

# August 2020 A publication of the Jewish Federation of Greater Chartanooga

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# **Campaign Co-Chair Commentary**



# Federation IS Family by Rob Lowe, Campaign Co-Chair

When my family moved from Chicago to Chattanooga in 2011, we had the same hopes as any family moving to a new area; that we would build a group of close friends and feel connected to the community. Nine years later, we've done that and more. The first two families we met were

the Dziks and the Cathcarts. Vicki Cathcart had been a high school classmate of Beth's (my wife) and was the director of Aleph-Bet. Those relationships opened the door for my family to become more deeply involved in the Federation's programs and activities, develop meaningful friendships, build community, and learn how we could support the Jewish communities here in Chattanooga and around the world.

Our earliest connection to the Federation was through Young Jewish Leadership (YJL) programs, including regular Shabbat dinners and other social and networking events. Through YJL, we made many of our closest friends today--friends with whom we've shared the most joyous occasions and heartbreaking losses. That sense of belonging made it hard to "graduate" from YJL. For a time, when asked the age range eligibility for YJL, members were apt to respond, "Age 21 to Rob Lowe."

The Federation has been a central part of my daughters' lives too. Rachel and Hannah were seven when we moved here and are now almost seventeen. They participated in nearly every year of Philanthropy camp, where they learned the importance of tikkun olam and practiced giving back to the community, and as a family, we've participated in the worldwide Good Deeds Day. Our girls have also connected to their community, Jewish identity, and Israel by celebrating many holidays with the Federation, and through commemorations of Yom Ha'atzmaut, Yom Hazikaron, and Yom Hashoah. The Federation has also generously supported our family (and many others) with grants to help Rachel and Hannah attend Camp Ramah Darom, where they strengthened their Jewish identities, relationships, leadership skills, and so much more. They've attended Machanooga every year since moving to Chattanooga, and served as madrachim (teachers' aides) the past two years. Through Jew Crew they've been able to learn and have fun with other local Jewish high schoolers.

One of the greatest rewards of Federation involvement has been the friendships we've made with the Israeli shlichim. We've learned so much from them about the culture, history, and current events of Israel, while sharing our favorite parts of Chattanooga life with them. We were so fortunate to be a host family for Chen Dahan. In 2016, with Michael Dzik and other volunteer members of the Board, I went on the JFNA campaigners' mission to Israel, my first visit to the Holy Land. This was a life-changing trip where it really sunk in how our dollars change people's lives. That trip kicked into a higher gear my commitment to the Federation's critical mission to build strong, unified Jewish communities. Last August, I attended the Financial Resource Development (FRD) leadership mission to Buenos Aires and Montevideo, Uruguay, where we learned about numerous ways the Federation provides support and builds leaders. I also learned about the culture and history of vibrant Jewish communities in South America, while enjoying and making emotional memories with some of my Chattanooga brothers.

I'm thankful to the Federation for the numerous leadership opportunities. In 2016, I joined the Board of Directors. I was part of the initial YESOD program brought to Chattanooga to help develop volunteer leaders, and have since been invited to join the campaign cabinet, finance and executive committees, and most recently I became a 2021 campaign co-chair, along with Fern Shire. I thank executive director Michael Dzik for his mentorship and trust. The Federation has become an integral part of my family's Jewish and philanthropic journey, and I'm very grateful to play a small part in helping achieve its mission.



## Unity is in Community by Fern Shire, Campaign Co-Chair

Recently my daughter Lily and I were playing around with the word search postcard sent by the Federation. We were looking for the word "unity." After a few minutes, we thought it must be a trick, as we could only find it embedded in another word in the search: commu-

nity. How fitting! The only place for unity is in community.

These two words could not be more important or have more meaning today, with the challenges we face locally, as a nation and in the world. While our Jewish Federation has always focused on community, it has had unity at its heart. It has always been about bringing us together and supporting one another.

For the past four months, we've been battling a pandemic, worrying about the economy, and wrestling with continued racial injustices. Many of us have been isolated from the outside world. The Federation understands these uncertain and frightening times, and has done its best to reach out. We may not be gathering at the JCC, taking in a movie or a speaker, or enjoying a wonderful kosher meal, but other "events" have kept us connected.

# **Campaign News**

### (Shire, continued from previous page)

On "Mondays with Michael," Federation executive Director Michale Dzik provides us with brief updates on all things Federation. Our drive-thru events have included Welcome Back Alice, Challah pickup, and Fourth of July chicken dinner pickup. Federation staff and board members have also tried to check in on every member of the community with a phone call or note, just to say hello. Our sense of unity reached outside the Jewish community with the multi-faith, live-streamed gathering in response to George Floyd's death.

My husband Jim and I felt a connection to this community just a few days after we moved here 23 years ago. The first weekend we were in afterward I became a board member at BZ and soon after that, I got involved with the Federation.

I had never before been active in any Jewish Federation because I never fully appreciated their value to the community. We now contribute annually. Lily attended Aleph Bet, Philanthropy Camps, and Jew Crew. We have attended and loved the Film Series, Chai Nights, campaign kickoff events, exhibits, and so many other Federation offerings.

Federation events will be virtual for the foreseeable future, but it doesn't mean we can't be together. On August 30th, for Campaign Kickoff, we will stream the energetic and entertaining Joshua Nelson. Please join us. Especially now, it's critical we continue to stick together. Remember, community depends on unity.

# Joshua Nelson's Kosher Gospel: Kickoff Headliner, August 30th at 7p.m.



Join us (virtually) as Joshua Nelson, the selfstyled Prince of Kosher Gospel, performs for the Federation for Campaign Kickoff

"Kosher gospel is the marriage of Jewish religious lyrics and meanings with the soulful sounds of American gospel music. While the word "gospel," a Greek word meaning good news, is usually associated with African-American Christian churches, the musical styling

came from several African tribes, and developed as a tool to escape social injustice.

"For Joshua Nelson, kosher gospel is a way to claim both town, a brunch was organized to welcome us. Soon parts of his identity as a Black Jew. For his audiences, whatever their faith or heritage, kosher gospel has been a revelation. Nelson has performed around the world for presidents, congregations, major music festivals, and for Oprah, who named him a "Next Big Thing." He has produced a stellar album, Mi Chamocha, sung with stars from Aretha Franklin to the Klezmatics, and served as the subject of the acclaimed documentary film Keep on Walking.

"Nelson also passes on his musical gift as an artist in residence at Jewish congregations across the country, including at his home synagogue of Temple Sharey Tefilo-Israel, a reform congregation in South Orange, New Jersey, where he taught Hebrew school for 15 years. Whatever the venue, Joshua Nelson brings people-and cultures-together in joyous song." (Joshuanelson. com)

On August 30th at 7 p.m., Nelson will treat us to a live performance of Jewish gospel music, which we will stream to the community via Zoom. This event is free but registration is required. Go to jewishchattanooga.com and follow the (easy) instructions.

# WHAT YOUR FEDERATION DOES

Community Shaliach \* Support of Jews Worldwide \* Jew Crew Summer Camp Subsidies \* Yom Hashoah \* The Shofar **Tuesday Cafe \* Social Services Case Management** Medicare Part D Consultations \* Travel to Israel Jewish Film Series \* Machanooga Sunday Program \* Foreign Policy Supper Club **Community Chanukah Party \* Yom Hazikaron** First Amendment Dinner \* Mitzvah Meals \* Annual Directory Partnership 2Gether Consortium \* Transportation Services Exhibits \* Website (jewishchattanooga.com) Aleph Bet Children's Center \* Community Nurse \* July 4th Picnic Yom Ha'atzmaut \* Performances \* Chai Night Literary Events \* Home Visits \* Birthright Israel \* PJ Library Young Leadership \* Kosher Kitchen \* Community Relations

Word Search													
G	Ν	Y	м	Α	L	0	Ν	U	К	к	Ι	т	A
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tzedakah mitzvah community engagement shlichim leadership shofar together social services Aleph Bet Israel tikkun olam unity

#### 3



Michael Dzik mdzik@jewishchattanooga.com 893-5443

Even great mornings happen during COVID-19 times. This morning was one of them. I received a call from a Jewish community member who wanted to talk about current events, and also to heap a

little praise on me and the Jewish Federation. The fifteen minute call left me inspired. I hope it will do the same for you.

"J" (not her real initial) called to say she was appreciative of all we had been doing to help her. She reads and loves my monthly Shofar articles, she said. She

# from the executive director

has been receiving weekly Mitzvah Meals for several months now, and the Federation had delivered to

her doorstep our monthly "drive thru" goodies: BBQ for July 4th, Alice's welcome back sweets, and the Shabbat candles, juice and challah. It had been years since she lit Shabbat candles, she said, but she was inspired to light them when they arrived. She has already signed up for the Shabbat drive-thru, happening August 14th.

It's always nice to get compliments – for me and my staff. But this felt different. "J" was specific about what each Federation staff member had done: Christi and Brenda had made calls. Jason and Eddie had delivered items to her home. She was touched by the authentic, caring nature of the staff.

Then "J" said something that will stick with me for a long time. "I've always given to the Jewish Federation, but I never knew everything you did. Now I'm a recipient of your services and you are improving my life and keeping me connected to the Jewish commu-

#### nity. I can't express enough thanks for all you and your staff are doing. I tell all my friends how great the Federation is, even many of my non-Jewish friends too!"

"J" went on. She said that my tenure at the Federation had changed the community for the better in many ways, and that she herself felt more engaged and connected than she had in the past.

Please know that I'm not trying to brag here. The fact is, I myself feel isolated from time to time and am trying to figure out how to keep the community connected. "J"'s call made me feel like I am on the right track. It was an inspiration to keep doing what we are doing here at the Federation. She didn't have to pick up the phone to call me, but she did. And it made a difference in my life. Collectively through the Federation, we are all making in difference in her life, too.

This month the Federation kicks off our 2021 Annual Campaign under more uncertain circumstances than anything we've known. Through it all, we strive to keep doing, keep providing, keep connecting, keep engaging, keep taking care of our community members. That's what the drive-thrus are. That's what the phone calls from Social Services are. That's what the many virtual programs are. That's what this special issue of The Shofar is. It's our attempt to normalize an abnormal situation.

The Federation is a vital piece of this Jewish community. What we do, what we accomplish, is inspiring. Mitzvot abound. As you consider making your gift to the Federation this year – whether your first gift ever or your 50th (or more!), I hope you know that the impact is real and immeasurable. This year, now more than ever, we need the support of the entire Jewish community. It will not only help this community be strong during this challenging time, but will also inspire others to participate.

Thank you, "J", for the kind words. You have inspired and motivated me. And that is a huge gift.



#### Mike Spector, Board Chair mspector@kleenamatic.com

Why do we need to support the Jewish Federation when there are so many other nonprofits and organizations that need our help? These are strange times: a global pandemic, lockdowns,

insecurity, an unknown future.

I am grateful for any help I can get right now, but I am especially grateful for the Jewish Federation.

I see what we are capable of as an organization. Through decades of work, we've developed trust with the Jewish and non-Jewish community. This is extremely important when we consider the programming and services we provide. We take care of our elderly through Social Services and our youngest through Aleph Bet. We keep vou connected through a myriad of special events and

from the board chair

programs, even during this time of social distancing. We help not only one another, but Jews worldwide.

We provide weekly meals, transportation, Jewish programming, friendly visits and phone calls. Community members are searching for engaging Jewish programming and conversations - and we provide those. Shabbat meals,

challah, candles and treats before the High Holidays, a safe and Jewish childcare and preschool - we provide all of this. Many of these services are vital to the lives of our community; others provide vitality to a thriving Chattanooga community.

All of these are possible because of your generosity to the Federation's Annual Campaign. Especially now, your support is needed. Every community member and every gift is meaningful and important. Join my wife Linda and me in giving generously to this year's Federation campaign. We depend on you to help yourself and so many others in our community and around the world.



Ann Treadwell atreadwell@ jewishchattanooga.com 493-0270 ext 13

# **Paradigm Shift**

I remember looking through my grandfather's handmade 1930s kaleidoscope. It had the most amazing shapes and colors. Each of the colored cells grace-

fully shifted and reconfigured inside the tight wooden body no matter how many times you turned it round and round. Whether you looked through the lens on a cloudy day, or in Annual Chattanooga Jewish Film Series, coming your way the sparkling sunshine, the kaleidoscope always displayed

# from the program director programs, events and

a magnificent world. At the Federation, services are shifting and reconfiguring a bit like that

kaleidoscope. As they do, we know we there will be ups, downs, conflicts, challenges and joys. We will try to meet these changes and challenges as gracefully as we can.

Technology presents a special struggle, as we figure out virtual ways to keep people from feeling isolated. I am constantly on the lookout for uplifting content,



Thirteen is not an unlucky number but it is a number that has come with many challenges. What a year!

The Chattanooga Jewish Film Series will begin virtually screening, including limited in-person viewing by reservation only. The Series will take place during the months of October and November. As in past years, vou will be treated to the best Jewish-themed international films available.

Details to come.

as so much of what's out there is anything but. Unlike what the little red hen says in the folk tale "Chicken Little," the sky is not falling. And I will do my best to bring evidence of optimism your way in the coming weeks and months.

The one thing that all of us at the Federation can rely on is each other. People, and how we engage with one another, is what makes up the Federation kaleidoscope. Turn the scope toward engagement and you'll see monthly drivebys offering you smiles, treats, and even meals. Turn the scope again and you'll see all the phone calls we're making to check on you, to make sure you're safe from COVID or bad weather. Turn the scope again and you will see the 13th in a whole new format. Turn the scope again and you will see a thoughtful discussion about American policy issues.

What affects me the most, however, is when you turn the scope to find four or five friends, who have been living in isolation for months, chatting in a Tuesday Cafe Zoom room we've set up, about everything from how to get groceries, to going back to the hair salon, to being safe at the drugstore, to what made them happy that week.

I have no idea what the new normal will be for Federation programming. I can tell you though that come dark skies or brilliant sunshine, the kaleidoscope that is the Federation will make your life as interesting and magical as it possibly can.

# -DOMESTIC POLICY

# meaning, definition, explanation...

Want to know what leading scholars\* in the field are saying? Don't want to read complicated statements? Want to participate in Zoom discussions? Willing to be in a group discussion once a month? No cost to participate.

### Monday, August 10, 6:00 pm Where Do We Start? Civics, Economics, National Security, Environment, Education, **Healthcare Reform**

View short clips and articles to help determine the program's continuing agenda.

Contact Ann Treadwell, atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com to receive each month's e-mailed information packet.

Source material comes from Policy.ed ,affiliated with the Hoover Institution, Stanford University. Some topic statements may be considered partisan, but are good for discussion.







Above three photos: *Welcome* back drive-thru for Alice Goss Morgan, June 4th.

Left, Tuesday Cafe in small groups at the JCC, with social distancing. Interested in joining a small TC group? See page 9 for information. Want to join us by ZOOM? That's on page 9 too.



**Dinner Pick Up - For Shabbat!** Jewish Cultural Center Friday, August 14 2pm – 5:30pm Reservations and pre-payment required by August 7 www.jewishchattanooga.com or call 423-493-0270 Children under 7 free; 7-12 years \$7.00 \$14 per person; \$25 for two adults



**Included in Shabbat dinner:** \*Challah, candles, grape juice \*A choice of brisket, chicken or vegetarian must be made at time of order \*Green beans \*Mashed potatoes \*Heavenly chocolate cake

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The Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga Annual Campaign Kick-Off







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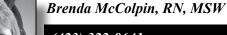
Christi Haustein Social Services Director chaustein@jewishchattanooga.com 893-9241

I don't know about you all, but I thought we'd be free again by now!

Free to be around others, free to shop, free to go on vacation wherever we wanted. Unfortunately we still need to take proper precautions to keep ourselves and others healthy.

I wanted to go over what the Social Services Department is doing to help you. We are still providing transportation services and still prioritize medical appointments. We can take you grocery shopping and pick up certain medications. We can help you run other errands as well; just give me or one of the drivers, a call to schedule it with 2-3 days' notice. We're cleaning our vehicles before and after each client and using personal protective equipment (PPE) if we're with clients, and we ask that each client do the same. If you do NOT have a face covering, the Federation can supply one, but we need to know in advance of picking you up.

We are still taking grocery orders and placing with SHIPT for delivery, or we ourselves can



## (423) 322-8641 Hours: Monday/Tues/Thursday

As I think about how these few months have brought unanticipated changes

in my life, I find myself thinking about how sudden changes have impacted folks in this community. Some people are experiencing isolation due to work at home orders, fear of exposure to the Coronavirus, and or for some restricted visitation and even quarantines put in place by independent and assisted living facilities to prevent the spread of Covid-19. Whatever the cause of isolation, the experience is highly individualized. Some are accustomed to being alone. Others find isolation most intolerable and unbearable.

Through the phone calls, I have discovered that segments of the community appear to be more heavily impacted by isolation. As independent and assisted living facilities have been forced to shut down physical contact with the outside world, residents have suddenly found themselves more isolated. This increased isolation is often further compounded by quarantines where folks are required to stay in their room. The delivery

pick up and deliver. Joel, one of the Federation drivers, has been gracious in helping out with these deliveries.

Brenda and I continue to call on folks to check in. We are also taking clients to medical appointments, if requested, though we can't always accompany you inside. We're not allowed to make hospitals, rehab or assisted/independent living facility visits at this time, due to COVID-19.

We ARE meeting with clients at our office, but BY APPOINTMENT ONLY and with face masks. We take the temperature of everyone entering the building. Please call me or Brenda McColpin if you would like to meet with us.

The Federation continues to deliver Mitzvah Meals each week on Thursdays. These meals can include beef, chicken, fish and soup (any combination/number you'd like) and can be suited to fit nutritional/dietary needs. If you'd like a meal delivered, call me the Monday prior to the Thursday you'd like to receive them.

Lastly, we are looking into ways to stay in communication with you. Many of you have asked how you can help others by making phone calls and writing cards. You don't have to look far to see the good in people. Watch for the little things that happen daily: the person opening a door for someone, kind words overheard, neighbors helping out, the individual who offers their services free of charge. If you're spending too much time watching the news, you might miss what's happening around you. Maybe you're missing your chance to help out someone you know who is in need. Pick up the phone, call someone you haven't spoken to in a while. Make time for this; it means the world to the person receiving it, I promise!

of their meals may be their only face-to-face contact with another human being. Also, some communities stipulate if you leave their premises, you have to be in quarantine for two weeks. No friends or family are allowed to visit. In some facilities, they have stopped activities that bring people together. Even as some aspects are beginning to open up, new rules limit the ability to connect with other residents. The facilities are doing the best they can to keep everyone safe. Some folks are more adaptable and have experience with doing life in a more isolated way. Others experience extreme boredom and unbearable loneliness. As days extend to weeks and months, the isolation can take its toll mentally and physically. We know that loneliness is a huge factor in health outcomes. All this to say that we are looking at ways to promote connection, increased community, and activities for these folks. We are brainstorming and coming up with ideas we hope will help reduce the isolation and loneliness.

One such idea is to increase community awareness of how some folks are more or less in forced isolation. If you happen to have someone you know living in a facility, they may be living this new normal. Go ahead, pick up the phone, and give them a call. Take a few minutes to listen to them, share a happy memory, or tell a joke, let them know they are not alone. The bottom line is we can all get through this better when we take the opportunity to support one other!



In 2007, I was new to Chattanooga and answered an ad for a temporary substitute teacher at Aleph Bet. Coming from a very large, franchised children's center, I immediately fell in love with the small class sizes and the quick relationships that developed within these walls.

Over the years, my appreciation for Aleph Bet and the JFGC has grown with each step we've taken to make sure that both the employees, and the community we serve, have an active voice in our programing. The opportunity to lead a program that

Up-to-date information about online programs, cancellations and changes can be found here: --weekly community email --Federation Facebook Page (Jewish Federation of Greater Chattanooga --Federation website (Jewishchattanooga.com)

I so strongly believe is an experience for which I'm forever grateful.

If you've taken the parent tour of Aleph Bet, I hope you'll remember what I've told every family: the children will come away with everything they need to be academically successful in kindergarten, but that's not what we focus on. We are much more concerned with raising confident, empathetic, kind members of a community, who understand the meaning of tikkun olam. With the continued support of the JFGC and every family who walks through our doors, we know Aleph Bet's impact will be felt for many years to come.

> Please let the Federation know how we can help you during these challenging times. Call or email us anytime. (423) 493-0270 federation@jewishchattanooga.com

# Join the Jewish Federation Legacy Society

The Legacy Society is made up of individuals who, in the tradition of our Jewish faith, wish to share their blessings with others by providing for the future needs of the Jewish community. There are a number of ways to contribute to the Jewish Federation's Endowment through estate planning: a bequest in a will, contribution of the remainder of an IRA or other retirement plan, a life insurance policy, charitable remainder trust, donor advised fund, charitable gift annuity, piece of real estate, securities or other property, or the donation of other assets. However they choose to contribute, Legacy Society members can be sure that their planned gift will turn their dreams for a strong future Jewish community into a reality. Join today.

Anonymous (2) \*Allen, Amelia Allen, Owen \*Alper, Maxine Balser, Jeff Balser, Robin Barukh, Rebecca Berz, Bob Binder, Claire Black, Bonnie Black, Stephen Bogo, Jerry Bogo, Rosalee \*Bohn, Jerry Brooks, Ellyn Brooks, John Brouner, Betsy

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Sivils, Janet Spector, Linda \*Spector, Mark Spector, Mike Susman, Gail Susman, Joel Weiner, Cara Oxenhandler, Barbara White Dropkin, Donna Winer, David Winer, Elaine Winer, Finette Winer, Sanford \* Deceased

Siskin, Pris

See how easy it is to join the Legacy Society! Call Michael Dzik at 493-0270 ext 15.

# Join us for Tuesday Cafe via ZOOM

August 11 and 25th

Fix your lunch, sit down in front of your computer, laptop, or phone, and let's chat! Meeting number: 747 223 9161 Password: 940790

Want to come in person? We are hosting very small, in-person Tuesday Cafes get-togethers, but you must make a reservation in order to attend. Contact Ann Treadwell for more information, at atreadwell@jewishchattanooga.com or 493-0270.



# Mitzvah Meals Suggested Donations

--\$8 per meal

--\$90 per month based on 3 meals/week --\$125 per month based on 4 meals/week --160 per month based on 5 meals/week

--190 per month based on 6 meals/week

Meals are delivery only until further notice.

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# **THANK YOU!**



A gigantic thank you to Sandra Hammond, who filled in for Alice Goss Morgan in the Federation kitchen for the better part of a year. She made every meal and event run smoothly and for that we are so grateful. We could not have done it without her!

# Mazel Tov

--to Zachary Beker, who was selected to the 2020-2021 Young Professionals of Chattanooga Advisory Board.

-- to Tal Cohen and Erica Newman, named two of Chattanooga's top Twenty Under Forty young professionals.

--to Jacob Pregulman, who was accepted into the 2020 National Young Leadership Cabinet, the premier leadership development program of Jewish Federations of North America.

--Shofar editor Dana Shavin, who received First Place in the Humorous Commentary division of the 2020 Green Eyeshade awards for excellence in journalism for her columns in the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*.

# Condolences

#### We are sad to announce the passing of

--Valerie Saxe Chill, wife of Leonard Chill, z'l, mother of Wayne (Darla) Saxe, David Chill, Ben (Lynn) Chill, and Susan (Jim) Whipple; grandmother of Brad (Melissa), David, Leila, Sam (Rara), Anna, Gabrielle and Angela; and great-grandmother of Lowery and Lennox.

--Dorothy Jaffe, husband, Sam Jaffe, z'l, stepmother to Ricky Berg, aunt to four nieces and six nephews.

--Lyle Fredrick Wolf, father of Rick (Sandra Heymann) Wolf.

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# **Community Business Listing**

The following businesses are community-owned. This listing is a courtesy of *The Shofar* and is intended to encourage community members to support their fellow business owners. Want to buy an ad in future *Shofars*? Email Dshavin@jewishchattanooga.com for rates.

# \*Allied Eye

Dennis & Susan Matzkin Ophthalmologist, accepting most insurance plans, comprehensive optical shop www. alliedeye.com

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