

FOOTNOTES

A newsletter for the Friends of the Multnomah County Library



Book lovers get ready. The annual FOL Fall Used Book Sale will be October 21 through 24.

The Friends: 1972 to the Present

By June Mikkelsen, Executive Assistant to the Director, Multnomah County Library

“This year will be remembered as the year of the budget cut.”

So begins the 1972–1973 “Report of the President” in the Annual Report of the Library Association of Portland (LAP), the governing body of Multnomah County Library from 1864 to 1990. LAP President Warren W. Braley was referring to a threatened \$800,000 cut to the library’s operating budget, which would have forced 12 neighborhood libraries to close.

Citizens strongly protested. They formed two organizations to work for improved support for the library...Keep Our Books Open (KOBO) and Friends of the Library.

That budget cut was averted after the Federal Revenue Sharing Act was implemented in October 1972, and KOBO and the Friends suc-



Eager crowds wait outside the Central Library in August 1974 for the first used book sale.

cessfully lobbied the county commission to use the funds for library support. Since then, the Friends has lobbied for support for the library countless other times, and particularly during the eight subsequent levy campaigns. The next levy renewal election, tentatively scheduled for

Continued on page 5

Friends’ Library Store to Reopen

by Babs Adamski, Manager

A mix of the new and the used. . . .that’s how I’d describe the inventory of the soon-to-reopen Friends’ Library Store in Central Library. With an abundance of new, carefully selected literary gifts and quality used books, the store will reopen on **Tuesday, October 11th**. The store will be open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Used books in good condition at attractive prices will now fill the shelves of the store. The Literature section contains popular fiction and classics; trade paperbacks and hard-bound volumes as well as Folio Society and leather-bound editions of classics. The non-fiction section includes gardening, cooking, art, history, biography, travel and current events.

Mixed in with the used books are literary gifts such as bookends, calendars and journals. We’ll continue to carry Paul Strauch’s sculpted bookends, Ramona and Henry t-shirts and those lovely Exaclair Notebooks. Please come visit us starting October 11th, I would like to meet you and show you the store—and remember, FOL members receive a 10% discount on all purchases!



From the President

Dear Friends,

As I mentioned in my last message, we are in the early stages of preparing for the next library levy election, which we expect to come in November 2006. That may seem awfully early to some of you, and in fact it is a little bit early, although not premature. Here's the situation: in order

for a levy to pass, two criteria must be met: (a) it must receive a majority of the votes cast, and (b) those voting must also represent a majority of all registered voters for that election. This is called a "double majority" requirement. It is designed to protect taxpayers from having their taxes raised when most of them are not paying attention. In practice, what this means is that the library levy needs to appear on the ballot during a general election. And November 2006 is the only general election between now and the expiration of the current levy. So there you have it! That's why we're getting ready now.

I am pleased to be able to say that we'll be coordinating this work with a number of other community leaders who support the Library, so we're far from alone. *But we do need you to get involved.* If you are interested in participating on the Friends' Advocacy Committee, please send an email to foladmin@europa.com or call the office at 503-224-9176 and let us know who you are. In upcoming months we'll be updating and upgrading the Friends' website with information about the Library budget and the great value the Library delivers to the taxpayers of Multnomah County. If you have a personal anecdote or story about the Library in your own life, please send it in via email or postal mail, with information about how to contact you.

We're also looking for members who are interested in volunteering for most of our other committees — Book Sale, Membership/Newsletter, Retail, Website/Technology, and Budget/Finance. And we are always interested in identifying members who are willing to make the commitment of time and energy to serve on the Friends' board of directors.

If you'd like to talk with me personally about any of these volunteer opportunities, or about anything at all relating to the Friends, drop us an email or call the office and I'll be pleased to set something up. I'll even buy the coffee!

Now more than ever, thanks for being our Friends.

Stephanie Vardavas, President

Friends of Multnomah County Library

The Friends of Multnomah County Library is a non-profit community organization dedicated to supporting the Multnomah County Library. We accomplish this principally by promoting public involvement in the Library and by raising money through membership fees, the Friends' Library Store, and the sale of used books.

Board of Directors:

Stephanie Vardavas, President; Amy Fuller, Vice-President; Debby Simone, Secretary; Tami Parr, Treasurer; Bryan Aptekar, Hillary Ayliffe, Ginny Benware, Carly Brown, Janet Christ, Robin Denberg, Diane Gutman, Paul Haulbrook, Nancy Lee, Kate McDonald, Tami Parr, Ann Pearson, Carol Ramsay, Carla Rathbun, Mei-Ling Shiroishi, Kevin Thomas and LisaMary Wichowski-Hill

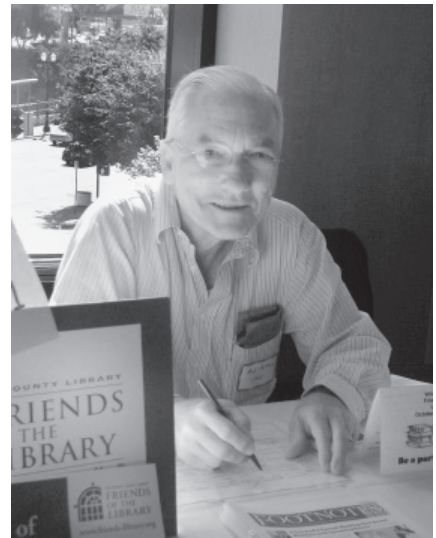
Staff: Babs Adamski, Sara Lindgren, and Angie Surmon

Library Liaison: Penny Hummel

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Send news and comments to *Footnotes* at FOL, 522 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 1103, Portland, OR 97204 or call the Friends at 503.224.9176, fax at 503.223-4386 or e-mail: foladmin@europa.com or visit www.friends-library.org.

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FOL volunteer Bob Patton signs up new members at Multnomah County Library's Staff Day.

Volunteer Spotlight Bob Patton

Interviewed by Carly Brown

Bob Patton and his wife Nancy have been Friends of the Multnomah County Library for several years, and in the past couple of years Bob has increased his involvement with the Friends by volunteering. He currently serves on the membership committee and part of his volunteer efforts take him to the St. John's Library to talk with their staff and patrons about the Friends and share his appreciation for the library. Bob enjoys the St. John's library because of its history as a Carnegie library and its good facilities.

Bob has a bachelor's degree in elementary education from West Texas A & M and a master's degree in educational psychology from UCLA. He subsequently worked for 31 years as an elementary teacher, research specialist and psychologist in the Los Angeles City Schools. Amarillo, Texas has also been a home for Bob before moving to Portland 11 years ago. Both Bob and his wife Nancy are now retired and are making Portland their permanent home.

For a hobby Bob is a quilter. In 1996

Continued on page 5

FALL BOOK SALE COMING SOON!

By Janet Christ

It's the time of year for all book fans to gather those roomy bags and boxes.

The Friends' 32nd fall book sale will be held **Oct. 21-24** in the same location as last year, a big former car dealership building at 1635 NE Sandy Blvd., Portland.

The huge fall sale of an estimated 100,000 donated books, tapes and compact discs is the main way that the nonprofit group raises money to support programs and buy materials for the Multnomah County library system.

And this sale, like others, promises to offer surprises and surprisingly good and best quality books at low prices. Most of the adult volumes, hardcover as well as paper, are \$1.50 each. Children's books start at 50 cents.



“There are great bargains and gems.”

“There are great bargains and gems,” notes Angelita Surmon, the Friends’ book room manager. Surmon oversees the year-round sorting of donations and maintains a devoted group of volunteers that categorize and box up the items for storage until the sale date.

Attendees will find the usual categories including art and music, literature and classics, history, science, crafts, cooking, gardening, travel, sports, popular fiction, fantasy and mystery. And, of course, there will be tables full of Children’s books separated for infants and beginning readers and for older readers. Most of the Children’s foreign language books also will be separated this year for easier selection.

New this year is a section we’re calling “gift books.” They’re often softly attractive, thoughtful or amusing volumes that haven’t fit well among standard classifications. Some can be slipped into an envelope to send to that friend or family member with a birthday.

The Friday night opening, Oct. 21 from 6 to 9 PM, is for Friends of the Library members only. But people may buy memberships that night and be admitted to the sale. The other times are 9 AM to 6 PM Saturday, 11 AM to 5 PM Sunday, and 9 AM to 3 PM Monday, discount day.

The sale building is near the intersection of Sandy and East Burnside Street. On-street parking is available, and TriMet’s No.12 Sandy Boulevard bus serves the site. The No. 19 and 20 buses also run on Burnside nearby.

Volunteers are still needed for this fun event. Please call 503-224-9176 to sign up.



Member Spotlight: Betty Frye

Legendary Supporter of Children's Literature Holds FOL Card #1

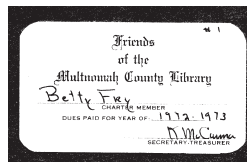
Betty and Wayne Fry were the first official members of the Friends of Multnomah County Library. It happened because they were visiting their friend Katherine McCanna, the first treasurer of FOL. She offered to take their money for membership and they have been loyal members ever since. They are both readers and long-time library users. Betty has a newspaper clipping showing her at the Hollywood branch with their two daughters, Susan and Beth, when they were very young. They used to walk to the library pulling a wagon for the books they would take home. Betty and Wayne are now grandparents and continue to enjoy children's books. In fact, they have an entire upstairs room dedicated to children's literature. It is called simply "the book room."

Betty has many other newspaper clippings and photographs of events celebrating children's literature in Portland, events that would not have happened without her leadership and enthusiasm. She says she could not have done those things without the support of Wayne whom she met when they were both working at J.K. Gills, then an important Portland book and stationary store. She was selling books and he was in the photography department.

In the late 1960's Betty became an elementary school librarian. Her first position ended when the school closed and she moved to Sabin Elementary. It was there that her love of children's books and their authors and illustrators led her to some exciting adventures. Residents of the neighborhoods surrounding Sabin and Alameda schools might remember the parades featuring Ezra Jack Keats (1979), Beverly Cleary (1981), and Tomi DePaola (1982). Certainly the participating children do, as well as those adults who shared her love



Betty Frye with her original Friends of the Library membership card.



of books. The three celebrated authors and author/illustrators loved these events, which demonstrated Portland's appreciation of their work in a unique way.

She even has a note from Jim Trelease, well-known author of books that encourage reading to children, calling her his "first fan." She never missed an opportunity to communicate with anyone who could enrich the lives of children in Portland through children's literature, so she called the *Boston Globe* where Mr. Trelease worked when she first heard



Betty and Wayne Frye

of his book, *The Read-Aloud Handbook*. Later he visited Portland on a book tour partly because of Betty's enthusiasm. All of his books that are autographed for Betty refer to her as his first fan.

Another example of Betty and Wayne "pushing" children's literature was a campaign during National Children's Book Week in 1978 in which Fred Meyer stores featured "Albert Alligator" asking "Have You Read to a Child Today?" At the time Betty had just started working at Sabin and Wayne was in the advertising department at Fred Meyer. It is one of the first examples of a supermarket printing non-profit messages on grocery bags. This effort had the support of the mayor and others in the community.

When asked which library branch they now visit, they replied that Hollywood is still the usual first choice with occasional stops at Albina Branch and lots of time on the website.

Betty belongs to more than one book group and she and Wayne belong to one together. It is an early morning informal group featuring a gourmet breakfast at members' homes. Recently, Betty enjoyed reading *Mao's Last Dancer* by Li Cunxin, a biography of a Chinese ballet dancer currently with the Houston Ballet. Wayne liked reading *Rounding the Horn* by Dallas Murphy and *Over the Edge of the World* by Laurence Bergreen.

Betty and Wayne enjoy gardening and music and Wayne is a weaver, but Betty's interest in children's literature and the joy of bringing the power of books and reading to children will always be a force in her life. What a great couple to hold this place in the history of our Friend's organization!

Interviewed by Diane Gutman

The Friends: 1972 to the Present continued

November 2006, will be the 10th public vote for library support since Friends of the Library was formed.

The support from the Friends has played a vital role in the library's well-being. The Friends' first book sale, held at Central Library on Aug. 3, 1974, raised \$1,500, part of which was donated to help fund the May 1976 three-year serial levy. That levy passed by 69.76 percent.

In addition to providing funding for levy campaigns, Friends of the Library has consistently supported the library in other ways. In 1979, the Friends, together with the Library Advisory Board and county commissioners Gladys McCoy and Earl Blumenauer, successfully lobbied the state legislature to pass Senate Bill 31, which provided—for the first time in state history—direct per capita support for libraries through the state's general fund. This was probably the most important library legislation approved since 1901, when the first library law was enacted to authorize the establishment and maintenance of public libraries, and to provide for their control and protection. Multnomah County Library currently gets about \$90,000 each year from state per capita funding.

Friends of the Library has also long been involved in supporting special programs and events that publicize library services. The Friends provided funding and/or volunteer help during the 1974 Chautauqua system wide celebration, the 1980 Library Week Check Out program, many Check It Out celebrations in the early 1990s, and many new and renovated library opening celebrations from 1996 through 2004. These events have helped keep the library in the public eye.

Friends' support has also helped the library begin a number of new services. Money from the Friends funded records for the first children's record

collection (1978), film projectors for branch programs (1978), and the first collection of videos for circulation to the public (1985). That same year, the Friends provided funding for the purchase of equipment for the Dialog online information system—the library's first electronic reference service. The library's first DVD collections debuted in all library agencies in 2000, another Friends' gift. More recently, Friends of the Library has sponsored Pageturners, providing funds for multiple copies of the books featured in library book discussion groups.

Throughout its 33-year history, Friends of the Library has played a vital role in the wellbeing of Multnomah County Library: It has funded enhanced services, helped spread the message that libraries are important, and provided financial and volunteer support during nine levy elections. The most recent gift from the Friends—a promise to write the first check to the new levy renewal PAC, as soon as it is formed—is just

the latest of many, many Friends' contributions toward ensuring the continuation and improvement of Multnomah County Library.

Bob Patton continued

the wall hanging he entered in the Hoffman Challenge was chosen to travel for a year internationally. He has also entered his work in the Oregon State Fair several times.

True Story by Michael Finkel is Bob's most recent read. Bob was especially interested in this story about the former *New York Times Magazine* reporter and Christian Longo because of his past work with Oregonians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty organization. Bob's other interests include learning about art and minority movements. He has donated a large portion of their book collection on these subjects to the Multnomah County libraries and other organizations in the community. The Friends are especially grateful to have such a valuable and knowledgeable volunteer contribute his time to us and to our great libraries!

Friends of the Library Membership Form

Your support, through annual membership dues, helps the FOL in its advocacy, outreach and stewardship efforts. Your membership benefits our libraries and strengthens our community. Become a Friend, or renew your membership, today.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Most used library branch _____

Membership Levels

- \$30 Individual \$45 Family \$20 Senior (65+) \$40 Senior Family (65+)
 \$75 Supporter \$100 Patron Sustaining (*minimum \$10/month on credit card*)

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Branch Profile:

The Woodstock Branch Story...Opening All Doors

By Rosemary Klein, Library Assistant

I was waiting in line at the Woodstock Safeway when I noticed the little preschooler ahead of me—in a grandma’s arms—proudly wearing this season’s Summer Reading tee-shirt. While groceries were being rung up on the cash register, the clerk and the grandma were talking enthusiastically about storytime at the library—my library, Woodstock Branch.

In a way, this was no surprise. Our youth librarian, Joan Smith, has been reading to children since 1976. In fact, Portland Monthly magazine has acclaimed “The Book Lady” as one of the best things about Portland. As I write this, Joan is strumming on her guitar, preparing to perform with other local talents at the annual Woodstock Neighborhood Picnic in the park. Living in the community she serves, Joan touches her neighbors’ lives in significant ways.

Though I live outside the immediate Woodstock area, as a library staffer I feel that I, too, am part of the community. The other day, on a lunchtime walk through the neighborhood, I was admiring a flower garden when a car pulled up beside me. The driver and her children seemed vaguely familiar. In moments one of the little girls was taking my hand to show me her special reading corner in the garden.

Woodstock Library is deeply



Open This Door of All Doors

This is the mansion of many rooms, and it sleeps.
This is the grove of many precious lives, and it waits
for your hand on the door, your wish opening a book.
This is the place to remember what happened
before you were born. Unfold the bud—your lightest
touch at the lit screen. Unfurl the leaf—an idea waking.
Uncover the flower—this dream with helpers at every turn,
where your reading measures all: art and alphabet, fact
and photograph, number symbol, story, tune. Our treasures.
Down the aisle you softly tread, where a brook will beckon,
You open, and in your hand trembles all you want to be,
Remember? The small thing gives meaning to the great.
You have the power to open centuries that trees hold
silent in their rings. This palace of the possible needs you,
your hand on the door. Enchant this place awake.

—A poem written by Kim Stafford for the Woodstock Branch Library

rooted. We go back more than a century to a modest collection of children’s books housed in a public school in 1903. By 1914, at the start of the Great War, we moved into a neighborhood storefront. In 1959, two years into the Space Age, “old Woodstock Branch” opened its doors. In March of 2000 we welcomed the children of another millennium to our new, award-winning facility. So, you may ask, who are these children? The Chinese Presbyterian Church with its Loaves and Fishes program stands across the street from us; we’re uphill from Reed College and Crystal Springs Rhododendron Garden. We serve a first-generation community of Asian, Russian and Mexican immigrants as well as the established householders of old Eastmoreland and other neighborhood folks.

Editor’s Note: We hope Woodstock and all our libraries continue to inspire and open doors. If your branch has opened a door for you—let us know! E-mail the editor, Bryan Aptekar at barbaloot@comcast.net.



Carly Brown and Bryan Aptekar bringing FOL membership information to the Hillsdale Farmers Market in August. Along with membership information, the Friends filled the booth with high quality used books for sale, a sampling of the many thousands of items for sale at our annual used book sales. The farmers market activities included shoppers of all ages writing on our display board as to why they love the library—we hope to share these with you in the future.

More FOL farmers market appearances, staffed by enthusiastic board members and volunteers, are scheduled in the Hollywood (10/15) and Gresham (10/8 & 15) neighborhoods during weekends in October. Stop by to say hello!

Understanding the Library's Budget or Why the Levy Matters!

By Becky Cobb, Budget/Finance Manager, Multnomah County Library

Here's a fun little quiz to see how much you know about Multnomah County Library's budget. Learn these basic budget facts and you can impress your friends with your knowledge of the Library's budget situation!

1. How much is the Library's current annual budget?

- a. \$15 million
- b. \$32 million
- c. \$48 million
- d. \$66 million

The answer is c: \$48 million.

2. Where does the money come from?

- a. Library Levy
- b. County's General Fund
- c. Fines, fees, grants
- d. All of the above

The answer is d: All of the above.

Here's how it breaks out: the number one source of money for the Library is the library levy. The current five-year levy supplies just over half of the Library's operating budget—about \$25 million dollars. Residents of Multnomah County pay the levy when they pay their property taxes. As this is a voter-approved levy, all of the money collected goes to the Library.

The second largest source of revenue—about 35%—is the County's General Fund. The portion of the General Fund that supports the Library also comes from property taxes, and is under the discretion of the Board of County Commissioners for allocation.

These two sources—the library levy and the County's General Fund—are both based on property taxes and together make up about 90% of the Library's revenues.

The last pieces of Library revenue fall into the "Other" and the "BWB" (beginning working balance) categories. These two sources typically fund about 5-10% of the Library's budget.

The "Other" category is for all monies that are either library-generated and/or non-tax dollars (Note the chart). You'll notice that the largest amount in this category is \$1.95 million in grants received from the Friends of the Library, The Library Foundation, and the Oregon Community Foundation. This money is used to enhance and expand programs and collections in ways that the operating budget alone cannot support. The Beginning Working Balance is unspent money that carries over into the next budget year.

3. What is compression?

- a. A way to store data so it requires less space.
- b. The density rating of a golf ball.
- c. The effect of Measures 5 and 50 on property taxes.
- d. In biology, the increase of physical pressure on a vital structure.

All of these answers are correct; however, the one that applies to the Library's budget is c: the effect of Measures 5 and 50 on property taxes.

Measures 5 and 50 are both property tax limitation measures passed by

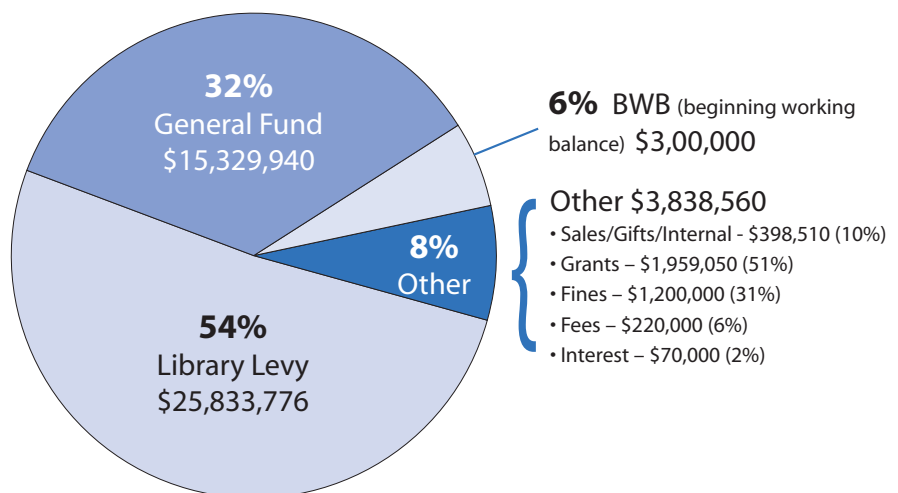
Oregon voters during the 1990's. Measure 5 limits taxes for local government to \$10 per thousand of real market value. Measure 50 cut the property tax rate based on a set formula and capped it at 3% growth each year, based on assessed value. Compression occurs when the Measure 5 limit is lower than the Measure 50 limit. This causes an individual property tax bill to be lower than what the local governments levied. Why does this matter? The Library levy (and other local option levies such as Parks and the recent Children's Fund Levy) are the first taxes not collected if compression occurs. The Library levy typically loses anywhere from 23-28% a year due to compression.

To recap, here are the three key points about the Library's budget:

- About 90-95% of the Library's revenues come from property taxes.
- The Library levy provides just over half of the Library's revenues.
- Property tax compression affects what the Library levy can collect.

Now go out and impress your friends and neighbors!

Multnomah County Library FY 2005-06 Adopted Budget Revenue \$48 Million





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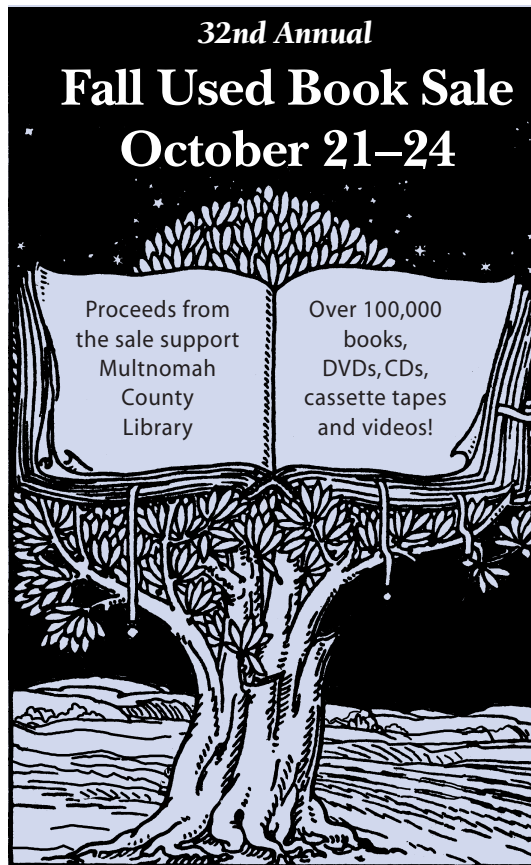
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Members-Only
Friday, October 21
6 – 9 pm
(you can become a member at the door)

Saturday, October 22
9 am – 6 pm

Sunday, October 23
11 am – 5 pm

Monday, October 24
75% off Discount Day
9 am – 3 pm

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(TriMet #12)

For more information
or to volunteer:
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