



March 22, 2023

Building Community Since 1830

50 Bloomfield Avenue, Hartford, CT 06105

Tel: (860) 233-9897 • Email: hartforduussociety@gmail.com

www.ushartford.org

Office Administrator's Hours:

Sunday 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Monday & Tuesday 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please email/call for an appointment.



"Those who stand at the threshold of life always waiting for the right time to change are like the person who stands at the bank of a river waiting for the water to pass so they can cross on dry land". Joseph B. Wirthlin

March 26, 2023: 10:30 a.m.

“On Change: Resistance is Futile”

Rev. Aaron Payson, Pulpit Guest

Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

Sam Moffett, Director of Music Ministries

Matters of the Heart:

Electronically by 9 a.m. Sunday: email HartfordUUHeart@gmail.com

In person – use MOH basket for written cards on Sunday morning

10:30 a.m. Hybrid Worship Service

Join us in ZOOM [here](#)

See Order of Service [here](#)

Closed captions are available.

Meeting ID: 931 0388 7934

Passcode: 128493

10:30 a.m. Religious Education in person

Annie Witzler, Interim RE Coordinator

11:30 a.m. – Coffee Hour immediately following the service, in person and ZOOM

**You can also watch the Sunday service
at <https://vimeo.com/unitariansocietyhartford>
or on the USH [Facebook](#) page.**

Aaron Payson, Pulpit Guest

Rev. Aaron Payson is the Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Worcester, where he has served since 1999. The son of UU minister Rev. Robert E. Payson, Aaron is a third-generation Universalist Unitarian and a second-generation minister. He grew up in Lancaster, PA, where his father served from 1966 to 1987. Aaron holds a BA in Psychology with a minor in Religions and Philosophy from Elizabethtown College and an MDiv from Andover Newton Theological School. He is currently working on his DMin from Hartford Seminary. Aaron is active in a variety of community organizations and serves on the Good Officer Support Team for the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association. He is also a founding member of the UU Trauma Response Ministry and currently serves as a UUTRM Lead Responder. Additionally, Aaron is an adjunct instructor at Worcester State College where he offers courses in the Sociology of Death & Dying and occasionally the Sociology of Religion. Aaron lives in Worcester with his wife, Kristen, who is editor of The Landmark newspaper, and his young adult children, Morgaine and Charlie.





Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

Carol and her husband Bob Hewey live in the Seabury Community in Bloomfield, CT and are members of both the Unitarian Society of Hartford and the Unitarian Universalist Society: East (UUS:E) in Manchester, CT.

Worship Calendar

Upcoming Services: Join us, in person or online.

April 2 – "Our Pirate Ship Visitor Below Decks: What to do?" – David Newton, Pulpit Guest/Judy Robbins, Worship Associate

April 9 – "Easter Awakening The Sacred" – Michael Michaud, Pulpit Guest/Rick Tsukada, Worship Associate.

April 16 – "What Will We Risk For Love?" – Wren Bellavance-Grace, UUA New England Regional Congregation Consultant/Sue Smolski, Worship Associate

April 23 – Title Pending, Rev. Josh Pawelek, Pulpit Guest/Carol Simpson, Worship Associate

Sue Smolski

Worship Associate Coordinator



The text from David Newton's sermon on March 5 is now available on the web, [here](#). His accompanying slide show is expected to be available soon.

Welcome Team Sign-Up

Volunteer to be a greeter, usher, or to staff the welcome table. Simple, rewarding short-term commitments helping extend hospitality to members and visitors.

Use the Sign-Up Genius app [here](#) to be part of our Sunday Morning Welcome Team.



More You Can Do on Sunday

Here are some other things you can do once and be done – see Rick Tsukada or Laurie Kelliher if you're interested.

- Candle Bowl Lifter
- Chalice Lighter
- Welcome Table

Special Message Incoming-

Be sure to check your e-mail for a special e-brief tomorrow morning.

Love In Action – Stewardship Testimonials

Here are some testimonials from our Church members about why they pledge, how important our Church community is to them, and how you can help make a difference!

[Nancy Kemmerer Testimonial](#)
[Jim Venneman Testimonial](#)



Stewardship Campaign

Goal: \$318,000

As of March 12, 2023:

\$139,849 Raised by 38 family units

This means 44% of our goal has been raised.

A big **thank you** to those who pledged!

Remember to pledge by March 26!

Also, stop by the Stewardship Table in Fellowship Hall after services and post your examples of "Love in Action!". Contact [Carolyn Carlson](#) for general questions. Contact [Jim Venneman](#) or [David Newton](#) to discuss donating stock, making a Qualified Charitable Donation (QCD), or using a donor-advised fund.

Thank you!

General Assembly: 2023

"Faithfully Becoming"



This year's General Assembly (GA) will be held June 21 through 25, in Pittsburgh. Attendees will be able to participate either online or in person

As stated on the UUA's website, "The General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association is the annual gathering of UU's where we conduct the business of the Association, explore the theological underpinnings of our faith, and lean into our mission and principles."

Registration has now opened with a variety of rates posted through May 15, when some of the rate categories will increase.

Access uua.org, click on "menu", and select "General Assembly" for the details.

~ contributed by Sue Smolski

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Important UUA Bylaws Revision —

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is proposing to change both the mission of the UUA and the purpose of our churches. These changes will affect all UU churches and Hartford is no exception. The linked article here is by Anne Schneider, Ph.D, a retired professor from Arizona State University and long-time UU. Anne gives both sides – the viewpoint of those who support the changes and those who oppose them. It's a good place to start. If you want to dig deeper, go [here](#) or to the UUA website [here](#).

The proposed revisions will make **major** changes to our Principles and Sources. Unitarian Universalism does not have a theology like mainstream religions, but we all honor the moral and ethical code outlined in our Principles and Sources (see below).

~ Judy Robbins

Unitarian Universalist Principles —

There are seven Principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Unitarian Universalist Sources —

Unitarian Universalism draws from many Sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Have We No Principles?

The Unitarian Universalist Association is proposing to change the bylaws. This proposal:

- Replaces the 7 Principles and 6 Sources of our Living Tradition with values and covenants that do not have the breadth and meaning of the Principles and Sources;
- Eliminates the commitment to individual freedom of belief; and
- Changes the purpose of the UUA. The current purpose of the UUA is to serve the needs of member congregations. Instead, the proposal would transform the UUA into a top-down political action organization.

These changes are sweeping and would transform Unitarian Universalism as we know it. The changes will be voted on at General Assembly in Pittsburgh this June. Please take the time to familiarize yourself with these issues at www.savethe7principles.org. This site includes:

- A [side-by-side markup of the changes](#) (just the facts, no opinions),
- A balanced [Pro/Con Review](#) that is a good introduction,
- A brief [Summary Commentary](#) on the proposal,
- A longer well written [case for retaining the Principles](#), and
- A [detailed line-by-line analysis](#) of the proposal.

On **April 16**, our pulpit guest will be Wren Bellavance Grace, a representative from the New England Region, UUA. Plan to stay after the service for our traditional Soup Sunday. Wren will join us and give us a chance to ask questions. Please plan to be there.

~ submitted by Judy Robbins



Are You UU- Curious?

Join an informal gathering Under the Stairs on **April 2nd, 2022** following our service. Bring your coffee or tea for conversation about Unitarian Universalism, the

Unitarian Society of Hartford, and most of all to consider the wondering question...What brought you here today? Whether it is your first time or you've been coming and curious for a while, join us. Members and friends are always welcome and broaden the insights into our very special faith.

Cookies and fruit and conversation...and you...join us Under the Stairs.

UU Spirit Life Conversations

SpiritLife Conversations meets on Zoom **Saturday morning, March 25, from 9:00 – 10:30** to consider Opening Up to the Mystery. Inspired by the words of the late UU minister Forrest Church, we will take up the idea of God as the Great Mystery. What is your idea of God? Whether you have a definite concept of God or if you are just curious, join us for a lively discussion. Go to UUSpiritLife.org and click the link for March 25 to read a short article. Jot a few notes and then drop into a facilitated discussion with UUs from the three area churches, no pre-registration is required. For log-in instructions, go [here](#).



These conversations are heartfelt opportunities to go deeper with other UUs. The winter/spring schedule is posted at UUSpiritLife.org.

Facilitator: Judy Robbins

Spring Connection Circles Forming Now

Connection Circle regulars and those who've been meaning to try a Connection Circle group: now's the time. There are two evening groups (Tuesday and Thursday) and one daytime (Tuesday afternoon) **group starting the week of March 27**. If you are interested in joining a circle, **please contact Martha Bradley; email marthabradley49@yahoo.com, text 860-305-3307, or sign up in Fellowship Hall after service on Sunday.**



Notice: This is the last week to Sign Up!

Groups are limited to ten members each, so don't delay. Participation in a Connection Circle is a commitment. Signing up means you expect to attend every session unless you are ill or have an emergency. Sessions are generally for two hours once a week for eight weeks, with breaks for holidays or weeks when two or

more participants must be absent. Facilitators try to coordinate session dates as much as possible based on member availability.



Remembering Gary Bent

Gary Bent passed away on March 3, 2023 after a long illness. He is survived by his wife, Gloria, and his children, Geoff, Rebecca, Meagan, and John.

Gary was a beloved member of our USH Book Group. His wisdom and insights always added so much to our discussions. Gary enriched our lives in so many ways.

The USH Book Group is making a donation to the USH Endowment in Gary's name. If you would like to join in this tribute, checks can be made out to "USH" — and it's important to write "Endowment, Gary Bent Memorial" in the memo line. Gary's full obituary, published in the *Hartford Courant*, can be read [here](#).

~ *Namcy Kemmerer*

Remembering Katie Doyle

Katherine (Katie) Doyle, a long-time member of USH passed away on Monday, March 20, after a long battle with cancer. Katie served on the Caring Network and other committees and will be missed by many members of our congregation. A memorial service and reception will be held at the Meetinghouse on **Saturday, April 22 at 11AM.**





Remembering Clara Horn

Help Desired in Remembering Clara Horn

Clara was an active member of the Unitarian church for most of her adult life. She dreamed of a world without religious conflicts. She attended church regularly with her husband when they were both in good health. Gordon and Clara moved to Connecticut from Croton, New York to be closer to their grandchildren. The family will have a small service in May or June where they will inter Gordon and Clara's ashes in the memorial garden at the Unitarian Society of Hartford. Clara's oldest

granddaughter Samantha is working on collecting memories of Clara (and her husband Gordon) to present to Clara's children at the time their ashes are interred. This is meant to be a surprise for them, so we ask that you contact Samantha directly at:

Samantha Carlson

3700 12th Ave SE, Apt. 1324

Norman, Oklahoma 73072.

Email: Spear.make.music@gmail.com (put Clara in the subject line.)

Be sure to include the apartment number. We are asking for emails, letters, or photos of anything you remember about Clara or her family. Thank you in advance. Please be sure your contributions for this project are **received by May 15.**

[Obituary](#)

Social Justice



March Good Neighbor Offering:

This is the final week to donate, through our Good Neighbor Offering, to The Village for Families and Children. "The Village" was

one of the first agencies to provide care for neglected children. What began over 200 years ago as The female Beneficent Society to help children, grew over many iterations to its present form in 1993. The mission of The Village is “to build a community of strong healthy families to support and nurture children.”

The Village works in collaboration with local and state agencies and relies on supporters and donors. In response to growing needs, The Village now has three campuses. The main, original campus is on Albany Avenue, next to USH. There are two other campuses in Hartford, on Wethersfield Avenue and Spring Street. Programming has also changed to include more resources for adults.

The Village for Families and Children has adapted to the increasing need for mental health services in a complex world.

<https://thevillage.org/>

Don't Forget to Sign Up for GHIAA's Next Racial Justice Training:

Racial Justice Training – spring session via Zoom. [Register here](#)

- Tuesday 4/25, 6 – 9 p.m.
- Tuesday 5/2, 6 – 9 p.m.
- Tuesday 5/9, 6 – 9 p.m.

*Gratefully,
Diana*

West Hartford Food Bank Information

The following is a list of all the food groups and foods provided for individuals and families. Please choose those items that you are able to collect and drop off at the West Hartford Town Hall:

- **Proteins:** Canned tuna, canned chicken, peanut butter, canned beans, bean-based soups
- **Grains:** Pasta, one-pound bags of rice, cereal
- **Comfort foods:** Macaroni and cheese, chicken noodle soup
- **Fruits and Veggies:** Canned fruits, applesauce, jelly, tomato, and vegetable soups

**Grocery bags are now being collected outside the office door.
Food can be dropped off in the bin to the right located in the
lobby/entryway.**

The West Hartford Food Bank is located at West Hartford Town Hall.

Thank You!
~*Diana Heymann*

RE and Chalice Clubhouse



Spring has sprung and we're planting the seeds of the fun at USH! We have exciting opportunities available for ages 0-18! Signup for Sundays [here](#) online or in person at the welcome table!

Please note that children and youth who wish to participate in RE programming should report directly to their classes when they arrive. Locations for all classes are indicated in red under each category!

Special Event Announcement and Candy Donations

Welcome:



Join us on Easter Sunday after the service for our Annual Easter Egg Hunt at 12:00 PM noon, rain or shine! We will also have games and crafts available during the service for those who arrive early and a DIY photo booth for Easter pictures in the Chapel after the service. This is a public event so be sure to tell your friends and family!

We are also looking for donations of small, individually wrapped candies for the festivities WITHOUT PEANUTS OR PEANUT BUTTER! There will be a bin for donations located at the Welcome Table in the Lobby.

Please contact Annie Witzler (re4ush@gmail.com) for any additional information!

The Sprouts Nursery (Ages Infant-Pre-K):

Our nursery is open to all infants, young children, and their families. There are toys, books, art supplies, and plenty of room for imagination to grow free!

We have dedicated personnel and volunteers to supervise every week and the best part? You can now listen and participate in the service while you're there! Nursery go-ers can listen to the service and even participate in our Candles of Memory and Hope ritual!

Come visit any Sunday and never miss a single sermon!

Located downstairs adjacent to Fellowship Hall.



The Chalice Clubhouse (Grades K-6th):

Last weekend, for our Community Sunday, our clubhouse goers helped clean and decorated Fellowship Hall for our Soup Sunday with the theme of the Spring Equinox in mind. Our participants scrubbed tables, dried them, and then created a bright and cheerful atmosphere by setting up flowers and creating collages with messages of positivity and the brightness of the season. A huge thank you to everyone who helped out!

This weekend, Sunday, March 26th, we will be completing our special stewardship drive project which will be on display in Fellowship Hall after the service.

It all begins at 10:30 am downstairs in Fellowship Hall. We hope to see you there!







USH Youth Group (Grades 6th-12th):



This weekend, Sunday, March 26th, our Youth Group will meet for their eighth session of 2023! (And there will be snacks!) They will be participating in our special stewardship RE project that will be showcased in Fellowship Hall after the service!

The Youth Group will meet and participate in the first fifteen minutes of the main service upstairs this weekend, then report downstairs to Classroom D.

We hope to see you there!

Events & Happenings

Monthly Gatherings

Disability Support Group —

This group meets online the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. The zoom link is sent a few days prior to the meeting. In this group participants

discuss the challenges of physical disability (chronic illness, chronic pain, impaired senses, impaired mobility) and emotional pain (loss, mental illness) and the stresses of caretaking a loved one. What is said in the group stays in the group. Email **Gloria Bent** for more information at bentgloria@gmail.com or call **860-904-7768**.

Pizza and Movie Night – Join us, **Friday April 14**, for conversation, pizza, a movie, and more conversation (about the movie). Movies are recommended by your friends at USH who have found them interesting, perhaps provocative, and worth seeing. Our April selection celebrates the start of baseball season: ***Bull Durham***. An adult comedy, it stars Kevin Costner, Tim Robbins, and Susan Sarandon in the role which earned her a place in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Sign up at the Caring Network table at coffee hour, or email [Janice Newton](mailto:JaniceNewton@gmail.com) to register. \$15 covers pizza, salad, dessert, non-alcoholic beverages. Feel free to bring your own beer or wine, if that's your preference.

Generally, we begin gathering at 5 for libations and conversation. The pizza arrives at 5:30; we aim for a 6:15 'showtime'.

Second Saturday Sing-Along – April 15

Join us at the next Meeting House Sing-Along — Fred Louis and Ed Savage offer an opportunity to join in song on the second Saturday of each month from 2 to 5 p.m. Song sheets and some loaner copies of Rise Up Singing will be available. Bring your own 'Rise Up Singing' if you have one, as we have used it a lot in other months. We will also use the NEW “Rise Again” sequel – 1200 more songs to sample. Let's see if we can find some songs to celebrate the coming of spring!

Contact: Fred Louis (FLouis@yahoo.com) or Ed Savage 860-966-8155 (mobile) (EdSavage03@yahoo.com)

The Lunch Bunch – Our next gathering is **Tuesday, APRIL 18, at NOON in Fellowship Hall**. Please brown-bag *your own* lunch and beverage... you'll ensure having something you enjoy! Whatever direction the conversation takes, it should be interesting. Please

contact janicecnewton@gmail.com to sign up so we can arrange enough places at the table.

Social Justice – Interested in justice work? Come meet with us to learn the latest about ongoing activities and discover new initiatives. Our next ZOOM meeting is **Tuesday, April 18**, 7 p.m. Everyone's invited... contact [Judy Sullivan](#) for information.

INVITATION FROM THE BOOK GROUP

Our UU Book Group invites you to join us in reading our March selection – The Lincoln Highway by Amor Towles (see preview below).*

Enjoy the reading.

If you want to participate in (or listen to) a discussion of the book and related issues, join us on Thursday, April 13 at 2:30, by Zoom.

Please contact Ginny Allen at fiddlenurse1@gmail.com if you'd like more information or if you want to join. An email with Zoom link will be sent a day or two before the meeting.

Book Selections 2022/23

Second Thursday of each month

*April 13 – Power: The limits and prospects for human survival
by Richard Heinberg*

May 11 – Beloved by Toni Morrison

June 8 – The Book of Lost Friends by Lisa Wingate

July 13 – Matrix by Lauren Groff

August 10 – Mismeasure of Man by Stephen J Gould

*Our April selection:

Power: The limits and prospects for human survival by Richard Heinberg

Has Homo sapiens — one species among millions — become powerful enough to threaten a mass extinction and disrupt the Earth's climate? Why have we developed so many ways of oppressing one another? Can we change our relationship with power to avert ecological catastrophe, reduce social inequality, and stave off collapse? These questions — and their answers — will determine our fate.

Caring Network

The Caring Network has had a number of requests for Pastoral Care during the past few months. Generally, we have been able to reach out to the individuals and meet their needs.

However, there are situations when contact with a minister is preferred. If you wish to speak to a minister, please contact me and I will give you the contact information. You can reach me by phone (860/212-6923), by email (janicecnewton(at sign)gmail.com) or see me on Sunday. I will usually be at the Caring Network table at the entrance to Fellowship Hall. Please also know there is a wide range of community services available to those in need by calling the Community Info Line at **211**, and the Nationwide Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention hotline is available by calling or texting **988**, where you can speak with a counselor.

~ Janice Newton, Chair

The latest financial reports for **FY Nov-Dec 2021** have been posted, click [**HERE**](#) to view.

The **2021/22 Annual Report** is available [**HERE**](#)

The Board Meeting minutes for **February 2023** have been posted. To view the USH Directory, Reports, meeting minutes, and other church business information online, click [**HERE**](#). Contact Karolina Wojtyska at [**hartforduusociety@gmail.com**](mailto:hartforduusociety@gmail.com) for the username and password.

2022 – 2023 USH Board of Directors

Eve Pech: President

Dana Donovan: President-Elect

Jon Covault: Treasurer

Sarah Harmon McKenzie: Secretary

Peter Meny: Spiritual Life Council Chair
Paul Cipriano: Administration Council Chair
Judy Sullivan: Social Justice Council Chair
Tina Davies: Community Within Council Chair

Have a question or comment for the board? Send an email to: ushboardofdirectors@gmail.com.

Missed Last Week's Enews? Click Below:

<http://www.ushartford.org/nourishing-spirit/newsletters/>

See Articles and News for USH and the Surrounding Area you may have missed or find a link to the USH Facebook Page [HERE](#).

Please consult our Online Calendar regularly for all upcoming events coordinated by the Unitarian Society of

Hartford: www.ushartford.org/events/

To submit a Calendar Request (also for an online USH Zoom Room gathering) click [HERE](#).

E-News Contributors please note: The deadline for USH E-News submissions is *Tuesday at Noon*. Please include the dates that your submission should be featured in the 'Subject' field. Announcements about upcoming events typically appear for two consecutive weeks maximum, unless other arrangements have been made with the editorial team. Articles should be sent as email file attachments, and images need to be sent separately as jpeg, jpg, png, tiff, bmp, or gif files. Thanks for cooperating.

USH Staff:

<http://www.ushartford.org/staff-members/>

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smoffettuu@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 108

Annie Witzler, Interim Religious Education Coordinator

re4ush@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 104

Patty Peck, Bookkeeper, Office or Phone by Appointment
ushtreasurer50@gmail.com 860-233-9897 ext. 102

Karolina Wojtysko, Office Administrator & Building Rentals
hartforduusociety@gmail.com | 860-233-9897 ext. 100



USH Calendar of Events

The calendar for March
2023 can be viewed **HERE**.

**Please contact the office with
any questions or concerns.**

**The deadline for USH Enews submissions is
Tuesday at Noon.**

Please note in the subject line "USH Enews." Thank you for your submission!

Email to: hartforduusociety@gmail.com

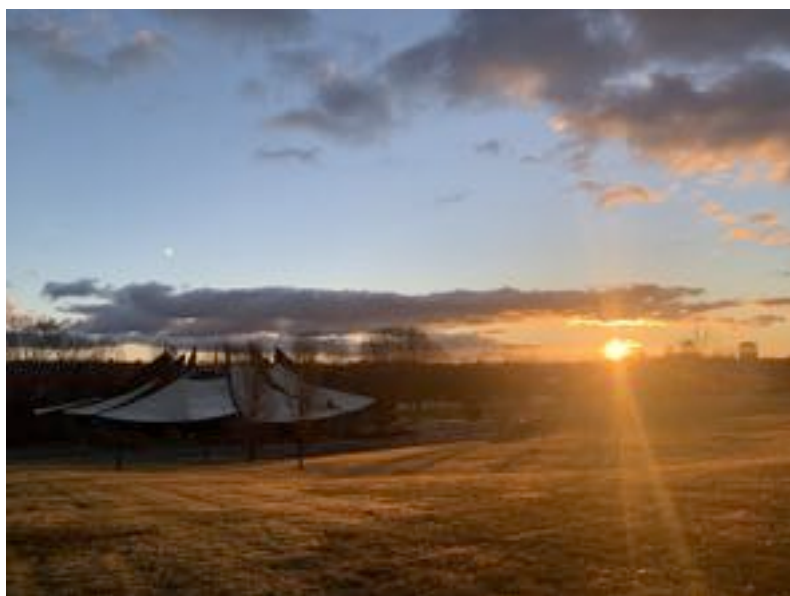


Photo by: Kevin Girouard January 2023

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