



# NATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF PRESVYTERES

*Through love be servants of one another. ~Galatians 5:13*

February, 2017

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2017

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Elaine Stephanides

*O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt His name together*  
(Psalm 34:3)



Dear Presvyteres of our Archdiocese,

I greet you in love and peace of our Lord in the New Year, 2017.

In your valued role as Presvyteres of our Archdiocese, you direct your service to the Church in a dignified and unassuming manner and a spirit of transparent truthfulness. Among the substantive performative aspects of your supportive role in the Church are also the small yet countless acts of human kindness you demonstrate daily in the life of a community. These small and tender gestures of support, concern, and compassion produce great effects in the hearts of others and open the way for the Gospel to take route in the lives of the faithful.

As God manifests His infinite greatness in small and common things so, too, you reveal the utmost depth and refinement of your spiritual life in the minute and continuous gestures that reveal the tenderness and saving grace of God.

In these actions you become the voice of Christ—a voice of hope, concern, compassion, and tender mercy. In gratitude and in your eagerness to serve Him, may you continue in the New Year to offer all your being for God's glory and service and in so doing inspire others to share in the ineffable joy and living hope that the redeeming presence of God brings to those united to Him.

With paternal love in Christ,  
*Archbishop Demetrios of America*  
+ DEMETRIOS  
Archbishop of America

Dear Sisters in Christ,

I pray that this letter finds you all well.

We have an exciting year ahead of us! I would like to take this opportunity to thank Stephanie Gill, our corresponding secretary, and Vicki Cassis, our newsletter editor, for keeping us well informed.

Many exciting things are happening in 2017. We will have our NSP Spring Board Meeting March 10-12 at the Archdiocesan Cathedral in NYC. Tina Vlahos is our hostess and has many things planned for us. Our 10th Biennial Retreat will be held October 6-9 at the Newport Beach Marriott Hotel & Spa in sunny Newport Beach, CA. The theme is *Replenish, Reconnect and Rejuvenate*. Mia Tragus and her committee have been hard at work pulling everything together for a wonderful spiritual and physical retreat for all of us. More information is on page \_\_ of this newsletter and on the [nspretreat.org](http://nspretreat.org) website.

We have our two fundraising events this quarter: NSP stewardship in January and APC/NSP Benevolent Fund in February. You should have received the stewardship letter already and the Benevolent Fund Gifts of Love Campaign letter will go out mid-February. Please see additional information on pages 8 and 10 of this newsletter and take a moment to prayerfully consider your contributions. Please remit them as soon as possible. Remember, you can make your contributions with PayPal. Links are in the right-hand column of each page of our NSP website, [www.nsp.goarch.org](http://www.nsp.goarch.org).

Your board is constantly at work trying to fulfill the purpose of the NSP: to promote the spirit of Christian love among the Presvyteres of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese, provide opportunities for Presvyteres to get acquainted with one another, and meet periodically to discuss mutual concerns and to develop programs for outreach. We strive to accomplish these goals with retreats and clergy-laities presvytera always makes me feel better!

Con't Pg 2

As always, I encourage you to reach out to a sister presvytera--especially a widowed presvytera. A phone call or email from you will do much to brighten her day. Hearing the voice of a sister presvytera always makes me feel better!

I very much look forward to seeing my sister board members in March and many more of you at our retreat in October.

Wishing you a beautiful Triodion, a blessed Lent, and a glorious Pascha, I am

Your sister in Christ,  
Pauline

\*\*Please send your event and group photos to our Historian,  
Gabriela Rosu. Her email is:  
[grosu@starkstate.edu](mailto:grosu@starkstate.edu). Thank you!

**Archdiocesan District** *submitted by Tina Vlahos*

Our district has enjoyed many special events this past fall with His Eminence Archbishop Demetrios as well as the Clergy family Christmas dinner. The Presvyteres and I are looking forward to hosting all of you in March in the BIG APPLE!

**Metropolis of Boston** *submitted by Cynthia Paleologos*

The Metropolis of Boston Sisterhood has been trying to update our email and mailing lists. On October 22, 2016 we hosted our seminarian wives at a brunch in the Maliotis Center on the grounds of Hellenic College/Holy Cross School of Theology. It is a chance for us to get to know these women and hopefully share with them our love and experiences. This is something we have tried to do every year, as we are so close to the seminary.

**Metropolis of Atlanta** *submitted by Emily Young Carter*

Our big project has been working on updating our Metropolis directory. Harriet Wilson (Holy Trinity, New Orleans) took on the task. This August we implemented "Call A Presvytera Day". We are encouraging Presvyteres to call one (or more) sisters in the metropolis on the first day of each month. It can be someone they know well, someone they have met a few times or someone they would like to get to know. We send a reminder email and Facebook message the day before. Several sisters have participated and we hope it continues to grow.

Four Presvyteres in our Western Conference were able to gather on October 1 in Mobile, AL for their 1st Annual Greek Festival Gala. We enjoyed seeing one another and congratulated the chair of the event, Presvytera Kasandra Stevens, for the wonderful event. Our South Florida Conference Presvyteres have been actively connecting in the past several months. They have met for meals at the home of Fr. Mark and Anastasia Leondis and have made plans to meet for lunch/coffee every couple of months.

AXIOS! To our newly ordained: Andrew Pavlakos, ordained to the diaconate and priesthood at the Annunciation Cathedral, Atlanta, GA. They are serving at Holy Trinity Cathedral in Clearwater, FL. Also, Dn. Constantine Shepherd, ordained to the priesthood at the Annunciation, Winston-Salem, NC where he and Presvytera Stacy will serve.

Metropolis News

**Metropolis of Denver** *submitted by Kandi Haby*

I am hoping that since we are spread so far in our Metropolis we will be able to divide into regions for get-togethers. I hope to get input from the sisters on how this should be done. When the Clergy Laity for the Denver Metropolis meets in May we hope to plan events for the Presvyteres.

Metropolis of Atlanta

Upcoming Events - Plans are in the works for a metropolis Lenten retreat at our Diakonia Retreat Center in Salem, SC in Spring 2017. We hope to be able to utilize the retreat center while the Philoptochos ladies are holding their Lenten retreat. We are looking forward to June 20-24, 2017 for our Metropolis of Atlanta clergy laity in Raleigh, NC.

Metropolis of Atlanta photo:



**Metropolis of Chicago** submitted by Maria Sarolas

Our kick-off our year of wonderful events began with a potluck lunch and fellowship gathering on October 29th at Ascension Church in Lincolnshire. We held our annual Vasilopita Clergy Family Dinner graciously was hosted by St. Demetrios Church in Chicago on January 3rd. His Eminence joined dinner with us and cut Vasilopita for each family. Other events upcoming are as follows:

Saturday of the Souls Retreat – February 25th

Outreach and dinner fellowship to follow- April 29th

Our newsletter and website are ongoing and will be continued by Katerina Papagiannis. We are currently working to instill calls to the widowed Presvyteres and keep in touch with them. We also welcome new additions to our clergy families. Congratulations to Fr. Peter and Presv. Magda Andronache, Fr. Sotiri and Presv. Stefanie Malamis, and Fr. Stamati and Presv. Katerina Sfikas for the birth of their children. Memory Eternal to the following clergy: Fr. Lionikis and Fr. John Kutulas. AXIOS! To the newly ordained, Deacon Athanasios Minetos and Diakonissa Nicole.

**Metropolis of Detroit** submitted by Jenny Legakis

It was wonderful seeing everyone at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center here in Nashville July 3rd through 8<sup>th</sup> last July. There were many memorable moments throughout the week.

The Clergy Family Event took place on Tuesday, July 5th at The Factory at Franklin. We had 503 clergy, presvyteres and children in attendance! In addition to dinner, we had face painting, balloon twisting and a photo booth. This year saw the return of a Presvytera Luncheon held on Thursday, July 7th. We traveled to Belmont University and had a Southern barbeque meal. Our guest speaker was Louie Zagami who spoke to us about the work of IOCC. It was another wonderful time of fellowship.

We hosted two events for the PKs including a pizza lunch for the teens to meet one another with Despina Wilson and Peter Keares leading the icebreakers. On Tuesday, Stephen Christoforou presented a workshop for PKs ages 13-18. His topic was "Being the Bee: Finding God in Everything, Every Day." We had about 40 PKs participate in this program. Clergy Family Childcare was another important piece of Clergy-Laity. A special thank you to Presvytera Elizabeth Redmon who was our childcare director. We had 17 children enroll. We also had adult and GOYAn volunteers assist with childcare. I have created a Host City Clergy-Laity Binder. I will send that on to the next host city presvytera upon request of the NSP board. We also have a large storage box and pillows of childcare items that will require mailing to the next host city. Thank you for coming to Nashville. It was wonderful to see you all.

**Metropolis of New Jersey** submitted by Colette Bourantas

We would like to thank Presvytera Sophia Hohnholt and her host committee for a wonderful conference in Nashville. We truly appreciate all their hard work, hospitality and commitment. We, as the new board of representatives are honored and blessed to be representing our fellow sisters in Christ. We look forward to serving you as we begin another term for the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres. We plan to have regional

gatherings this fall. We also would like to discuss a stewardship program in our Metropolis Sisterhood. I pray that we all have a blessed ecclesiastical year full of prayer, spiritual enlightenment and fruitful fellowship.

**Metropolis of Pittsburgh** *submitted by Tina (Frangos) Gulgas*

Heartfelt Greetings from 2016-18 NSP Pittsburgh Representative-Tina (Frangos) Gulgas, St. Nicholas Lorain, OH. I'm sure in this photo montage created by Pres. Vasiliki Constantine, we are missing some of the Pittsburgh Presvyteres that were fortunate enough to make it to Nashville this past summer.

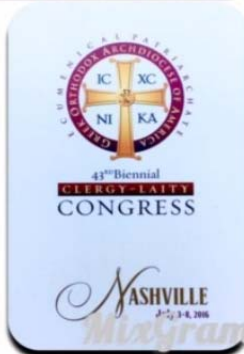
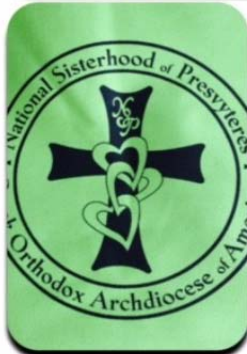
Presvyteres at Saxonburg Monastery



Northwest Region Clergy and Presvyteres meet for dinner



Don't be shocked if you get a call from and feel free to contact your Regional Representatives: Northeast: Stephanie Petrides (stephanie.petrides@gmail.com), Central: Kassiani Callos (kassianicallos@gmail.com), South: Cynthia Milanese (Prescindy@yahoo.com), and Northwest: Goldie Doukas ([Presvytera@aol.com](mailto:Presvytera@aol.com)).



*Metropolis of Pittsburgh*

*Top:* Dianthe Livanos, Anna Lillios, Tina Gulgas, Jennifer Monroe, A.C. Halkias, Sandy Chakos, Shelly Tsikouris

*Middle:* Cindy Milanese, Eleni Kallaur, Becky Touloumes, Maria Rogich, Nicole Keares

*Bottom:* Dianthe Livanos, Vasiliki Constantine, Daisy Dimon

**Metropolis of San Francisco** *submitted by Marsha Robinson*

We are all very inspired by our own Metropolis President, Elizabeth Tervo. As she presented at one of the Clergy-Laity Presvyteres' Meetings, she attended the Mother's Union Conference held in Eldoret, Kenya in August. Many of the clergy in Kenya went without a salary for 11 months due to the Greek financial crisis; it is Elizabeth's aim to help the clergy families to become self-sufficient by providing a fund for no-interest loans so that the Kenyan Presvyteres can start their own home businesses. With the blessing of Metropolitan Gerasimos and Bishop Akunda in Kenya, and the cooperation of OCMC, an account has been set up at OCMC called the "Kisumu Diocese Self-Reliance Fund." Another wonderful blessing of our Metropolitan's desire is to keep clergy marriages healthy. We invite all clergy to participate; you don't have to be from our Metropolis!

Our Metropolis retreat was scheduled for January 20-22, 2017. Our speaker, Fr. Evan Armatas of St. Spyridon's Church in Loveland, Colorado hosted "Orthodoxy Live" on Ancient Faith Radio, and he is also going to talk about his work with schools in Uganda. Continuing on the missions theme, Pres. Merilynn Andruchow will speak to us about Project Mexico. You all are invited to come and join us. Our Metropolis is hosting the National Sisterhood of Presvyteres retreat in the Fall of 2017. We are diligently working on the details in conjunction with the NSP Board. Please see our flyer in this newsletter.

**Widowed Presvyteres, Cincinnati, Ohio**  
**submitted by Elaine Stephanides**

As the representative of the widowed Presvyteres, my hope is to make direct contact with as many as possible during these next two years. I have found that a telephone call means so much to many of our sisters who do not have the opportunity to attend or gather with other Presvyteres at meetings or retreat settings. Many are not in good health, or no longer drive, or for other reasons find it very difficult to get together. A personal phone call that shows someone cares or is thinking about them is very much appreciated.

As said earlier, we need to encourage each Metropolis Sisterhood to elect or appoint a widowed Presvytera to serve on her Metropolis Sisterhood board. This representative would also serve as a direct contact with the national representative and assist in updating the names and addresses of the widowed as well as bringing their ideas, questions, and concerns to the National Board. Somehow we have failed to do this through no fault of any one individual.

**Retired Presvyteres**  
**submitted by Evelyn Adams**

+ Holy Protection of the Theotokos

With my husband's help I am in the process of bringing the Retired Presvyteres mailing list up to date. We have found that many of our Clergy have retired since it was last up dated. I continue to communicate with our sisters and enjoy receiving their responses. If anyone has some news I might share with our Retired Presvyteres, please let me know. In closing I once again convey Metropolitan Gerasimos blessing to each of you.

**Social Media Committee** *The Social Media Committee: Nicole Keares, Cynthia Paleologos, Vicki Toppses*

The National Board agreed to establish a committee to create a Facebook Page for the NSP-GOA Sisterhood. Our committee saw a need to have a place where the GOA-NSP members could share information of the Sisterhood within our Archdiocese and have a safe place for us to communicate our joys and challenges within the ministry as a GOA Clergy Wife through Social Media. As of October 1, 2016, we have 245 members in the group in only one year! The parameters of this “Closed” Facebook Group is such that ONLY GOA clergy wives may join. We vet those who request to join by checking their names with the NSP master list. If they are not on that list, then we privately message them and ask for the name and parish in which their husband has been assigned. Many who have requested to join who aren’t on the list were just individuals who were curious about the group. There was a concern within our committee that we ask each member of the group to respect what is written on our page, hold it in confidence of what is expressed and not to share it with anyone outside this group. If as committee moderators, we discover that there has been a breach of confidence, the individual who had done this breach will be removed from the group.

Recent group discussions were:

- Dynamics of Church Festivals
- Supporting and learning about OCMC
- Learning about upcoming webinars from the Center of Family Care
- Emotional and spiritual support of fellow sisters in life challenges
- Prayer requests for severely ill clergy.

We look forward in this group flourishing as a safe and healthy way to support our Sisters.

**SISTER TO SISTER** *submitted by Jeannie Monos ([jmonos@newrome.org](mailto:jmonos@newrome.org) or 573-825-1261)*

A welcome box is sent to the new diakonissa/presvytera. Most of the welcome boxes that we send are to new diakonissas. This box includes: A letter from the NSP President, a letter from the Archbishop, Board roster, current newsletter, website address and Facebook info, NSP Guide, CAP flyer and magnet, NSP pin, Laminated icon of Martha and Mary, Survival List and kit (package of goodies with a short scripture passage for each item), Mary and Martha Dismissal Hymn, Being Content (short inspirational messages), NSP Retreat Information and any Metropolis newsletters or directories (if available). Your help in this process is needed.

Please contact me with the name and address of the new diakonissa. Since the list from the Archdiocese is sent quarterly, there might be a time when your information will be faster than waiting for the list. Please call me with additional candidates, Jeannie ([jmonos@newrome.org](mailto:jmonos@newrome.org) or 573-825-1261)

If your Metropolis sisterhood has a newsletter or directory that you would like included in the welcome box, please send me copies (or email them to me and I can make copies). I also need your help once the box is sent. I will contact you via email if there is a box sent to a diakonissa in your Metropolis. You will need to assign a “Big Sister” to that person. The Big Sister’s job is simply to contact that person and check in on them once in a while. Perhaps inviting them to a Metropolis sisterhood outing. I look forward to working with all of you.

**WEBSITE REPORT**

**[www.nsp.goarch.org](http://www.nsp.goarch.org)**

The NSP website has been created for more than 20 years. We want to especially remember our Sister Presbyteres. \*The names of the presbyteres on the Memorial Page are used when we have a Memorial Service for our sister presbyteres. Please review the list and if you know of someone who should be added, please send me the information. There are also left and right columns. The left column has a picture of the saint of the day, daily Bible readings, and a link to the Archdiocese’s online chapel. The right column features a link for APC/NSP Benevolent Fund Donations and links to the following websites: Archdiocese, APC, RCA, Iconograms, and Orthodox Jobs. There is also an icon of Christ in the home of Lazarus with our patron saints, Martha and Mary. Reps, please remember to send information regarding your events. Everyone, please send information for the Clergy Family Corner page. Mostly, clergy family births and

deaths are listed on this page, but other information (engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, etc.) is always welcome. Thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as webmaster for our NSP site  
~Pauline Pavlakos  
www.nsp.goarch.org  
[SIinICXC@msn.com](mailto:SIinICXC@msn.com)

**We continue to add to our NSP Stewardship list. Please use the form below:**

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## NATIONAL SISTERHOOD OF PRESVYTERES STEWARDSHIP FORM

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METROPOLIS CHECK NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT \$ paid through year \_\_\_\_\_

*Send to:*

**Mary Christy  
1916 Stannard Trail  
Raleigh, NC 27612**

Make checks payable to *National Sisterhood of Presbyteres*  
*nsp.goarch.org ~ 2017 Newsletter*



National Sisterhood of Presvyteres  
Current Stewards  
2016-2021  
As of February 7, 2017

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Alexopoulos	Eleni	BOS	Harakas	Emily	ATL
Alikakos	Georgia	CHI	Hohnholt	Sofia	DET
Anctil	Cynthia	ARCH	Hondros	Maria	SF
Andrews	Jane	CHI	Honeycutt	Julie	DET
Angelis	Anna	SF	Hountalas	Olga	DET
Antokas	Maria	NJ	Jonas	Anastasia	CHI
Augusta	Janet	ARCH	Kalina	Alexandria	CHI
Bakas	Maria-Ximena	SF	Karahalios	Calypso	BOS
Bartz	Emily	DET	Karamanos	Helen	DET
Bekris	Stella	SF	Karloutsos	Maria	ARCH
Bithos	Ria	DEN	Katsoulis	Anthoula	ATL
Bobotas	Lisa	ATL	Keares	Nicole	PITT
Botsis	Georgia	CHI	Kehagias	Despina	ARCH
Bratiotis	Gloria	SF	Kontinos	Aspasia	ATL
Brown	Marika	SF	Kopsahilis	Christine	ATL
Burdette	Amy	ATL	Kostakis	Athanasia	DEN
Calivas	Mia	BOS	Kostopolos	Louella	PITT
Callas	Hope	SF	Koucos	Eleni	DEN
Carter	Emily	ATL	Kouremetis	Cynthia	ARCH
Cassis	Vicki	DET	Krommydas	Elaine	BOS
Christakos	Eleni	BOS	Kyprios	Tina	DEN
Clarke	Ioanna	PITT	Leogas	Mary Anne	PITT
Cole	Barbara	SF	Leondis	Anastasia	ATL
Combitsis	Argeroula	NJ	Leventis	Despina	DEN
Conjelko	Charlotte	CHI	Livaditis	Ariadne	ARCH
Dalianis	Konstantina	CHI	Louh	Roxanne	ATL
Degaitas	Eleftheria	SF	Loulakis	Norma-Jean	ARCH
Demetri	Eleni	PITT	Mago	Teri	DET
Demos	Carol	ARCH	Magoulias	Georgia	SF
Demotses	Mary	BOS	Mamalis	Janet	DET
Dickey	Tiffany	CHI	Manetas	Anna	BOS
DiStefano	Melanie	PITT	Manuel	Amphitrite	ATL
Dombalis	Mary	NJ	Martin	Nikki Nelson	DET
Dorrance	Stacy	SF	Monos	Jeannie	CHI
Dragas	Assimena	BOS	Moraitis	Flora	BOS
Economou	Elaine	BOS	Nacopoulos	Helen	PITT
Ehmer	Stacey	ATL	Nicoloudakis	Despina	PITT
Eynon	Oana	CHI	Nikokavouras	Kalliopi	CHI
Gikas	Mindy	NJ	Noplos	Alice	NJ
Gill	Stephanie	DEN	Orfanakos	Margaret	NJ



Paleologos	Cynthia	BOS	Tagaropoulos	Joana	DEN
Palis	Irene	PITT	Tervo	Elizabeth	SF
Panagos	Stephanie	BOS	Theodosion	Athena	NJ
Pantelis	Amelia	ATL	Thomas	Stephanie	DET
Papadopoulos	Georgia	ARCH	Tonias	Mary Ann	BOS
Papedo	Lois	DEN	Toppses	Vicki	BOS
Pappalas	Anne	PITT	Tragus	Mia	SF
Pappas	Donna	SF	Trifon	Toula	CHI
Pappas	Evangeline	ATL	Tsigas	Spiridoula	ATL
Papulis	Christina	CHI	Tudora	Mirela	DEN
Petrides	Cristen	PITT	Varcados	Maria	DEN
Petropoulakos	Patricia	ARCH	Vasilakis	Garnett	ATL
Philippas	Sophia	CHI	Veronis	Faith	BOS
Pilavas	Argie	ARCH	Veronis	Pearl	PITT
Potter	Sherry	ATL	Vlahos	Betsy	ATL
Poulos	Christine	ARCH	Vlahos	Betty	SF
Pourakis	Georgia	ARCH	Vlahos	Ioanna	ATL
Pratsinakis	Maria	NJ	Wilson	Harriet	ATL
Providakes	Jean	BOS	Zervos	Anne	CHI
Rafael	Olga	NJ	Zorzos	Pauline	ARCH
Rizos	Alexandra	BOS			
Robinson	Marsha	SF	<b><u>2018</u></b>		
Romas	Lorraine	ARCH	Artemas	Patricia	ATL
Salzman	Christine	ATL	Bacalis	Vivian	NJ
Sarolas	Maria	CHI	Dalber	Maria	ATL
Scoulas	Mary	CHI	Delfos	Harriet	DET
Sicoe	Mihaela	DET	Flegas	Stella	DEN
Simones	Joana	BOS	Gousios	Athena	DET
Sitaras	Georgia	ARCH	Kontogiorgis	Vicki	ARCH
Sophocles	Hrisafie	NJ	Pavlakos	Pauline	NJ
Soteropoulos	Mary	ARCH	Poulos	Alexandra	DEN
Souritzidis	Gigi	NJ	Rousakis	Vasiliki	ATL
Stamas	Penny	BOS	<b><u>2020</u></b>		
Stamatos	Poppy	ARCH	Artemas	Nikie	CHI
State	Sophie	SF	Bartz	Zafera	PITT
Staviski	Charlotte	SF	Christy	Mary	ATL
Stephanopoulos	Nikki	ARCH	<b><u>2021</u></b>		
Stratis	Elaine	ATL	Vernikos	Effrosini	ATL
Streett	Fotini	DEN	<b><u>OTHER</u></b>	Rev. Dr. Anton	
Stylianopoulos	Fotini	BOS	Vrame	'Tony'	
Supica	Irene	SF	Metropolis of San Francisco		

**(NSP Stewardship Con't)**

+Memory Eternal

Thank all of you for your generosity! Every effort has been made to present an updated list. However, if your name does not appear on this list, or if you are in a Metropolis other than the one listed, please contact me as soon as possible so that a correction can be made. Respectfully submitted, Mary Christy

## **2016 GIFTS OF LOVE DONORS AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2016**

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Adams, Rev. James and Evelyn  
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