from the University of Chicago before leaving on her first foray to Japan. She later received a master's degree and a doctorate in nursing education from the Hyde Park school." While working on her doctoral studies, she joined the faculty at UIC and played a key role in launching a master's degree curriculum at the school.

Dr. Virginia M. Ohlson was a remarkable woman! She was an inspiration and a wonderful role model for so many people. We are proud of the part that Swedish Covenant Hospital's School of Nursing played in launching Virginia's stellar career, a career that embodied compassion in every sense of the word.

Swedish Covenant Hospital shares our love and admiration for Virginia Ohlson. The Hospital is pleased to announce that it is gratefully accepting donations in her name for the *Virginia M. Ohlson Scholarship Fund*, which will serve to help current SCH nurses who are pursuing a master's degree in nursing. Gifts to this endowed fund will make a significant impact in the lives of nurses who, like Virginia, have a passion for helping people and achieving a higher education in the field of nursing. Please use the attached envelope to make a gift to Swedish Covenant Hospital Foundation and indicate Virginia Ohlson on the check's memo line. We appreciate this opportunity to honor and remember the life and achievements of our fellow alum and friend, and encourage you to contact Cam Johnson of the SCH Foundation at (773) 989-6256 or [cjohnson@schosp.org](mailto:cjohnson@schosp.org) for information on how you can participate in a meaningful way.



Virginia M. Ohlson

# THE *Caring* TIMES

is a publication of Swedish Covenant Hospital's Nursing School Alumnae Association and the Foundation Office.

Mark Newton, President and CEO

Editor: Cam Johnson

We try to be as accurate as possible with the information that we have available. Please inform us of any misspelled names or inaccuracies by calling (773) 989-6256. We value your input.

To learn more about the Hospital's current programs, upcoming events or to make a gift in support of Swedish Covenant Hospital, please call (773) 989-6256.

Please send any class notes or address updates to  
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