



Finnish Center Association

FCA News

FOR MEMBERS OF THE FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION

August 2019

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August

- 02-04 Rental
- 06 Rental
- 07 Wednesday "Let's Talk" 11 am
- 10 Rental
- 12 Rental
- 14 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 17 Rental
- 20 Rental
- 24 Rental
- 27 Rental
- 28 Wednesday Pie Day 2 pm
- 30 Friday FCA Open 10 am - 2 pm



September

- 02 Monday FCA Closed for Labor Day
- 03 Rental
- 07 Rental
- 10 Rental
- 11 Wednesday FCA Joint Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11-14 Rental
- 17 Rental
- 19-22 Thursday-Sunday FinnFest USA
- 24 Rental
- 28 Rental

October

- 04 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8 pm
- 09 Wednesday FCA Board Meeting 6:30 pm
- 11 Friday Flea Market 10 am - 4 pm
- 12 Saturday Flea Market 10 am - 3 pm
- 18 Friday Night Buffet 5 - 8pm



FinnFest USA in
Metro Detroit
Sept 19 - 22, 2019

Weekly Events

- Finnish American Singers
Monday 7 pm (Resumes in Sept.)
- Library
Open Monday 10 am-2 pm
- Finlandia Garden Club & Wood Shop
Mondays 9 am

Monthly Events

- Let's Talk
First Wednesday 11 am
- Book Club
Last Monday of the month 1 pm
- Luncheon
Last Wednesday of the month
12 noon

**Reservations are recommended
for all events.**

CHAIRMAN'S CORNER

I think we have much to be happy about and proud of at The Finnish Center. As I take on responsibilities my eyes are open to many new and exciting things. To begin with the gardens. When I drive in and see the beautiful gardens I am amazed. Everyone who works in the gardens should get a round of applause. In this heat they are making it look beautiful and with smiles on their faces. Thank you to all of you! We have so many good volunteers.

All of the people who help with the huge job of our newsletter. They work hard to put this together and to get it out in a timely manner. Thank you.

And then those who get the tables ready and keep things together for the rentals. Another big job. Thank you.

And the Scholarship committee. Did you ever wonder how much time it takes? They need our thank you.

And many more. My point is that we have wonderful volunteers but we need more. There are so many jobs to do and it takes time and people to do it. If you can only give an hour or a night or a day or whatever it is greatly appreciated.



As you know FinnFestUSA is coming very soon. This is very exciting. This is a great time to learn more about our culture. Let's make this a great event. I am so happy we have an opportunity like this. How can you help? Volunteer. We need you. Call the Finnish Center at (248) 478-6939 or call Erica Guell at (937) 601-8488.

I hope you are having a wonderful summer. Enjoy the flowers and the good food of summer and the sunshine.

If you have any questions feel free to call me anytime. I am available at the Finnish Center most Mondays, Wednesdays, or Fridays. Or call my cell (248) 895-3231.

Mary O'Brien, chairman

SOCIAL NEWS

Summer is one of my favorite times of the year and we have had some great events. The Mid Summer event in June was really a huge success. Mike Grant did a great job with the cookout. Everyone was happy with hot dogs, brats and burgers followed by strawberry shortcake and ice cream. Roger Wanttaja made the bonfire for everyone's enjoyment.

July was the ice cream social. Many turned out for a special day. We will end the month with a cookout. Fun summer events.

Don't forget to join us for pie day August 28 at 2 pm.

Mary O'Brien



35200 W. Eight Mile Road
Farmington Hills, MI
48335-5108
Tel: (248) 478-6939
Fax: (248) 478-5671
finnishcenter@gmail.com
www.finnishcenter.org

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Linda Poirier, Vice Chairman
Ilona Takakura, Treasurer
Linda Poirier, Secretary & Asst. Treasurer

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2 Year

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#2 Carol Tudball
#3 Ilene Yanke

Financial Review

Maria Lena Kuhn
Christine Manninen
Roger Wanttaja

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Roger Wanttaja

Cultural

Yvonne Lockwood

Education

Katri Ervamaa

Finance

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Mailing

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Membership

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Fran Fadie

Social

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Olli Lamminen, Chairman

Tapiola Village

Laura Fultz, Manager
(248) 471-3802
tapiola@ameritech.net

Freedom Square

Theresa Show, Manager
(248) 442-7250

FCA SUMMER COOKOUT





FROM THE LIBRARY



LOUIS MOILANEN – THE TALLEST OF THE TALL

Webster defines a giant as a mythical being of human form but superhuman size with exceptional ability and courage. How tall do you need to be to be called a giant?

As children we would hear about a real man, 8 feet tall who had lived in our community and died before we were born. “Big Louie” was termed the gentle giant. He experienced many ways of earning his living; he helped everyone who needed help of any kind.

As a child he arrived in the Salo section of the UP near Hancock, Michigan from Puolanka, Finland. He was four years old and was his father’s *kaima* (namesake). They shared the name Lassi (Heikin poika) Moilanen. Pikku Lassi became Dad’s helper. He entered the mine as a miner’s helper as he was big for his age and strong and eager to be a part of his Dad’s crew. Soon he was called “Iso Louie” as he grew and grew and grew some more. Big Louie would stand out in crowds and reached unbelievable heights; eventually he was 8 feet tall.

He was as tall as a tree, as strong as a bear. There was thunder and lightning when he laughed.

Five people were stumped by a task which Louie could complete by himself. On one occasion he saved a horse by unhitching him from too heavy a load and pulling it by himself.

People all over the world heard about our gentle giant and he soon became the tallest man in the world. He was quiet and shy but with an upstanding manner and respected by all who met him. He solved his problems himself. Everything he wore had to be specially made or altered. His shoes were number 19.

After outgrowing his first job in the mine he was approached by E.M. Sackrider, who offered to promote him in a direction for a position of his own choosing. Soon he was traveling with the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus. He stayed there for four years, preferring small groups to mingle with.

Positions he filled included bar tending, ending in bar owning. He could service both sides of the bar from a sitting position reaching around for his liquor supply behind the bar. He kept his establishment under control. It was important for him to limit his drinkers to those who never lost control of the enjoyment.

He also was voted in as Justice of the Peace of Hancock in 1911. His education was limited as to the law but he overcame his limitations with sincerity and understanding. Eventually, when his Dad died at home, he returned to the farm and supported his mother.

Big Louie’s health began to fail in 1913. He was acting strangely and Dr. La-

(continued on page 5)



Big Louie standing next to an average size man.



Louie Moilanen Monument

From the Library (continued from page 4)

bine was called; he pronounced him as critically ill and he was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital for treatment. Three days later the giant of the Copper Country was dead. Just a short time before a nurse on duty had observed Big Louie studying his Bible. He had also picked his eight friends as bearers for himself in a 300 pound casket.

Dr. Labine performed an autopsy and diagnosed that Big Louie died from tubercular meningitis which had reached his brain. He had to be prepared for burial in a special made casket and taken to the cemetery on a wagon as big and long as available but it had to be strapped down because it hung over the back of the wagon.

Now, a memorial has been erected in ornate Finnish style with black granite and gold lettering. It is set in front of Finlandia University's archival building and was dedicated in 2013 commemorating the 100 years since Louis Molianen's death. The monument has the text in both languages.

There is much to remember about our towering hero who always supported others and their needs. He quietly took care of himself and wanted no trouble.

Source: Much of this which I've written came from Puolalanka, the original Moilanen family home in Finland. It is the Wednesday issue, the 26th day of May, 1989. They are responding to the memorial for the 100th anniversary of Louie's death and included the story of their famous son. With obituary included dated October 10, 1913 in the paper from Kajaani Louie Moilanen is referred to as the World's Tallest Man.

Ruth Ojala, Library Volunteer

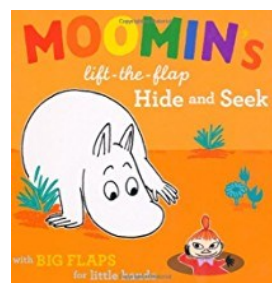
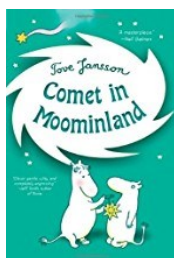
GIFT SHOP

The gift shop sales have been a bit slow this summer which is nothing unusual. People are traveling and at their cottages, but I am happy to report things are going well and people are stopping more often to find the Finnish gems we have in stock.

We are ordering new merchandise for Finn Fest USA. Some new candy and some lovely Iittala products. New fun t-shirts have arrived and exciting new Moomin Books that bring joy to one and all. Nothing better than a good book to complete your summer. Stop in to see the selections.

If you are looking for something fun to do September 19-22 we could use you at FinnFest. Give me a call. This is a very special event. Hope you will join the fun.

Mary O'Brien



SCHOLARSHIP

This past May the Scholarship Committee awarded scholarships to: Mitchell Hella, Peter Lowrance, Julia Pietila and Ian Sorensen .

These scholarships were made possible because of the generous donation of the Knights and Ladies of Kaleva. We appreciate and thank them for providing these deserving students with monetary assistance. However, we are in desperate need of donations to continue our mission to help students further their education.

We appreciate the many thank you notes that we receive from the students and their families. To quote one of many: "We are grateful for all the encouragement, interest and financial support shown to our young adult children".

When you give a memorial to the Finnish Center, please keep the students in mind and designate your donation for the Scholarship Committee. Your donations are greatly appreciated.

FINNISH AMERICAN SINGERS

There has been a great deal of excitement among the Finnish American Singers of Michigan the past few months as we anticipated, speculated about and planned for FinnFest 2019. Hearing confirmation that the event was going to be taking place right in our backyard, so to speak, meant that participating would be facilitated since our group would not need to be concerned with lengthy travel times, transportation, or any of the other myriad issues that we would face far from home.

Several members of the choir attended some planning meetings held locally, and expressed interest in participating somehow with the festivities. We had thought we would just sing at the tori (marketplace), which is generally a pretty informal location for performing. It was therefore a great surprise and honor when the chair of FinnFest, Marianne Wargelin, contacted our group with a proposal and request for our choir to sing at both the opening ceremonies the evening of Thursday, September 19th at the Civic Theater in Farmington and at a closing event Sunday evening, September 22nd at the FCA.

FASM will be leading the singing of the three national anthems (Finland, USA, and Canada) as well as helping commemorate the 75th anniversary of the September 19, 1944 signing of the Moscow armistice by singing Veteraanin iltahuuto (Veteran's Hymn). The armistice, signed between Finland and the Soviet Union, ended the Continuation War, though the final peace treaty was not signed until 1947. The song is very popular in Finland and the audience will have an opportunity to sing along with us during portions of the song. It's my understanding that during the singing of this piece, a slide show or PowerPoint will show photographs from the wars. In addition to these musical offerings, the choir will sing one song on their own. It is quite an honor for our small, local group to be recognized in this wonderful, international way.

For the Sunday concert on the 22nd, we are to be the warm-up "act" for a kantele group, Kardemimmit, comprised of four very talented young women from Finland. We are excited to be singing an assortment of Finnish and English songs, a few favorites from our concerts. It will be a different experience for us, and hope you are there to hear both of our groups!

This scribe hopes that you have reserved these festival days on your calendar and hopefully checked the FinnFest website for information about events, speakers, musicians, etc. The Finnish Center is playing a major role in hosting several events during the festival days and would appreciate inquiries regarding volunteering. Help make a difference in the success of this special event! Small amounts of time by many people mean more get to have fun, enjoy comradery, and share the load of responsibilities such an event engenders!

Preparing for FinnFest 2019 leads the Finnish American Singers back to singing after the summer off. We will resume regular Monday evening, 7 pm practices September 30th in the FCA lounge! Kiitos!

Submitted by scribe, Katy Koskela





SUNSHINE LADY

Sending get-well cards, anniversary, congratulations, thinking-of-you cards and words-of-encouragement cards to FCA members

This little known function has been around for many years, and can only be accomplished when I am notified that someone needs a card. Send or call your card requests to the attention of the "Sunshine Lady" at the FCA.

Thank you,
Eunice Potti Gould

KALEVA AT FINNFEST

We have a great opportunity to learn more about the Kaleva organization and the *Kalevala* at FinnFest. Some of the lecturers are from Finland.

A brief list of lectures:

- The Kantele: its Preservation and Revival in Finnish America
- The Kalevala today
- How the Kalevela continues to have an active life in 21st century Finland
- The Lord of the Rings and its Kalevala influence
- Minna Canth's "take" on what the Kalevala gave her permission to do

Remember, lectures are free with your registration.

Enjoy FinnFest!



40+ YEARS OF MUSIC

The Novi Concert Band has been performing at the Finnish Center for over 40 years.



Pictured are Pearl Wanttaja and Novi Concert Band Director, Scott Cramer. Pearl was instrumental in seeking out the band to play at the Finnish Center the first week of June and continuing that tradition all these years.



FCA Chairman, Mary O'Brien, attended the Novi Concert Band performance in June and introduced the band and the director to the audience that night.



Novi Concert Band

MEMORIALS

In memory FCA life member of **K. Maria Hill** (6/26/19) donations have been made by Luise & Norbert Leppanen, Kathryn Hill, Lois Makee, Pearl Wanttaja and Janet & Victor Koponen-Hsu.

In memory of FCA life member **Dorothy (Madeon) Olsen** (5/22/19) donations have been made by Estelle Kalakailo, Lynn Aro, Cheryl & Steve Penn, Linda Aldrich, Janet & Tina Santti, Carol Godt, Rachael Hall and Donna Aro.

In memory of FCA life member **Matthew Haarala** (5/5/19) donations have been made by Lillian Niemi, Dee Aebersold and Lois Makee.

In memory of **Calvin Ojanen** (5/4/19) a donation has been made by Dee Aebersold.

In memory of FCA life member **James Weiland** (1/7/19) a donation has been made by Dee Aebersold.

In memory of FCA member **Nancy Sannar** (1/18/19) a donation has been made by Dee Aebersold.

In memory of FCA life member **Mary Ellen** (1/2/19) **and James Hill** (3/2006) a donation has been made by Joanne Hill.

In memory of FCA life member **Rudolph Perttunen** (11/13/18) a donation has been made by Dee Aebersold.

In memory of FCA life member **Ruth Mannisto** (8/5/17) a donation has been made by Dee Aebersold.

Please make your check out to the Finnish Center Association and send donations to: FCA, 35200 West Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335. Donations received by the 5th of each month will be published in the next month's newsletter.

When making a memorial donation, you may direct it toward a specific fund. The funds available are: FCA General Fund, Library, Scholarship, Hoijakat Folk Dancers, Drama Club, Finn Weavers, Garden Club, FinnFolk Musicians and Finnish American Singers.

The family of the deceased may direct undesignated donations toward a specific fund (up to one year after date of death).

You may also direct your donation toward the Elders' Housing, but then your check must be made out to FCA Senior Housing Corp.

Please include full name (with middle initial), address, dates of death and birth of the deceased; also the name and address of the next of kin to whom the acknowledgement card is to be mailed.

If you know of a member, parent or child of a member who has passed away, please call the FCA at (248) 478-6939.



FRIENDSHIP

How many slams in an old screen door?
Depends how loud you shut it.

How many slices in a a loaf of bread?
Depends how thin you cut it.

How much good inside a day?
Depends how good you live 'em.

How much love inside a friend?
Depends how much you give 'em.

Shel Silverstein

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FINLAND TODAY



First, the Finnish government unveiled a plan to raise pensions for over 600,000 low-income pensioners. The increase may be around 31 to 50 euros a month. The goal is to help pensioners in their daily lives. Aino-Kaisa Pekonen, the Minister of Social Affairs and Health had commented that this will have a positive impact for the low-income pensioners.

The Finnish Government has set aside 183 million euros to pay for the increases. Prime Minister Antti Rinne (SDP) had promised this in his election campaign last year, to raise the pensions by 100 euros over a 7-year period. The Labor Institute for Economic Research has made a study and found that Finnish wages are one of the highest as well as wage equality. The wage equality is one of the best in Europe. The study in Finland and other Nordic countries showed that wage differences are relatively small in global comparison, the rate of union membership is high and the wage formation is coordinated well. The average monthly wage in Finland is 3,386 euros and this was about the same as that of earners in Sweden, but lower than those of earners in Belgium, Denmark, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Switzerland and the Netherlands. The EU average monthly wage was 2,116 euros. The highest wages (6,229 euros) were paid in Switzerland and the lowest (360 euros) in Romania. (1 Euro = \$1.13).

Finland is in many ways ahead of many countries in the innovation race on quantum computing. The start-up company has raised a significant amount of funds – 11.2 million euros in seed capital.

Mikko Möttönen, the co-founder and chief scientist at IQM, said that these funds will enable the one-year-old start-up to develop solutions for building the first general-purpose quantum computer in the world. IQM has already made breakthroughs in thermal management and other areas that boost computational speed and information accuracy, and hopes to emerge as one of the technology leaders in the global quantum computing race.



YLE reported that a “China Railway Group Limited” has joined with Helsinki based “Finest Bay Area Development” in the planning of a 100 kilometer undersea railway tunnel between Helsinki and Tallinn, Estonia. China has the best expertise in railways tunnels in the world, they have 18,000 kilometers of tunnels. It is expected to take 6 years to build and will create 20,000 jobs in Finland and 6,000 jobs in Estonia. This rail is expected to create a twin-city relationship between Helsinki and Tallinn.

Maybe we should all visit the “Ahvenkoski Iron Age Village” or the “Janakkal gravesite” in Häme region or the “Viking Market in Åland”. Ahvenkoski is a small Iron Age village dating back to 1200 BC and has hundreds of Viking artefacts, True Viking shops in Helsinki has everything you need to become a true Viking whatever that may be. The perfect place to get your Halloween costumes for this year. Tourists are flocking to discover the history of the Vikings, in Finland. The National Museum of Finland along with National Board of Antiquities are looking at the Pre-Christian history and is focused on detailing the Viking history going back 10,000 years. It is fascinating that tourists and Finns alike are attracted and drawn to Norse mythology and tales about the brutality, passion and family warfare of the Vikings. The Norse mythology is enjoying a real blockbuster and a global buzz. Perhaps we all should celebrate our Nordic Heritage!

(continued on page 12)

Finland Today (continued from page 11)

And Finally: Emma had heard about Finnish traditions: “Juhannus Eve Sauna” that night one needs to go to the lake after a hot sauna and stands naked over the lake at precisely midnight. The shadow of her true loves reflection will be there. The naked Emma does see her future husband reflection at precisely midnight, but for her disappointment it was not who she wanted so marry. Voi, Voi, I cannot marry Matti he is too old: said Emma. What to do? Emma remember that there is still the other tradition. Not too late, Emma goes to the meadow and picks 7 different flowers and place them under her pillow. She will sleep over these flowers and hopefully she will dream the correct wanted husband. Sometimes dreams do come true whether a good old Finnish tradition or not. Next morning Heikki, Emma’s true love was knocking on her door on Juhannus day.

I am just saying, it may work for you too!

Markku
marketola@yahoo .com

**A LITTLE ABOUT ELO, MICHIGAN**

Pearl Wanttaja and I grew up In Elo, Michigan in the thirties and forties. Elo had a post office, Pesola’s general and feed store, a gas station, community building and Lutheran Church and is about twenty miles south of Houghton. Today one can go to Google search Cabbage Road, Pelkie, Elo Michigan and see where cabbage road crosses the river. You will see our old homes. There were ten families in the valley, where we lived. Our valley was a small portion of Elo. When you visited a neighbor you would, most likely need to speak at least some Finnish. Almost everyone was Finnish in Elo.

I lived only one-half mile from Pearl, next to the Otter River. The river was great for swimming with sandy beaches and in the winter we could clear off the snow for skating. In the fall I could trap muskrats in the local small bodies of water. Pearl’s family did dairy and chicken farming. Pearls father was also a talented blacksmith. As a child I marveled at Mr. Anderson’s talent.

Most of the families, in Elo, had milking cows and you would see milk cans every morning ready for the town dairies to pick up. Some farmers grew potatoes. Some men would make their living as lumberjacks or perhaps work in a lumber mill or copper mine.

Things really changed in about 1948, when our valley got REA electricity. No more lanterns, kerosene lamps, hand water pumps. We now had running water, electric lights, milking machines and lights in our yard.

A bus would bring us to our K12, John A. Doelle Agricultural School in nearby Tapiola. All the students were picked up by busses except one route that was horse drawn because some of the roads weren’t improved. Doelle was a great school. Elo was a great place to grow up.

Gene Belttari



Pearl Wanttaja and
Gene Belttari

Join Us for Nordkap Lodge's 90th Anniversary Dinner Cruise

Nordkap Lodge—the first Sons of Norway lodge in Michigan—turns 90 this year! In celebration, we're inviting you and your guests to join us in a private cruise on the Detroit River onboard the elegant Motor Vessel Portofino.

The evening will celebrate not only the long history of Nordkap lodge, but also the accomplishments of Norwegians in Michigan and the heritage of our Viking ancestors who sailed mighty rivers and oceans in their longships years ago.

Nordkap recently confirmed that among its honored guests will be **Andy Johnsen**, president of the Sons of Norway District 5, and **Robin Fossum**, the District's International Director. Robin is an internationally acclaimed Hardanger fiddler and has offered to bring along her fiddle and violin to entertain us as we sail along.

Our three-hour cruise Saturday, September 14, embarks from the Portofino Restaurant at 3455 Biddle in Wyandotte, sails upstream under the Ambassador Bridge towards the Renaissance Center in Detroit, then turns for the downstream voyage back to Wyandotte. We will board the vessel at 6:15 pm and return at 9:30 pm.

Included in the Viking-themed cruise will be a complete strolling dinner, with entrees of salmon, meatballs, and chicken piccata. Vegetarian and gluten-free items will be indicated on the serving table. An alternative vegan/vegetarian entree may be requested with your reservation. A cash bar will also be available.

The price is just \$60. Make your paid reservation early since as space is limited! You may download, print, and mail the reservation form on the website www.DetroitNorwegians.com. Alternatively you may contact Louise Giles at Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com or (248) 224-3369 to ask that a form to be sent to you.



MV Portifino

ADVERTISING RATES

EADLINE:	DEADLINE FOR SEPTEMBER ISSUE IS AUGUST 5TH
EDITOR CONTACT INFO:	PAUL RAJALA
LAYOUT AND DESIGN:	NANCY RAJALA
E-MAIL:	nrajala@comcast.net

FCA NEWS ADVERTISING RATES & SPECIFICATIONS

FCA News is published 11 times annually (June-July issue is combined) by and for members of Finnish Center Association. Circulation is about 500 of your fellow FCA members, and others, per issue, and unknown numbers online.

Deadline/payment for ad is the 5th of the month preceding publication.

Column (ad) width is 2-1/4" for rates quoted below. Other sizes quoted on request.

Rates for a camera-ready, black & white ad, per three month period:

3 month rate 1" ad - \$30.00 1.5" ad - \$45.00 2" ad - \$60.00

Pay for full year 1" ad - \$100.00 1.5" ad - \$150.00 2" ad - \$200.00

Photos: B&W photo ads incur a one-time charge of \$25.00 payable at first insertion.

READ THE FCA NEWSLETTER ONLINE

FINNISH CENTER ASSOCIATION



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*Senior, over 65 years, youth under 30 years of age
- Annual membership, couple, two votes \$100.00
- Annual membership, family, one vote \$75.00
- Life membership, one vote \$500.00
- Life membership, senior, one vote (see membership for details)

Amount enclosed _____

Please make check payable to FCA and send to Finnish Center Association,
Membership, 35200 W. Eight Mile Road, Farmington Hills, MI 48335-5108

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