



TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM BULLETIN



Number 8, 2020-2021

April 2021, Nisan - Iyar 5781

Rabbi Moti Rieber



Beineinu – Between Us By Rabbi Moti Rieber

Limnot yameinu, ken hoda, v'navi l'vav chochmah

Teach us to number our days, that we may get a heart of wisdom. -
- Ps. 90:12

The word “*limnot*” in the above quote is translated in several ways: “measure” our days, or “treasure” our days (as in a song that I often sing at *shiva minyanim*, services after of a loved one’s death), or, as in this translation, “number,” or “count.”

This verse has special meaning at this time of year, as we literally count the days between Passover and Shavuot in an ancient custom called “counting the Omer.”

As with so many of our Jewish holidays, this practice has (at least!) three components: an earth-based/year-cycle component, a historical/national component, and a spiritual practice component. In Lev. 23, the Israelites are instructed to bring an “omer” (a unit of measure) of the first of the spring harvest to the priest, who waves it around as a wave-offering. And then in v. 15:

And you shall count for yourselves from the morrow after the sabbath [i.e., the holiday of Passover] from the day that you brought the omer of the wave offering; seven complete sabbaths shall there be: to the morrow after the seventh sabbath shall you number fifty days and you shall offer a new meal offering to GOD.

An offering like this - from the first of the spring harvest, before the person is even allowed to get the use of it - is meant to acknowledge and express gratitude for God’s sovereignty over the whole process, “an acknowledgement that, without God, [the Israelite’s] abundance and sustenance would not be possible” (Rabbi A. Brian Stoller, in the introduction to *Omer: A Counting*, described below).

I imagine that in an agricultural milieu such as ancient Israel, it would be easier to keep in mind God’s provenance, directly dependent as they were on natural circumstances. Yet even they were instructed to count. How much more valuable could such counting be to us, who are more distant from such daily/seasonal miracles!

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The second element is historical, as counting the Omer marks the transition from Passover to Shavuot, or from slavery/degradation to revelation/elevation. “Let my people go so that they may serve me,” Moses says to Pharaoh. Passover recounts the “letting go,” and Shavuot, in late May this year, the “serve me” part. The Omer is the bridge between the two, as the Israelites are transitioned out of the mindset of slavery in preparation for Sinai.

And the third element of counting the Omer is as a spiritual practice. The Kabbalists (Jewish mystics) overlaid the structure of the seven *sefirot* (divine emanations) over the seven weeks of the Omer -- each of the seven *sefirot* aligning to one of the seven weeks. So, on week one, we would consider/meditate on *chesed*/lovingkindness, the second week *gevurah*/judgement, the third week *tiferet*/beauty, and so on.

According to tradition it is very important to count every day. In fact, according to halachah (Jewish law) if you miss a day, you are not supposed to say the brachah/blessing on subsequent days – although you can still count!

Counting the Omer is one of those practices that tended to get dropped in Reform circles, but like some other such practices, it seems to be coming back. I recommend a new book, *Omer: A Counting*, by Rabbi Karyn D. Kedar, a Reform rabbi in the Chicago area (available through the CCAR). Modeled on the kabbalistic practices I described early, it is based on an original set of spiritual principles: decide, discern, choose, hope, image, courage, pray. Each corresponds to one of the seven weeks. I will be using this book during teachings in April and May.

People who have meditation or mindfulness practices know how central to that practice the simple act of counting is. If we do nothing more than, as the psalmist says, “*limnot yameniu*” – count our days - we will have reclaimed the Omer and made it into a mindfulness practice for ourselves. If we then add further elements – the nightly blessing, self-reflection, spiritual study using resources like Rabbi Kedar’s book – then we will have truly reclaimed this ancient custom as a meaningful practice for ourselves.

Please join the Potts family as
Davin Potts
will be called to the Torah as a Bar
Mitzvah,
Saturday morning,
April 24, 2021 at
10:30 am via Zoom.
Please RSVP email to
davinsbarmitzvah@gmail.com



Contributions

We appreciate the thoughtfulness of those who support Temple Beth Sholom by remembering and honoring their friends and loved ones through their generous contributions.

General Fund

Einsteins

Stephen Pozez

Adam Treen and Julie

Petrucelli-Treen

-In memory of Harley Treen, Jr.

Russ and Jane Greene

-In memory of a beautiful person, Betty Rosen

Nick Dyer

Larry and Patty Pressman

-Thank you to Warren Sickel

Simon Joseph

Jan Abrams

-In memory of June Shapiro

Holocaust Fund

Mark and Mary Greenberg

-Thank you for your leadership: Jane Greene, Alan Parker and Jessica Rockhold

Maimonides Fund

Jack and Rhoda Wisman

-Thank you to Religious School for the Purim treats

-In memory of Betty Rosen

-In memory of Louis Pozez

-In memory of Danny Goodman

-In memory of Raisih Wisman

-In memory of Ann Marshall-Levine

-In memory of David Iselin

Pusitz Memorial Library

Mary Hull

Endowment Fund

Allen and Beth Kossoy

-In memory of Morton Brounstein

Landscape Fund

Joyce Shapiro and Lia Shapiro-Felix

-In memory of Heiman Shapiro

Religious School Fund

Ben Lange and Laurie McKinnon

-In memory of Sandra McKinnon

Deborah Edelman-Dolan

Stephanie Schuttera

Sharon Nathan

-Thanks so much for the Purim box

Yahrzeits

April 2 – Frances Botkin Marshall, Ione Balderson, Rabbi Samuel Fredman, David Feldman, Al Gartner, Anna Heitzman, Edna Leitz, William Leitz, Paul Schuttera, Raphael Levy Family, Esther Spector, Irv Kolman, Rebecca Kemp Tigerman

April 9 – Susan Alyn Cohn, Margaret Gruenthaler, Elaine Zlotky

April 16 – Eli Ulamperl, Rose Israel, Sue Dick, Louis Haas, Benjamin Litwin, Chuck Gordon, Barney Allis

April 23 – Alma Katz, Harriette Goodman, Toby Anne Levinson, Marvin Facher, Larry Rosen

April 30 – Isidor Dauer, Louis Endlich, Fred Hunter, David August, Blanche Feldman, Charlie Kessler, Fran Philip, Ben Whitebook, Ruth Karol, Henry Rosenholtz, Martin Wisman, Morris Affron, Vera Tkatch

At this tough time for Temple Beth Sholom, we would appreciate any extra donations.

Make donations and contributions to Temple at this secure link (in the message box on the checkout page, put what the donation is for):

<https://tbs.convertri.com/donate>



The Temple Beth Sholom family extends condolences to:

Eric and Libby Rosen and Family on the death of Betty Rosen, Eric's mother.

Zichrona livracha – May her memory be a blessing.



State of Kansas Holocaust Commemoration Service



Monday, April 26, 2021

1:00 pm *Virtual*

76 Years After Auschwitz: Stand Together

Keynote Address:

Megan Felt, *Life in a Jar: The Irena Sendler Project*

Norm Conard, *Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes*

“The Steadfast Courage of Irena Sendler, Fearless Rescuer”

**By Norm Conard and Megan Felt of the *Life in a Jar: the Irena Sendler Project* and the
Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes**

The State of Kansas, led by Governor Laura Kelly, memorializes the victims of the Holocaust. Founders of the American Gathering of Holocaust Survivors and Their Descendants recognized that the lives of citizens are vulnerable to the power of elected officials. Their years of many efforts resulted in the government supported Yom HaShoah observance.

Governor Laura Kelly will present the Kansas Proclamation for the Days of Remembrance, which includes the following: “...the Holocaust was the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and annihilation of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators...the people of the State of Kansas should always remember the terrible events of the Holocaust and remain vigilant against hatred, persecution and tyranny; and the Days of Remembrance have been set aside for the people of Kansas to remember the victims of the Holocaust, as well as to reflect on the need for respect for all peoples...”

Megan Felt was a high school student in Norm Conard’s class when her life was changed by Irena Sendler. Irena Sendler was a Polish social worker who acted fearlessly during the destructive and brutal years of the Holocaust. In 1999, Megan Felt and her classmates wrote the play “Life in a Jar” for a National History Day project. “Life in a Jar” is the story of Irena Sendler, who risked her life repeatedly to rescue Jewish children from the Warsaw Ghetto by placing them in hiding. Those she saved would have been deported to Treblinka, a death camp.

Life stories of brave persons can transcend time and remind us of the persistent need to defend human rights and freedom. Megan Felt said of Irena Sendler, “She challenged us to continue her story and inspire others. This is a tremendous but rewarding task we will all try to achieve for the rest of our lives.” By making it their life’s work to share the story of Irena Sendler, Norm Conard and Megan Felt have found their way to make the world a better place. Norm Conard is now the Executive Director of the Lowell Milken Center for Unsung Heroes in downtown Fort Scott, KS. Megan Felt is the Program Director. Norm and Megan work with educators around the world to help students conduct in-depth primary research while creating inspiring projects that share the stories of unsung heroes.

Kansas’ clergy, lawmakers, and students will be participating in the service. Holocaust survivors, World War II veterans, and second-generation sons and daughters will be recognized. Registration and login information will follow. (www.lowellmilkencenter.org)

APRIL SHABBAT SERVICES

Religious Services for April via Zoom

(Zoom Links are in Weekly emails or reminder service emails)

Friday, April 2, Shabbat Service – 7:30 pm

Deborah Edelman-Dolan and Rhoda Wisman will lead the service. Susan Zuber-Chall will give D'var Torah.

Friday, April 9, Yom HaShoah Shabbat Service - 7:00 pm

Rabbi Moti Rieber will lead the service. April birthday and anniversary blessings will be given.

Friday, April 16, Shabbat Service – 7:30 pm

Frayna Scrinopskie and Warren Sickel will lead the service. Susan Zuber-Chall will give D'var Torah.

Friday, April 23, Shabbat Service - 7:30 pm

Rabbi Moti Rieber will lead the service.

Friday, April 30, Shabbat Service – 7:30 pm

Hayley Magee and Stephanie Schuttera will lead the service. Howard and Elaine Schwartz will give D'var Torah.

Watch for Information on: Two Outdoor Shabbat Services in May and June

A new feature in the Bulletin will be a list of birthdays and anniversaries of members for the month. The office did not have a birth date or anniversary for everyone. If your birthday or anniversary is not listed or if you do not want your birthday or anniversary listed, please inform the Temple office. We hope you enjoy seeing who else has a birthday the same as you.

April Birthdays

Darcella Goodman – 1st
Marie Ruby – 2nd
Jared Harsin - 4th
Richard Zlotky - 6th
Frayna Scrinopskie – 13th
Jane Greene – 14th
Mark Kaufman – 20th
Conner Neff – 21st
Elizabeth Ross – 27th
Kelly Perkins – 30th

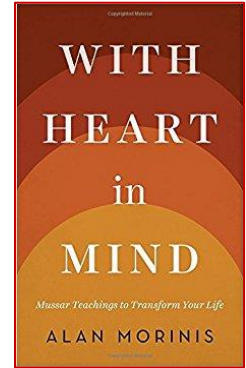
April Anniversaries

Harold and Mary Ann Bryan – 3rd
Will and Esther Potts - 29th



Middot Va'ad: Gaining Jewish Wisdom and Understanding
Next Meeting: April 21 at noon via Zoom

We read Alan Morinis' *With Heart in Mind ~ Mussar Teachings to Transform Your Life*. We study the character traits (*middot*) and work on bringing them into our lives in the right amount. Please have the book for the *Va'ad* meetings. We will review Chapter 38 and read Chapter 39. Newcomers are always welcome. The Zoom link will be in the Temple Beth Sholom weekly e-mail.



Monthly Shabbat Morning Study Opportunity

Kabbalah Study - 9:00 - 10:30 am, Saturday, April 10 and 24, via Zoom.
***Introduction to the Zohar*, by Arthur Green.**

Our group is reading Art Green's excellent and thorough introduction to the Pritzker edition of the *Zohar*. If you want to get an inside look at the *Zohar*, please join us for this fascinating read! Let the Temple Office know if you want to attend via Zoom.



APRIL

TEMPLE BETH SHOLOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL 10:30 am VIA ZOOM

No Religious School on April 4
Sunday, April 11, All Classes meet
Sunday, April 18, All Classes meet
Sunday, April 25, All Classes meet



Reform Jewish Calendar of Major Jewish Holidays 2020-2021 (5781)

Shavuot, May 16-17, 2021 (sunset Sunday-sunset Monday)

How Can you help Temple Beth Sholom Financially? By Jack Wisman

Why not do what I did and give all or part of your government stimulus money to the Temple! They are talking about an additional check so if you have already used the first check, you can use all or part of the second stimulus check! Whatever you do, you are performing a wonderful mitzvah for the Jewish community. We hope to hear from you soon! If you have questions about this, give me a call at 785-357-4104

Doorstep News ~ April, 2021



It is a little hard to believe that for over a year now we have been in the middle of this pandemic! We now have volunteers we have not seen for a year or longer! Our services continue to be over the phone, except for the clothing bank. We have certainly felt that loss of contact with people here at Doorstep, just as everyone has in their personal and/or work lives.

The month of April traditionally brings Doorstep's Annual Banquet honoring our volunteers, and the quilt drawing. With COVID still going on, we do not have plans yet for this event. It won't be in April, but hopefully later in the year we can gather again and celebrate Doorstep and our volunteers!

Most of our events are "up in the air" at this time as we see how the year goes. But you can mark your calendars for Doorstep's **4th Annual Neighbors Helping Neighbors Walk/5K Run** at Lake Shawnee. The big day is **Sunday, October 3rd at 2pm!** Come out and support Doorstep and get some exercise at the same time! We made just under \$7,500 last year with the pandemic virtual event and have a goal of \$10,000 for our fourth year!



EPOCH TREE OF LIFE

Dedicated in the loving memory of Nancy Scrinopskie Epoch and Barry and Evan Epoch. Gift from Ron and Frayna Scrinopskie.

The Epoch Tree of Life has been installed on the North wall of the Temple Sanctuary. You can purchase and engrave a leaf for \$100.

Please contact Temple Office for details.

Written by Ron Scrinopskie, Temple Beth Sholom Board Member

Merry Christmas: Not a phrase that many Jews use very comfortably, but it is a phrase that we are familiar with. As a small Jewish community, we have all been wished a “Merry Christmas” by many different people and for many different reasons. We have come to accept this greeting by saying “thank you,” or “the same to you,” or maybe “happy holidays,” or even “and a Merry Christmas to you.” We understand that the greeting is in no way malicious; it is just that person’s way of a warm seasonal greeting.

The Burger Stand which was located at College Hill, and which has recently relocated to Brookwood Shopping Center, is a restaurant that specializes in gourmet burgers. This past year, the restaurant created several new gourmet burgers for the holiday season. One of their new burgers was named the Latke Burger. I believe this thoughtful addition to the menu served two purposes. First, the burger included the Jewish Community in a positive and public way during the holiday season and second, the burger brought attention to the small but vibrant Topeka Jewish Community. The Burger Stand did not advertise the Latke Burger as a kosher burger; in fact, there was no indication in any way that this was a kosher offering. The only thing the Burger Stand did was to include the Jewish Community in the holiday season with a special gourmet burger. In fact, the Latke Burger was even offered before Hanukkah, which allowed the Jewish Community to enjoy it during “our” holiday season.

It seems to me that the Jewish Community should say “Thank You” to the Burger Stand for their consideration and inclusion, not criticize the restaurant for the burger not being kosher. The majority of our Jewish Community does not keep kosher, and those who do, simply will not eat this Latke Burger. Sometimes a simple “Thank You” goes a long way. Had we said, “Thank You,” instead of the Latke Burger is not kosher, the Burger Stand would know that we appreciated their thoughtfulness.

When a person, or a business, tries to do something nice and considerate, we should think first and respond in a positive way. Next time, maybe we should simply say, “Thank You.”



PURIM BOXES

Thank you for those involved with the creation and delivery of the Purim boxes to Temple Beth Sholom congregants.

Todd and Tara Gordon; Leif Dolan and Deborah Edelman-Dolan; Nick Dyer; Will, Esther, Davin and Anya Potts; Ron and Frayna Scrinopskie.



BLINTZE BRUNCH



Temple Beth Sholom
56th Annual Jewish Food
Curbside Event and
Silent Auction

NEW COOKING DATE: Sunday, April 11, 2021
Potato Knishes 9:00 am – 1:30 pm

SILENT AUCTION ITEMS ARE NEEDED! We need items that will be popular and bring in the money! Please bring items to the Temple during office hours or the Einstein's store.

Order your delicious Blintze Brunch meals ready for you to pick up on Sunday, May 2, 2021 from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm - Quantities are limited. (Please—you must place your order by the May 1 cutoff!)

Get Your Blintze Brunch Meal Tickets Online at
www.TBSGiving.com

Thank you for all the volunteers who cooked food for the Blintze Brunch!

Highlights from Temple Beth Sholom Board meeting, March 3, 2021

- Blintze Brunch food cooking is progressing as planned thanks to the organization of Todd & Tara Gordon and Will & Esther Potts. The Silent Auction, which will be held online for the very first time, is moving forward under the expert coordination of Elaine Schwartz. If you have not had a chance to volunteer your help, now is a great time to do so.
- Len Richter, Elaine Schwartz, and the Temple Security Committee are hard at work going after a new grant to further enhance security at Temple Beth Sholom. The committee is seeking people who can help put the grant proposal together (you do not need to know grant writing, just word processing).
- As Covid-19 vaccinations ramp up, planning is in place to determine strategy and timing for returning to the building. Allen Kossoy and Jane Greene are assembling a group to conduct this plan. One small step toward this goal is one outdoor, social-distanced Friday night service in May and in June.

Learn To Read Hebrew in 4 Weeks!

Simple Steps to Learn to Read Hebrew.

Same program - 4 different great options:

- **Online course** (5.5 hours of recorded lectures)

\$12-\$20 - depends on promotion:

<https://www.udemy.com/course/learn-to-read-hebrew/?referralCode=4D38AC5D2A8A1DA09661>



- **e-Book** (Audio included) - \$7.99
- **Paperback** (B&W) - \$14.99
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B06XBL4DM6>
- **Paperback** (Color) - \$34.99
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B08M85KSBL>

RJ on The Go

Interactive Jewish Experiences for Everyone in Your Family

http://cloud.email.rj.org/RJonTheGoInfo?utm_source=InsideLeadership&utm_campaign=Resources&utm_medium=email&utm_content=2020_10_20

RJ ON THE GO

JUMP Nehemiah Assembly on April 26, 2021

This year at the 2021 JUMP Nehemiah Assembly on April 26 at 7:00 pm, we will be asking Mayor Michelle Del La Isla, City of Topeka to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund with a dedicated revenue source of \$1 million per year, so that we can build the necessary affordable housing needed for Topeka. We will also ask for the Shawnee County Commission to fund around \$80,000 per year to help create more Oxford Houses in Topeka so that we can support recovering addicts as they transition from programs back in the community. This is a new initiative this year in mental health and addiction. Oxford House has a 65% rate of prevention from relapse compared to most programs which have a 30% rate of prevention. The problem of drug and alcohol addiction has increased in the past year due to the COVID isolation. Oxford house can help provide the necessary tools to make recovery long lasting.

We will not be asking anything for the Pay Day Lending program, as that is a statewide initiative, and though much progress has been made this year, it looks like it will be next year before legislation will be passed. This is the first year that hearings have been held on lending reform, as it is usually killed in committee by the pay day lending industry and their lobbyists. This year, because JUMP got a grant, we were able to hire our own lobbyists and major banks lent their voice to the effort. Bills were introduced both in the House and Senate in 2020.

The project SAVE is moving forward and has been funded by the Shawnee County Commission, so again, there will be no ask on that this year.

The JUMP Nehemiah Assembly will be online this year, and we are even looking at an option of FM radio and people attending in a parking lot to watch while safely distanced in their cars.



We are hoping to get 20 people from Temple or people you know in your daily life to attend (you plus three others...so they all count for Temple). The more people attending, the greater our people power will be to ask for these justice issues in Topeka.

If you have any questions, please email or call me.

Dennis Dobson



Save the Date: Temple Beth Sholom's 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting

Sunday, June 13, at 10:00 am



- Election of Officers and Board members**
- Approval of the budget**
- Discussion of other Temple matters**

In accordance with ARTICLE XI, COMMITTEES of the Bylaws of Temple Beth Sholom, “It shall be the duty of this committee to submit names of nominees for the seats on the Board of Directors and all officers to the congregation for election.” The Nominating Committee submits the following slate for election at the annual meeting on Sunday, June 13, at 10:00 am.”

Officers

- President – Julie Petruccelli-Treen
- Vice President – Deborah Edelman-Dolan
- Financial Secretary – Margot Brown
- Secretary – Esther Potts
- Treasurer – Alan Wisman

Nominated for a first term on the Board of Directors for 3 years:

- Art Glassman
- Danelle Harsin
- Hayley Magee

The Bylaws also state, “The names of the nominees shall be announced in the Temple Bulletin six weeks prior to the annual meeting. This committee shall accept nominations by the congregation at large submitted in writing up to three weeks prior to the Annual Meeting. Nominations after this deadline are not allowed.” Thank you to our Nomination Committee: Jane Greene, Julie Petruccelli-Treen, Frayna Scrinopskie and Todd Gordon.

Church Using Temple

The Apostolic Assembly Church is using the Social Hall at the Temple. They are in the building on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 – 8:30 pm and on Sunday afternoons from 1:00 – 4:30 pm. Please greet them when you see them. They will be adhering to strict cleaning and social distancing guidelines.

April 2021

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

<p>Want to keep up with Temple EVENTS?!</p> <p>Access Temple's Calendar:</p> <p>https://templebethsholomtopeka.view-events.com/calendar/73982531/</p>				1 Passover	2 Passover Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Deborah Edelman- Dolan/ Rhoda Wisman	3 Last day of Passover
4 NO Religious School	5	6	7 Board Meeting via Zoom 7:00 pm	8	9 Yom HaShoah Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:00 pm Rabbi Moti Rieber	10 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am via Zoom
11 Potato Knish Cooking 9:00 am Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am	12	13	14	15 3 rd Thursday with Rabbi Rieber via Zoom 7:00 pm	16 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Frayna Scrinopskie/ Warren Sickel	17
18 Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am	19	20	21 Middot Va'ad via Zoom 12:00 pm	22	23 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Rabbi Rieber	24 Kabbalah Study Group 9:00 am via Zoom Davin Potts Bar Mitzvah 10:30 am via Zoom
25 Religious School via Zoom 10:30 am	26 Holocaust Commemoration via Zoom 1:00 pm JUMP Assembly 7:00 pm	27	28 KNI Blood Drive in Temple Social Hall 9:30 am	29	30 Shabbat Service via Zoom 7:30 pm Hayley Magee/ Stephanie Schuttera	

Temple Beth Sholom

4200 SW Munson Ave, Topeka, KS 66604-1879

The Temple Beth Sholom *Bulletin* is published by Temple Beth Sholom at 4200 SW Munson Ave., Topeka, KS monthly. Material for inclusion should be received at Temple office NO LATER THAN the 8th of the month prior to publication.

Website – templebethsholomtopeka.org

President – Alan Parker

Vice-President – Julie Petruccelli-Treen

Secretary – Deborah Edelman-Dolan

Financial Secretary – Margot Brown

Treasurer – Alan Wisman

Board members:

Ezra Ginzburg, Jane Greene, Danelle Harsin, Melissa

Householder, Allen Kossoy, Hayley Magee, Stephanie Schuttera, Elaine Schwartz, Ron Scrinopskie



UPDATE CONTACT INFORMATION:

We are updating our directory and email list. Please send any updates to your mailing address, phone numbers and email addresses to the Temple office at office@tbstopeka.org.

MONTHLY E-BULLETIN

If you know anyone who is not receiving the monthly email bulletin but would like to receive one, please inform the Temple Office.

**Office Hours – Monday to Friday
9:00 am to 12:00 pm or by appointment
Rabbi Rieber Office Hours
by appointment**

COMMUNICATION RESOURCES:

www.templebethsholomtopeka.org

Facebook: Templebethsholom-topeka

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