

THIRTIETH ANNUAL  
**MONTROSE  
CHRISTIAN  
WRITERS  
CONFERENCE**

*Equipping Writers for  
Eternal Significance*

JULY 14-19 2019

*“This will be  
written for the  
generation to come,  
That a people yet  
to be created may  
praise the LORD.”  
(Psalm 102:18)*



montrose  
BIBLE CONFERENCE

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

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## SUNDAY

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- 3:30 **REGISTRATION OPENS** ..... Lobby, Dreyer Lodge  
5:30 **SUPPER** ..... Tea Room, Dreyer Lodge  
7:30 **OPENING SESSION** ..... Chapel, Dreyer Lodge  
    Keynote: “The Ten Creative Commandments” ..... Jim Watkins  
9:00 **GET ACQUAINTED TIME** ..... Chapel, Dreyer Lodge

## MONDAY-THURSDAY

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- 8:00 **BREAKFAST**  
8:45 **MEDITATION**  
9:00 **PRAISE & WORSHIP** ..... Alison Everill  
9:20 **MORNING CHALLENGE**  
    M: “*Breaking Up with Fear*” ..... Diane Stark  
    T: “*Choose Your Own Writing Adventure*” ..... Roseanna White  
    W: “*The Call: On Persevering as a Writer*” ..... Shawn Smucker  
    Th: “*Daring Dog or Cozy Cat?*” ..... Jeanette Levellie  
10:25 **BREAK**  
10:40 **MAJOR MORNING CLASSES**  
12:30 **LUNCH**  
1:30 **AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS**  
4:30 **CRITIQUE GROUPS or FREE TIME**  
5:30 **SUPPER and FREE TIME**  
7:30 **EVENING SESSIONS**  
    M: *Editors’ Forum: What Editors Wish Writers Knew*  
    T: *Free Time/Rehearsal For Wed. Evening*  
    W: *Make Your Pitch*  
    Th: *Writers’ Theater* ..... Patti Souder

## FRIDAY:

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- 8:00 **BREAKFAST**  
8:45 **MEDITATION/WORSHIP and CHALLENGE-“Now What?”** ..... Gayle Roper  
11:00 **BENEDICTION and FAREWELL**



## A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR:

When you write, do you ask the Lord to give you direction so your work will impact others’ lives? Do you ever think your words might influence readers who’ll possibly pick up your book decades from now? Words change lives. (Just think where we’d be without God’s Holy Word!) If God has called you to write, I pray you do so not only to please Him but also to leave a legacy for those who follow after. You just might find that book contract in your hands.

**Marsha Hubler, Director, MCWC**

## CONTINUING CLASSES

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Designed to provide in-depth learning and participation. Most valuable when taken as a series but all are open to those who can't attend every day.

### MAJOR MORNING CLASSES

10:40-12:10 Monday – Thursday

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- 1. COMMUNICATING TO CHANGE LIVES** ..... Jim Watkins
- 2. THE TRUTH ABOUT MAKE-BELIEVE** ..... Gayle Roper
- 3. SCALING THE MOUNTAIN (BEGINNERS)** ..... Roseanna White
- 4. THE ART & CRAFT OF POETRY: New Truth from Old Stuff** ..... Lora Zill

### WORK-IN-PROGRESS SEMINAR

(Class size: Limit 8 conferees)

**TWO-DAY SEMINAR:** 10:40 – 4:15 Monday-Tuesday

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Brief Wrap Up: Wednesday morning

#### PICTURE BOOK WIP

Author Pam Halter & Illustrator Kim Sponaugle

### AFTERNOON WORKSHOP SERIES

(How-to instruction on specialized topics)

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#### MINISTERING TO YOUR MARKET

3 Sessions: 1:30–2:15 Tues. – Thurs. .... Elaine W. Miller

### SONGWRITING

Where do I begin? Finding good song ideas, coming up with your “hook,” starting strong. What are the Nuts and Bolts of crafting a good song? Rhyme scheme, matching syllables, word choice, song structure. How do I construct a professional lyric sheet and get my song publish-ready? You will also have an opportunity to share a song you have written with the group and receive feedback. Bring a demo if you have one and/or lyric multiple lyric sheets.

We will work on any songs you have in progress using the tools we have learned, and possibly write some originals! We will be writing during this time together! So, come with a notebook, ready to create!

4 Sessions: 2:30-3:15; 3:30-4:15 Wed. & Thurs. .... Alison Everill

### EVENING EVENTS

**MONDAY: EDITORS' FORUM:** What Editors Wish Writers Knew - Learn from a panel of those who buy writers' work. What are their pet peeves? What suggestions do they have to help you polish your work and get it published? Why does editing take so long?

**TUESDAY: FREE TIME** or REHEARSAL FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING

**WEDNESDAY: MAKE YOUR PITCH** – a repeat of last year's event with suggested improvements. Here's your chance to share your book idea for no more than two minutes to an audience of your peers and faculty members. Wear a character's costume, sing, or be as creative as you like to get your point across. Do you have the nerve?

**THURSDAY: WRITERS' THEATER**- another opportunity for you to shine! Bring your own work, an excerpt from a short story, memoir, novel, or a poem and trimmed to three minutes and read it to the conferees at the Writers' Theater, a delightful program that celebrates your creativity.

*“I love the spiritual emphasis the conference has; the morning Praise and Worship times highlight it.”*

# AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS

MONDAY		WEDNESDAY	
1:30-2:15	1. Indie Publishing vs. Royalty Publishing. What's New? <i>Faculty Panel</i>	1:30-2:15	22. Bible Studies that Sells <i>Gloria P. Holtzlander</i>
2:30-3:15	2. Are You Ready for an Agent? <i>Jim Hart</i>		23. Writing Compelling Devotions <i>Jeanette Levellie</i>
	3. Polishing your Manuscript Part 1 <i>Linda Rondeau</i>		24. Tips and Tricks for Working with Editors & Publishers <i>Deb Haggerty</i>
	4. Writing Dramatic Dialogue <i>Rebecca I. Diehl</i>		25. Our Most Essential Writing/ Speaking Tool—A Pure Heart <i>Elaine W. Miller</i>
	5. Writing for Guideposts: The Basics & Winning the Contest <i>Jeanette Levellie</i>	2:30-3:15	26. Nonfiction Book Proposals Part 1 - The Publisher's Process <i>Dan Brownell</i>
3:30-4:15	6. Marketing for Writers Who Don't Like to Market <i>Jim Hart</i>		27. 5 Things your Editor Wants to See in your Manuscript <i>Linda Rondeau</i>
	7. Writing for "Guideposts" and "All Creatures" <i>Diane Stark</i>		28. Stepping Out on Stage—What Does "Platform" Mean? <i>Donna L. H. Smith</i>
	8. The Art of Self Editing <i>Rebecca Diehl</i>		29. You're History (Fiction Research) <i>Roseanna White</i>
	9. Once Upon a Time: Generate Story Ideas that Draw You In <i>Shawn Smucker</i>		30. Songwriting 1 <i>Alison Everill</i>
TUESDAY		3:30-4:15	31. Nonfiction Book Proposals Part 2 - Researching & Writing It <i>Dan Brownell</i>
1:30-2:15	10. Get the Most out of the Conference <i>Gloria P. Holtzlander</i>		32. Breaking into Anthologies <i>Diane Stark</i>
	11. How to Start A Speaking Career <i>Jeanette Levellie</i>		33. Plotting for Pantsers <i>Donna L. H. Smith</i>
	12. Networking: Necessity or Nuisance <i>Deb Haggerty</i>		34. Five Life Practices that Will Improve Your Writing <i>Shawn Smucker</i>
	13. "Be My Guest": Radio and TV Interviews <i>Elaine W. Miller</i>		35. Songwriting 2 <i>Alison Everill</i>
2:30-3:15	14. Strategies for 1st Lines & 1st Pages for Non-Fiction Authors <i>Jim Hart</i>	THURSDAY	
	15. Polishing your Manuscript Part 2 <i>Linda Rondeau</i>	1:30-2:15	36. Irresistible Queries and Proposals <i>Gloria P. Holtzlander</i>
	16. From Query Letter to the 1st Royalty Check <i>Rebecca I. Diehl</i>		37. Humor Sells <i>Jeanette Levellie</i>
	17. Writing Mysteries and Suspense <i>Gayle Roper</i>		38. Creating Extraordinary Characters <i>Donna Smith</i>
3:30-4:15	18. Proposals That Pop <i>Jim Hart</i>		39. A Writer Speaks to Touch Hearts <i>Elaine W. Miller</i>
	19. Just for Moms (& Dads): Writing for Parenting Magazines <i>Diane Stark</i>	2:30 - 3:15	40. Five Tips on Selling a Magazine Article <i>Dan Brownell</i>
	20. Publishing Your Passion <i>Rebecca I. Diehl</i>		41. "I Hate to Plot!" <i>Linda Rondeau</i>
	21. Out of the Dust: Creating Characters with Depth <i>Shawn Smucker</i>		42. Seamless Self-Editing Your Story <i>Donna L. H. Smith</i>
			43. Poetry: For the Love of the Word and Words <i>Lora Zill</i>
			44. Songwriting 3 <i>Alison Everill</i>
		3:30-4:15	45. Print & Digital Publishing Photo Requirements <i>Dan Brownell</i>
			46. Writing for "Angels on Earth" and "Mysterious Ways" <i>Diane Stark</i>
			47. Bring Order: Use Structure to Add Another Layer of Meaning <i>Shawn Smucker</i>
			48. Songwriting 4 <i>Alison Everill</i>



## WORSHIP LEADER ALISON EVERILL

Alison began her music ministry as a childhood church musician. From then until now, she has chronicled her faith journey through her beautiful music. From the moment Alison sits at the piano to express her worship for Jesus through one of her original worship songs, listeners are drawn in to hear the passion in her voice and sense her devotion to the Lord through her powerful lyrics that speak volumes not only about her music but her life. She composes her own music and powerfully delivers each Christ-centered message. She has co-written and published 2 songs on Dove Award winning artist Babbie Mason's latest record project and has had several songs signed with Gaither Publishing Company.

## WORKSHOP LEADERS



**Dan Brownell:** The editor of Today's Christian Living, Today's Pastor, & Smart Retailer, is a grad. of Liberty Univ. with a bachelor's in English. He taught jr. high & high school English at an international Christian school in Uijongbu, S. Korea, before entering publishing. He's worked as an educational test writer & editor, copywriter, proposal writer, & book acq. editor. He's married to his sweetheart, Cathy, & has 2 children.



**Rebecca Irwin Diehl:** Editorial director of Judson Press & ordained to the publishing ministries in 2009, she loves working with authors to bring their words to the printed page. She's worked in publishing since earning her undergrad. degree in English-writing in 1995. Completing a master's in theological studies, she "found an ideal niche in Christian publishing, where her love of words meets her passion for God's Word."



**Deb Haggerty:** is the publisher & Editor-in-Chief of Elk Lake Publ., Inc., an independent, royalty-paying Christian co. that "publishes the positive." Deb's also an author, blogger, & professional speaker. For over 40 years she's been writing stories, is published in over 20 books, & has 50-plus articles in print. She's looking for fiction—mystery/suspense & contemporary women's—& selected nonfiction: no Amish, cowboy, memoirs, devos, Bible studies, or poetry.



**Pam Halter:** a children's book author since 1995 & freelance editor since 2006. Several of her authors' books have won awards, most recently, Nickerbacher the Funniest Dragon by Terry Barto. She received Writer of the Year in 2014 at the Greater Phila. Christian Writers Conf. & won the Reader's Choice Award in the short story contest hosted by Realm Makers & Brimstone Fiction in 2015. She lives in NJ.



**Jim Hart:** is a lit. agent with Hartline. His clients include veteran & debut authors & represent non-fiction & fiction. He serves the Christian & general markets. He's looking for topics that include Christian living, social issues, parenting, biographies. Fiction includes contemporary, historical, Amish, suspense. Jim's a singer/ songwriter/ worship leader.

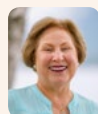


**Gloria Penwell-Holtzlander:** Her expertise comes from years of attending writers' conferences with husband Dan while he was Acq. Editor at AMG Publ. She's now acq. editor for Bold Vision Books. Looking for fiction: romance, mysteries,

historical, (no fantasy) & nonfiction: Christian living for Nuts & Bolts imprint: craft books for arts & business, how-to books on teaching, speaking, marketing & S.M.



**Jeanette Levellie:** Award-winning humorist, speaker, & writer, Jeanette's the author of 5 books & hundreds of articles & stories. She grew up in LA & now lives with her pastor husband & three cats in Paris, IL. She loves to laugh out loud & help others find gold in their puddles.



**Elaine W. Miller:** is an international speaker & author of 4 books. A member of the Advanced Writers & Speakers Assoc., she's been a featured guest on radio and TV, a keynote retreat seminar leader, & a faculty member of the Greater Phila. Christian Writers' Conf., Montrose Christian Writers' Conf., & the Upstate NY Christian Writers' Gathering. She's excited to return to MCWC, where her writing journey began in 2001.



**Linda Rondeau:** serves as sr. editor & acq. editor for Elk Lake Publ. She's the author of 8 novels, including her award-winning *The Other Side of Darkness* & her most recent *Hosea's Heart*. She's received awards & nominations from *Writer's Digest*, *Blue Ridge Christian Wr. Conferences*, & *Amer. Christian Fiction Writers*. She lives with her hubby in Hagerstown, MD.



**Gayle Roper:** has loved story all her life, whether reading it or writing it. She's the author of over 50 books. Her fiction has won the RITA & Carol Awards, placed in the Christy Award finals 3 times, & has placed twice in the *Inspirational Readers' Choice* as well as the *Romantic Times Book Report's Reviewers' Choice Award*. She teaches at writers' conferences across the country.



**Donna Smith:** Serving as Manag. Editor for the blog "Almost An Author," her writing experience includes radio journalism to mag. articles, scriptwriting, to slide sets & filmstrips, public relations & marketing, & promo. pieces over the past 40 years. Her debut novel, *Meghan's Choice*, made the 2018 *Selah Finals* in the Westerns category & the finals of the *Will Rogers Medallion Award* in the *Inspirational* category.



**Shawn Smucker:** a co-writer, ghostwriter, & author of two young adult books (award-winning *The Day the Angels Fell* and *The Edge of Over There*), a memoir (*Once We Were Strangers*), & a novel releasing in the summer of 2019, *Light from Distant Stars*. He lives in Lancaster, PA, with his wife & 6 children.



**Kim Sponaugle:** a grad. of The Art Institute of Phila., she found her heart's vocation in illustrating children's books. Her 1st series, *Beatrice Loses Her Doll* & *Beatrice's New Clothes*, is with Concordia Publ. An illustrator of over 80 books, she received the Mom's Choice Award, Pinnacle Book, CIPA EVVY, Reader's Favorite Awards, & the Purple Dragonfly Award (1st place for illustrations, Nickerbacher, the Funniest Dragon.) Kim lives in NJ.



**Diane Stark:** a freelance writer for 12 years, she's published in numerous mags. including *Focus on the Family*, *Teachers of Vision*, *Faith & Friends*, & *35 Chicken Soup for the Soul* books. She's received 3 Church Press Awards for her writing with the Salvation Army. She's an enthusiastic encourager, who teaches other writers from a "Here's What I Did" standpoint.



**Jim Watkins:** an award-winning author of over 20 books & 2,000 articles. He's served as edit. director at Wesleyan Publ. House & an editor with the Amer. Bible Soc. He's published in popular magazines such as *Christianity Today*, *Focus on the Family*, & *USA Today*. Jim's website, [www.hopeandhumor.org](http://www.hopeandhumor.org), has been honored by the Billy Graham Evangelistic Assoc. for its creative Christian message.



**Roseanna M. White:** a bestselling, Christy Award-nominated author who's long claimed that words are the air she breathes. When not writing fiction, she's homeschooling her 2 kids, editing WhiteFire Publishing's award-winning books, designing book covers, & pretending her house will clean itself. Her 13 books range from Biblical fiction to historical romances set in America & England.



**Lora Zill:** teaches writing & critical analysis at Gannon Univ. & creative writing for Allegheny College's arts programs for gifted middle & h.s. students. She's a teaching artist with the PA Council on the Arts and edits & publishes a poetry journal, *Time Of Singing*. She speaks at writing, education, & arts conferences. Her award-winning poetry & nonfiction have been published widely.

## SPECIAL OPPORTUNITIES

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### EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS:

Private 15-minute appointments with editors and agents to show them your work, which may be suitable for their publications and/or to discuss ideas for stories. Sign-up sheets available at the conference. Bring professionally-prepared manuscripts. Be sure to bring copies! No charge.

### PROFESSIONAL CRITIQUES:

A great opportunity to have your work evaluated by a published professional. Receive a written evaluation of your manuscript plus a 30-minute private appointment to discuss ways to improve and/or market your piece.

- Register for MCWC by June 15th and request guidelines for emailing your manuscript. \$40.00 per critique.

**JIM HART** (AGENT) – devotions, Bible studies, personal helps (LIMIT: 4)

**DEB HAGGERTY** (EDITOR ELK LAKE) – juvenile and adult fiction (LIMIT: 5)

**GLORIA PENWELL-HOLTZLANDER** (EDITOR BOLD VISION) – Bible studies (LIMIT: 3)

**JEANETTE LEVELLIE** - devotions, non-fiction articles, and inspirational articles (LIMIT: 4)

**GAYLE ROPER** – fiction (LIMIT: 3)

**DIANE STARK** – Nonfiction: essays, short inspir. pieces, devos, Chicken Soup or Guideposts, & 1st person personal experience (LIMIT: 5)

**ROSEANNA WHITE** (EDITOR WHITEFIRE) – fiction (LIMIT: 3)

**JIM WATKINS** - Nonfiction of all kinds (especially humor) and online writing (No LIMIT)

**LORA ZILL** (EDITOR TIME OF SINGING) Poetry of any kind; submit five poems (No LIMIT)

### 2-DAY WORK-IN-PROGRESS:

Picture books w/ Author Pam Halter & Illustrator Kim Sponaugle (\$ 60)

### CRITIQUE GROUPS and GENRES of INTEREST

**GROUPS:** Opportunity for feedback from other writers. No charge. Held Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday at 4:30

*“As a very new writer with no professional knowledge, I felt this was really helpful.”*

**BOOK TABLE:** Features books by faculty and conferees. When registering, please indicate books you've written which you would like to sell. Please tag all books with prices rounded off to the dollar.

\* **BUDGET BOOK SALE:** Too many books on your shelves? Bring them to MCWC & donate them to our Budget Book Sale. Looking for good books? Check out this special sale. All proceeds go to the General Scholarship Fund.

**FREEBIES:** Complimentary publishers' guidelines and sample copies to save you time and postage.

**RECORDINGS:** Listen to the sessions you missed or those you want to hear again (Easily loaded into your computer).

### SCHOLARSHIPS:

**Shirley Brinkerhoff Memorial Scholarship** - \$200 grant for tuition: Awarded to a writer actively striving to hone the craft of writing who has not yet secured a publishing contract. Applications are available at [montrosebible.org/writers.htm](http://montrosebible.org/writers.htm).

**General Scholarship** - help is available according to need. Please inquire when registering. Donations are always welcome.

## FOR YOUR INFORMATION

**MEETING PLACE:** Whether you're planning your own retreat or attending one of our unique and inspiring event experiences, Montrose Bible Conference is the right location for you, your family, and friends to experience God! Nestled in the "endless mountains" of northeastern PA, you'll find yourself surrounded by the peace of God's majestic creation in an atmosphere of fun, fellowship, and learning. We invite your spouses and friends to come with you to relax while you attend classes!

**WHAT TO BRING:** your Bible, manuscripts for critique and/or presentation to editors and agents, short pieces for Writers' Theater, a sturdy bag for freebies, notebook, pens, laptop computer, casual and modest clothes, comfortable shoes, umbrella, sweater or light jacket.

**DRIVING DIRECTIONS:** available on our website at [www.MontroseBible.org](http://www.MontroseBible.org)

**Flying?** The Wilkes-Barre/Scranton (AVP) and Binghamton (BGM) airports are about an hour from the Bible Conference. Transportation from these airports can be arranged **if requested in advance.**

# 2019 MCWC REGISTRATION

<b>TUITION</b>		200.00	_____
<b>TEEN TUITION</b> (Ages 18 and under)		75.00	_____
<b>EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT</b> if registered by June 15		-15.00	_____
<b>PROMOTER'S DISCOUNT</b> Subtract \$10.00 for each first-timer you bring		-	_____
<b>COMMUTERS' LUNCH PACKAGE</b> Monday-Thursday		34.00	_____
<b>PER DIEM TUITION</b> (Includes lunch)		65.00	_____
<b>PROFESSIONAL CRITIQUE</b>		40.00	_____
<b>WORK IN PROGRESS</b> (Picture Books: Halter/Sponaugle)		60.00	_____
<b>LODGING AND MEALS:</b>			
(Double occupancy)	<b>WEEKLY</b> (Sunday supper – Friday breakfast)	<b>DAILY</b> (1 night; 3 meals)	
Torrey Home, private bath	\$400	\$84	_____
Lily Hill Inn, private bath, AC	\$400	\$84	_____
Dreyer Lodge, private bath, AC Add 25% for single occupancy request	\$370	\$82	_____
<b>LODGING ONLY:</b>			
RV Court (water, electric, sewer)	\$145	\$30	_____
RV Court (water, electric)	\$115	\$24	_____
RV Court (no hookups)	\$70	\$15	_____
		<b>TOTAL COST</b>	_____
		(Minimum deposit \$45.00) <b>AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Choice \_\_\_\_\_

Books I've written and will bring to sell \_\_\_\_\_

**Major Morning Class:** Please choose one (if not registering for 2 Day Work-in-Progress):

Watkins (Nonfiction)    Roper (Fiction)    White (Just Starting)    Zill (Poetry)

**Workshops:** Please list the workshop number for each class period you plan to attend:

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY
1:30	_____	_____	_____	_____
2:30	_____	_____	_____	_____
3:30	_____	_____	_____	_____

Interested in winning a free book? Include a short piece (300-word limit) related to our theme:

**Equipping Writers for Eternal Significance: "This will be written for the generation to come, that a people yet to be created may praise the LORD."**

If paying by credit card: Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_ CSV (back of card) \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**First time?** \_\_\_\_\_ **Attended before?** \_\_\_\_\_ **When?** \_\_\_\_\_

**Inquire about the Pastor's courtesy discount for lodging/meal package.**

**MAIL TO :** MONTROSE BIBLE CONFERENCE, 218 LOCUST STREET, MONTROSE, PA 18801

**FAX TO :** 570-278-3061 OR **EMAIL TO :** MBC@MONTROSEBIBLE.ORG

570-278-1001 • 800-598-5030 • WWW.MONTROSEBIBLE.ORG

**JULY 14-19 2019**

- *Daily Inspirational Sessions*
- *Great Evening Programs*
- *4 Continuing Morning Classes*
- *1 Work-in-Progress Seminar*
- *47 Afternoon Workshops*
- *2 Faculty Panel Discussions*
- *Songwriting Workshops*
- *Professional Critiques and Consults*
- *Hands-on Mentoring Opportunities*
- *Appointments with Editors and Agents*



**MONTROSE CHRISTIAN WRITERS CONFERENCE**  
218 LOCUST STREET · MONTROSE PA 18801

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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