

# UPDATE



For the spirit of the city

2209 EAST GRACE STREET, RICHMOND, VA 23223

SEPTEMBER 2017

## TENDING THE SPIRIT

### Remove the real artifacts of the Confederacy

The departing Confederacy left two sets of monuments in Richmond. One set you can see — the massive gravestones to a Lost Cause spreading stiffly and silently down the expanse of Monument Avenue. The second set you cannot see. These are the real artifacts of the Confederacy, driven underground and unacknowledged, which continue to control the lives of our citizens.

Our great American Revolution was only a half-revolution in Virginia. Half the population moved into full citizenship; half the population was consigned to a shadowy police state where wages, ownership, citizenship, and even legal marriage were unavailable. The only criterion used to differentiate these groups was race.

The Confederacy declared independence from the United States in order to maintain this dual system of privilege: full citizenship and unprotected slavery.

If Richmond is truly to become the Capital of Reconciliation — redeeming our shame — we would do well to spend our time, energy, and wealth removing these real artifacts of that Confederacy. They perpetuate its spirit; they continue its policies; and they actually continue the half-citizenship of the Confederacy for thousands of our people.

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There are at least five major artifacts — representing the Confederacy's dual system of privilege — which keep the Confederacy alive in modern metropolitan Richmond. Dealing with them is the task of serious people who believe in our nation's deepest values.

#### DETERIORATED PUBLIC SCHOOL BUILDINGS

In 1970, federal courts required the full racial integration of Richmond's majority-black school system. In 1971, the General Assembly prohibited Richmond from

annexing territory and soon thereafter the courts rejected an integrated metropolitan school system.

At that time Richmond was almost completely in debt. The surrounding counties, with little historic debt, could build anything they wanted. Richmond could not afford the annual capital expense necessary to keep current with school construction. Today Richmond Public Schools

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*The gravestones  
will be removed...  
but the hidden,  
destructive divisions  
will remain.*

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buildings are severely deteriorated — 45 years of restricted capital borrowing capacity have resulted in \$600 million in deferred capital needs.

#### DISTRESSED PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS

All of the public housing in metro Richmond was included within the circle of the permanent boundary that the General Assembly drew for the city of Richmond in 1971. Prior to that date, the legislature and Richmond leaders had concentrated all of the public projects in the very center and East End of the city.

As the heritage of the Confederacy, Richmond's poverty is mostly African-American. The federal government's support of low-income housing developments has diminished significantly since the public housing was built.

The city's revenue cannot pay for its

renewal, and the General Assembly takes no notice. The communities are distressed, isolated, impoverished, and invisible.

#### BUSES THAT STOP AT THE CITY LINE

Today, metropolitan Richmond occupies approximately 1,200 square miles. But only 62 of those square miles have full-service public transportation. Buses stop at the boundary line of the small, unexpandable center city.

From 1980 to 2000, the federal and state governments spent more than \$1.1 billion building a beltway for metro Richmond. But the General Assembly used tax funds in RVA almost solely for highways and excluded the building of a modern public transportation system serving everyone. It gave counties the ability to stop buses at the city line.

Today, only 10 percent of the metropolitan city's jobs and none of its community colleges are accessible by public transportation. Several hundred thousand citizens, most of them persons of color, are still in the Confederacy, segregated by transportation.

#### RICHMOND CITY JAIL

Located just blocks from the notorious private slave jails of the Confederacy, the enormous Richmond city jail is full of men and women who should be somewhere else. The cost of keeping a person in jail or prison in Virginia is estimated variously to be from \$50,000 to \$150,000 a year.

The unavailable funds needed to make education accessible to inner-city youth in concentrated poverty are about \$10,000 a year. But the General Assembly desperately underfunds inner-city schools. Instead it annually condemns city schools for having lower test scores — results which it has guaranteed through discriminatory funding and jurisdictional re-segregation.

Far too many young persons end up in jail, in a state that calls a \$201 theft a felony. Disenfranchised, they may live their lives in an enduring, shadowy sub-citizenship, which continues the duality of the Confederacy.

*continues on page 2*

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## TENDING THE SPIRIT

### THE CITY OF PETERSBURG

Once the final bastion of Confederate resistance, Petersburg has become a monument to the Confederate spirit in Virginia's urban policy. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, the General Assembly decided that Petersburg, along with the state's other historic cities, could no longer expand its boundaries with metropolitan economic growth.

Most of these center cities were home to the impoverished portion of the urban population, largely African-American. Their wealth was being siphoned off into surrounding suburban jurisdictions. Petersburg was particularly vulnerable. The downward economic cycle was completely predictable.

Forty-five years later, Petersburg finally became penniless. The decision had been made by the General Assembly a half-century earlier. Petersburg is the most extreme example of the Confederate urban policy, which has affected all of Virginia's historic independent cities.

It is far easier even to remove the massive statues on Monument Avenue than it is to deal with the hidden artifacts of the Confederacy in metro Richmond. It may also be one more false victory.

\* \* \*

Does removal of statues mean that more or less attention will be paid in the future to the major work that is undone? These are public monuments to the hidden artifacts that still hold our metropolitan city in bondage to the scandal of the Confederacy. The gravestones will be removed, but the buried bodies will continue to haunt us. The national media will shift their attention somewhere else. But the hidden, destructive divisions will remain.

Above all, the Capital of the Confederacy needs to become the Capital of Reconciliation.

*Rev. Ben Campbell  
Pastor Emeritus*

*The Rev. Benjamin P. Campbell is pastor emeritus of Richmond Hill, a pastoral associate at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, and the author of Richmond's Unhealed History. This article appeared August 23, 2017 in the Richmond Times Dispatch and is reprinted with permission.*

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## REVIVE RICHMOND

## Transforming Voices

When Rev. Joel leads daily prayer here at Richmond Hill, he often has us sing parts of the prayer that are usually spoken. There is something magical about singing in that chapel, my lungs filling up with air that then reverberates out in song. Joined together with others as we sing "Lord, hear our prayer," my voice feels powerful, beautiful and strong - transformative, even, as we fill the room, the chapel resounding with our voices.

That collective power of voice was palpable on August 12th when I arrived at First Baptist Church in Charlottesville for a 6am worship service. The service was part of the Charlottesville Clergy Collective's organizing in anticipation of the rally that day, the day that we now know turned into heartbreak and violence at the hands of white supremacists. But that morning, as we sang in prayer, blessing those clergy members who would lead a non-violent prayer and protest later in the day, our voices filled the room with love, faith, courage, and hope. We were powerful, beautiful, strong, with the potential for transformation.

I've thought a lot this summer about collaboration at Richmond Hill as I've worked on projects with organizations like Hope in the Cities, RVA Rapid Transit, and Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. There is so much going on in this city, so many people doing good work, and so much ripe potential for collaboration. Too often we feel like we are just one voice. Working in collaboration helps us carry our work forward into the world, just like a chorus carries our voices into a chapel. The kind of collaboration that Richmond Hill is working to do more of is essential as we face a fractured world, torn apart by fear and hatred.

Working with others, aligning ourselves with one another across differences, can be hard. Differences indeed prove to be inconvenient. It can be harder to work together than it would be to go it alone. It is always hard to sing in harmony. But it is worth it. Particularly as we work on issues of race and justice, we must lean into one another, joining our voices together to create something powerful, beautiful, strong enough to truly transform this metropolitan city.

*Lindsey Franklin, Summer Intern*

*Lindsey Franklin, a seminarian from Harvard Divinity School, interned with us this summer. Her experiential learning focus was on collaboration among faith-based organizations. This reflection summarizes her experience here and our relationship to transformation in metropolitan Richmond. Best Wishes to Lindsey!*

*Rev. Janie M. Walker,  
Co-Pastoral Director*

## Pray for Schools and Educational Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond.

*Only take heed, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things which your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children. (Deut 4:9)*

September 2017

**September 3, 2017.** We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all Superintendents, School Boards, School Administrators, PTAs, teachers, students, and staff.

**September 10, 2017.** We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all public schools; for students, teachers and support personnel, including cafeteria workers, building and grounds staff, and school bus drivers; for all private and religious schools, pre-schools and daycare centers, and for children in home schools.

**September 17, 2017.** We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For all universities, colleges, seminaries, trade, technical, graduate, and professional schools; for the students, faculty, and staff of these institutions.

**September 24, 2017.** We pray for schools and educational institutions of Metropolitan Richmond: For healthy relationships between parents, teachers, and students; for cooperation between Superintendents and Administrators of public and private schools throughout this metropolitan city.

## Ready for College

This year's "College Shower Initiative" was truly an amazing experience for all of our students preparing to leave for college this fall. Our hosts showered students with tons of items (laptops, supplies, microwaves, refrigerators, bedding, gift cards, scholarships, advice and so much more) needed to get off to a wonderful start with the next step along the journey. Many new relationships developed that support our students during their first year in college. God has given us yet another opportunity to stand in the GAP (God Appointed Position) by being present in the lives of our youth. We are grateful to serve in this way. We believe this is definitely the "Sweet Spot" in our program year end and we extend our deepest appreciation for all the love. *May the JOURNEY continue...*

### Thanks to these College Shower Initiative 2017

**HOSTS:** Christ Church Episcopal Richmond, Holy Rosary Catholic Church, Hunton and Williams LLC, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia, Faith Community Baptist Church, Richmond Hill and Friends, and St. John's Episcopal Church



*Armstrong Leadership Program's "College Shower Initiative" provides a big boost and helps these new college students embark on their journey. Special Thanks to Ms. Antwonda Mealey for coordinating the project this year!*

*Thanks for your love and support! Yvette and Marvin  
Like Us on Facebook @ ArmstrongLeadership  
Learn more about Armstrong Leadership Program through Yvette Rajput at 804-783-7903, ext. 13, or, alp@richmondhillva.org*



The Recovery Eucharist is a service devoted to healing and personal transformation found within 12-step spirituality and embodied in the Eucharist. A special invitation is extended to those recovering from any addiction and to those who desire to support people in recovery.

*Each 4th Tuesdays at 7:30 pm in Chapel.*

*Leader: Rev. Herbert Jones*

## RETREATS

### INDIVIDUAL RETREATS

Richmond Hill offers individual retreats for persons who desire rest and time to seek God. Retreats may be taken in 24-hr increments between Mon. 4 p.m.–Sat. 4 p.m. In addition, more formal contemplative retreats are offered periodically on weekends for individuals who wish to be a part of a facilitated retreat rhythm. Spiritual guidance is available for any individual retreat.

*Recommended donations: Basic \$80 per 24 hrs. / Guided \$100 per 24 hrs.  
Contact Deborah Cannady, 804-783-7903 or retreats@richmondhillva.org*

### FIRST FRIDAY RETREATS

First Friday of Each Month | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*A day for quiet reflection and spiritual renewal. Structure and guidance will be provided for those who want it as well as the option for one-on-one spiritual direction, or you can simply spend the day in silence—your choice.*

Suggested Donation: \$20 (includes Lunch) Facilitator: Mimi Weaver, spiritual director and life coach. She can be reached at [www.GraceMoves.com](http://www.GraceMoves.com)

Contact DeBorah Cannady at Richmond Hill to register 804-783-7903 or [retreats@richmondhillva.org](mailto:retreats@richmondhillva.org)  
Please register in advance. Space is limited.

### LISTENING FOR THE SILENCE

Second Tuesday of Each Month | 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

*Arrive at Richmond Hill at 8:45 to begin this spiritual experience. Lunch and chapel are included. Bring your Bible and your journal but leave the cell phone in the car.*

Suggested Donation: \$20 (includes Lunch) Facilitator: Rita Ricks, spiritual director

Contact DeBorah Cannady at Richmond Hill to register 804-783-7903 or [retreats@richmondhillva.org](mailto:retreats@richmondhillva.org)  
Please register in advance. Space is limited.

## GROUPS

### CENTERING PRAYER GROUPS

*Tuesdays, 4:45 - 5:45 p.m.*

*David Vinson, Facilitator*

*Tuesdays, 7:30 - 8:45 p.m.*

*Jerry Deans, Rev. Vallerie King, Facilitators*

Centering prayer is an ancient prayer method designed to facilitate the development of contemplative prayer by preparing us to cooperate with this gift. Each group is open to newcomers regardless of experience.

Contact: David Vinson at 783-7903 or [hospitality@richmondhillva.org](mailto:hospitality@richmondhillva.org)

### DROP-IN GRIEF GROUP

*Monthly, 4th Fridays, 10 - 11:30 a.m.*

*Sandy Gramling, Ph.D., Facilitator*

Share experiences and obtain support from others who are experiencing a loss in a flexible group format. Discussion and reflection on the impact of loss, coping, meaning-making, etc. follows the brief presentation.

*Preregistration is helpful but not required.  
Contact DeBorah Cannady at 804-783-7903 to register.*

## The Art & Spirituality 2017-18 Series begins with a day in the studio...



Facilitator: Brenda Giannini opens us to the sacred dimensions of our lives through the gifts of the visual arts. Suggested donation: \$30.00 (includes lunch) To register, please contact DeBorah Cannady, at (804) 783-7903 or by email: [retreats@richmondhillva.org](mailto:retreats@richmondhillva.org)

Take a break from the rush and hurry of your busy day and join us in a creative retreat in the inspiring, prayer-soaked walls of Richmond Hill. Slip into the spiritual rhythm of prayer and quiet here. Enjoy personal time with your creative self. Our art space provides a perfect place for you to connect with your inner spirit while using your creativity. We look forward to having you with us!

## SCHOOLS ENROLLING



### Fall 2017

Saturdays, 9 am – 4 pm

- September 23, 2017
- Saturday, October 28, 2017

### Spring 2018

Saturdays, 9 am – 4 pm

- March 24, 2018
- April 21, 2018

### Retreat

Friday, 4 pm – Sunday, 4 pm

May 4 – 6, 2018

== KOINONIA ==

## School of Race & Justice

“CALLED TO BE RECONCILERS”

Our KOINONIA School of Race and Justice is ready to begin its third year this fall with some significant modifications that we hope will make it possible for more to participate. The school is designed to equip people in three ways: to engage in transformative and self-reflective work around race; to engage in constructive dialogue regarding issues of race and justice; and to engage in the larger community to promote social justice.

This year's program will consist of four daylong seminars, two in the fall and two in the spring, and a 48-hour retreat to culminate the year. Gatherings will include guest lecturers, small group discussion, community engagement, and personal reflection time. We will explore broad topics related to race and justice, such as history, diversity, shame, grief, lament, trauma, privilege, class, education, and media.

The KOINONIA School of Race and Justice intends to be a part of God's ministry of racial

reconciliation and is grounded in the Christian tradition. We believe everyone can engage in reducing racism by being instruments of justice in their own sphere of influence. You may sign up for the entire year at a cost reduction or register for each retreat independently. All are welcome.

The day-retreats are scheduled for Saturdays from 9-4 on September 23, October 28, March 24, and April 21. The cost for each is \$50, which includes lunch. The weekend retreat will be held from Friday at 4 to Sunday at 4, May 4-6, 2018, at a cost of \$195. Tuition is \$350 to register for the entire year.

*For further information, please contact Qasarah Spencer, Dean of the Koinonia School of Race and Justice, [koinonia@richmondhillva.org](mailto:koinonia@richmondhillva.org).*

*To register for the September day-retreat or the entire year, please call the Richmond Hill office at (804) 783-7903 or email [retreats@richmondhillva.org](mailto:retreats@richmondhillva.org).*

## WORSHIP SERVICES

### DAILY PRAYERS

Morning 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.

Noon 12:00 - 12:15 p.m.

Evening 6:00 - 6:15 p.m.

### COMMUNITY WORSHIP

5:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

*Every Monday*

The community celebrates Holy Communion. Services are led by ministers of various denominations according to their traditions. We invite you to join us afterwards for dinner in the refectory.

### PRAYING WITH THE SONGS OF TAIZÉ

*Jim Bennett, Leader*

7:30 p.m. first Monday of each month

Taizé worship is contemplative and meditative in character, using short songs, repeated again and again in a candlelit chapel. The songs express a basic reality of faith, quickly grasped by the mind. The hope is this reality will gradually penetrate one's whole being; thus the meditative singing becomes a way of listening to God. Our practice of Taizé includes singing, prayer for Metropolitan Richmond, and a period of silence. Jim Bennett, a skilled musician, leads this time of worship with a variety of instruments.

### SOAKING PRAYER SERVICE

*DeBorah Cannady, Leader*

1st Thursdays at 10:00 a.m. and 3rd Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Those struggling with illness have benefitted from being "soaked in prayer" over periods of time. Prayer ministers are available to pray with those desiring emotional, spiritual, or physical healing. Participants are invited to find a comfortable place, sit, relax, and receive prayer. Participants may also come and go during the service.

### GENERATIONAL HEALING SERVICE

5th Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

*Rev. Dr. Paula O. Parker, Leader*

Once a quarter, Richmond Hill offers a service for Generational Healing. This is an opportunity to invite God's healing into your family, including generations that have gone before, as well as generations that will come after you. Participants are encouraged to bring the blessings as well as the pains and traumas of their ancestry written on a piece of paper (not to be shared). However, careful preparation of your personal genogram will help you pray more specifically for your family members.

For those who might find it helpful, 2-hour preparation sessions will be facilitated by Rev. Parker on the following Tuesdays during 2017: May 16th, July 25th and Oct 17th. For more information, call DeBorah Cannady at 783-7903.

## URBAN SERVICE CORPS

### Meet Jabriel Hasan

My name is Jabriel Hasan, and I will be serving at Richmond Hill for at least the next year as an Urban Service Corps Intern. I am a Richmond native, and lived in Virginia through my college years at Marymount University in Arlington, where I graduated in 2011 with a B.A. in Communication. Then, I went



halfway around the world to Ethiopia to serve as a volunteer English teacher for two years with the Peace Corps.

Towards the final stages of my work overseas, I felt more compelled than ever to begin identifying my spiritual purpose. Before leaving for Ethiopia, I had spoken with my priest, Reverend Andrew Terry, about a call to the holy orders in The Episcopal Church. For a year-and-a-half, I taught, travelled, and thought. I had countless hours in my room, on buses, at mountaintops to think. The recent election for me, as for many people, proved to be a climactic moment when it became clear that all of my contemplation, in order to be useful beyond my own "personal salvation project," needed to lead to action. Spiritual awareness beckons a social response. When I came to know The Christ, I recognized holiness at the core of all existence. When I recognized this sacredness--that we are infinitely resting in the Kingdom of God, and that the essential task is to awaken to that fundamental truth--I could only share that grace with others.

I recalled visiting Richmond Hill numerous times before joining Peace Corps. I remembered the love that radiated throughout the space, bouncing off walls, dancing through gardens and flowing into hearts. When it came time to apply for the Urban Service Corps, I immediately grasped the opportunity. I felt in my spirit that this was the place to do the personal and communal work necessary for recognizing the Kingdom of God within me and outside of me.

I am constantly seeing God's light here, and I hope to be a part of that grace in my work for the Communications team and assistance with St. Phillip's Episcopal Church's outreach programs in the northside of the city. Grace also overflows from the rich prayer life sustained at Richmond Hill. Often in prayer, I find myself entering the realm where there is only G-D and G-D's love. I think I owe this to the countless people who have breathed prayers into this space. I am now one with that.



**Richmond Hill's 30th Anniversary**  
**An Evening of Song & Celebration**  
*How Can I Keep From Singing*  
**Thursday, November 30, 7:30-9:00 pm**  
*Richmond Hill Chapel*

## OUR CLARION CALL:

Pursuing  
SHALOM  
W

**Save the Date!**

**Clergy Convocation 2017**

Thursday, November 2 | 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**L**isa Sharon Harper, author of *The Very Good Gospel*, will join us in November for the Clergy Convocation to facilitate a training that would help us consider our role as faithful citizens in today's political climate. The training would seek to answer the following questions: How do we organize? How do we advocate for change? How do we mobilize in ways that influence public policy and address core issues constructively? How do we embody "shalom" together and make faith real in today's world? As Christ Followers, how do we understand our call to activism now?

*"Then the LORD said to Moses, 'Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward.'" —Exodus 14:15*



**Thursday, October 17 | 6:00–8:30 PM**

Second Baptist, 5100 W. Hundred Rd, Chester, VA 23831

Cost: **Free!**

## Free to Ride

**J**oin us at the Richmond premiere of "Free to Ride," a recent documentary about the intersection of public transportation and civil rights in Dayton, Ohio. It raises key issues about the important role public transportation plays in our communities so that all have access to what they need to thrive. A discussion about the film will follow.

*"And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in." — Isaiah 58:12*

For the spirit of the city



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## September 2017



# Metro Richmond at Prayer

*In September:*

## Pray for Schools and Educational Institutions of Metropolitan Richmond.

### RICHMOND HILL MISSION STATEMENT

Richmond Hill is an ecumenical Christian fellowship and intentional residential community who serve as stewards of an urban retreat center within the setting of a historic monastery. Our Mission is to seek God's healing of Metropolitan Richmond through prayer, hospitality, racial reconciliation and spiritual development.

#### RICHMOND HILL'S DAILY CYCLE OF PRAYER

Pray for Metropolitan Richmond Every Day: For the healing of metropolitan Richmond; for the sick and those in our hearts; for the welfare of all our citizens; for the establishment of God's order in our community.

**MONDAYS:** Our citizens who live in the City of Richmond, the Mayor, Manager, City Council, and School Board. Non-profit organizations and their ministries. All schools: students, teachers, and staff. Day care centers. All who suffer from addiction, dependency, and co-dependency. The Council, residents, and staff of Richmond Hill.

**TUESDAYS:** Our citizens who live in Hanover County, the Board of Supervisors, School Board, and Manager. The print and broadcast media. The churches of metropolitan Richmond: members and clergy. All who live in poverty. All who suffer from mental illness.

**WEDNESDAYS:** The Governor of Virginia, the General Assembly, and all who work in State Government. All who work in businesses which provide services to others. All who work in construction. Hospitals and nursing homes: patients, residents, and staff; all who provide health care. Victims of violent crime; all who commit violent crime. All senior citizens.

**THURSDAYS:** Our citizens who live in Ashland, Hopewell, Colonial Heights, and Petersburg, the town and city Councils and Managers. All who work in banks and finance; all making financial decisions for greater Richmond. Prisons and jails of metropolitan Richmond: prisoners and staff. All who are unemployed or underemployed. All public servants.

**FRIDAYS:** Our citizens who live in Henrico County, the Supervisors, School Board, and County Manager. All who work in the manufacturing industry in metropolitan Richmond. The police, fire, and rescue workers. The courts. All

young people. All who hurt, need inner healing, or are unable to love.

**SATURDAYS:** Our citizens who live in Chesterfield County, the Supervisors, School Board, and County Manager. All who work in retail trade in metropolitan Richmond, and those who own our businesses. Counselors and spiritual directors. The Sisters of the Visitation of Monte Maria. All victims of abuse; all perpetrators of abuse.

**SUNDAYS:** Our citizens who live in the Counties of Charles City, Goochland, Powhatan, and New Kent, the Supervisors, School Boards, and Managers. An end to racism and racial prejudice. All places of prayer or worship: churches, mosques, and synagogues. Universities, colleges, and technical schools. All who seek God.

*We pray daily at Richmond Hill for persons or situations for which our prayers are requested. Call us at 804-783-7903.*

Share your comments, or sign up to receive our monthly printed UPDATE newsletter here: [rrumble@richmondhillva.org](mailto:rrumble@richmondhillva.org)

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