

Friends of the Port Townsend Library Newsletter



Meet the New Library Director

*"The future belongs to those who believe
in the beauty of their dreams."*

Eleanor Roosevelt

I believe in the beauty of Port Townsend. The City and the Public Library are at a unique moment in time to both honor their impressive history and to begin envisioning a vibrant future as "The City of Dreams." It is my passion to be an innovative public librarian, arts professional, and community leader. To achieve all this in Port Townsend, a beautiful Victorian seaport and arts community, is my dream come true.

Nearly four years ago I visited Port Townsend on the recommendation of my Kitsap colleagues who told me it was a city meant for me, with a vibrant arts and cultural scene and a beloved Carnegie Library. They were

right. I found myself traveling often from Kitsap to Port Townsend to enjoy all the city had to offer. Visiting the library when it was temporarily housed on the Mountain View Campus had me looking forward to someday seeing the Carnegie Library in all its splendor. As this newsletter is being written, the Carnegie has been reopened for over six months, thanks to an extraordinarily dedicated and caring community.

Libraries are a core part of who I am. Just hailing from the Silverdale Branch of Kitsap Regional Library, I also enjoyed working for different city libraries in Idaho, where I have seen the successful connection between art and the library. Being an arts professional in Idaho was a wonderful experience. I was also honored to serve as the chairwoman of the Kitsap County Arts Board. The City of Port Townsend's Public Library has great partnerships with the arts community. I enjoy seeing local artists display their work in the library.

While studying abroad in Germany and Egypt, I learned that the library is a passport to the world. The seeds of librarianship were planted in me when I visited the newly rebuilt Library of Alexandria, and observed the ways the library built community and positively changed people's daily lives. The library served as the building block of democracy. It was

the only place that offered free public education to all. I believe all public libraries endeavor to serve this vital role in our world. I believe in cultivating an environment where lifelong learning is encouraged and innovation flourishes. There are so many things to look forward to, including creating solutions for honoring library traditions while also being a library of the twenty-first century. Imagine the exciting possibilities as library services transform to meet the needs of the Port Townsend community!

It is an honor to serve the City of Port Townsend as your new Library Director. I look forward to working with remarkable library and city staffs and dedicated library volunteers, including the Friends of the Library, the Library Foundation, and the Library Advisory Board. As your Library Director, my role is to ensure that our community receives the very best library services possible from our talented and caring staff. We all strive to make your day a little brighter when you visit the library. Please come in and visit the library and discover all we have to offer; I will be happy to meet you.

Melody Sky Eisler

Letter from the President

In 2014, once again, the community rallied to support our Carnegie Library's programs by contributing to the Friends of the PT Library. More than \$20,000 was generated from book and product sales, membership dues, memorial donations, and special fund raising events.

Your generosity contributed to:

- * Weekly story times for babies, toddlers and children
- * Books for newborns and their parents
- * 2014 Community Read:
Turn Here, Sweet Corn
- * Adult author readings
- * Book kits for Book Lover's Café
- * Teen programs
- * Homework help

- * Summer Reading programs, all ages
- * Books on Wheels serving several senior living centers.

Additional grants from local businesses, state and national organizations and memorial donations totaling over \$17,000 supported a variety of events and purchases, including 2014 Community Read events; "Prime Time Access"; promoting parents and children reading at home in conjunction with Grant Street school; new children's and adult books paid for by various memorial donations; new adult books paid for by the Jung Society; new books on fiber arts paid for by the Fiber Frenzy group; new books for teens paid for by the Port Townsend School District; and Robotics tee shirts.

Our librarians stretch these dollars to the max. Most presenting authors receive a lovely meal or accommodations and proceeds from any books they sell in lieu of their usual fee. Many people donate time and materials. The Friends Board members work closely with staff to get the most bang for the buck.

If you want more detailed information on the Friends, please attend the FOPTL Board meeting. It is the second Wednesday each month, 3:30 pm at the Library Learning Center next to our Carnegie Library on the corner of Lawrence and Harrison.

Thanks again to all our volunteers, donors, former and serving board members.

Geralynn Rackowski

Coming events for adult patrons

Cris Wilson, Adult Services Librarian

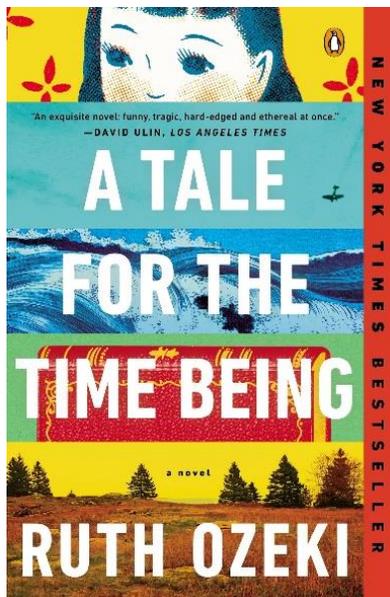
The **Book Lover's Cafe** book group continues to meet the first Monday of each month at 2:00 pm in the large meeting room in the Library Learning Center next to the Carnegie building. Everyone is welcome whether you have read the current book or not. Come and meet the group and get a

copy of next month's book. Here are the selections that are coming up:

April 6 *The Story of a Happy Marriage*
by Ann Patchett

May 4 *A Tale for the Time Being*
by Ruth Ozeki

June 1 *Astoria: Astor and Jefferson's Lost Pacific Empire*
by Paul Stark



We are continuing to improve the **Special Collections** in the upstairs of the Carnegie. These collections include Maritime, Local Nonfiction, Classics, Jung, Reference, Computer Resources, Automotive Repair, and Government Documents.

We recently formed a patron **Poetry Advisory Committee** including a poet, a retired UW professor, and an editor from Copper Canyon Press to evaluate the current collection and recommend purchases to create an outstanding collection that will focus on Pacific Northwest poets. We hope to have it complete for National Poetry Month in April. Cris Wilson will interview the Washington State Poet Laureate, Elizabeth Austen, in April for the Book Lover's Cafe radio program on our local KPTZ radio station, 91.9 FM. These monthly programs are also available on the KPTZ.org website as podcasts.

Upcoming adult programs include **Atomic Footprints** on May 6 at 6:30 pm, a discussion of the **Hanford Nuclear Site: Past and Present**, and on August 13, 2:00 - 3:30 pm, there will be a presentation on **Nonprofit Fundraising Using the Foundation Center Resources**. All of these programs and projects are supported by the Friends of the Port Townsend Library.

Teens creating the best possible lives for themselves...

Kit Ward-Crixel
Youth Services Librarian

In 2010, the Best Buy Foundation and the Search Institute teamed up to conduct a study called @15. They asked 15-year-olds around the US questions like, 1) do you feel like you can make an impact in your community? 2) Do you have opportunities to pursue activities that interest you? And, 3) do you have an adult in your life besides your parents you can turn to for advice and support? The survey identified three key areas that lead to kids' success: Relationships, Sparks, and Voice.

"Relationships" refers to positive, sustained, and meaningful relationships with coaches, teachers, mentors, grandparents, or other adults outside the nuclear family. "Sparks" are those interests and pastimes that help kids feel productive and give them a sense of identity, whether it's art, music, rebuilding a car, or programming a computer. "Voice" is the inner sense that what we do can make a difference in our world, the confidence that we can



express our ideas, help solve community problems, and change our lives and the lives of others for the better.

Not surprisingly, teens who reported that they had a high level of these three strengths did better, literally, on every outcome the study authors could think to measure, whether academic, social, or behavioral. The scary part of the report is the percentage of kids who actually did score high in all of the three areas. Care to guess what it was?

Guess lower..... No, really..... Lower still.

It was 7%. That means 93% of 15-year-olds in the US couldn't say that they had a supportive non-parent adult, the opportunity to pursue an interest they really cared about, and the sense that they can make a difference in their communities.

In Youth Services, it's our mission to change that number, with your support. Every day we're introducing kids to new fields of interest and giving them the chance to pursue their talents, such as our **STEM Video Game Challenge Workshop**. This workshop taught kids how to design their own video games. Our staff build relationships with kids and families every day too, whether it's Miss Mirandy rocking another child during **Storytime** or Coach Keith helping his **Jr. FIRST LEGO League robotics team**. The teens who volunteer with our teen volunteer program know that they are making a difference to the people of Port Townsend. If you see them in the library, say "Thank you" to them!

Sometimes it's easy to see elements of what we do, but not so easy to see the reasons why we do it. I want you all to know that by supporting the Friends of the Library, you're not just buying us new markers or LEGOs or paying for summer reading prizes – you are helping children create the best possible lives for themselves as they grow. Some pretty impressive research proves it!

Volunteer your time with the Friends

The Friends of the Library participate in a variety of activities to raise money for library programs that exceed the City budget. The board members enjoy doing everything we do, but we'd appreciate some help. If you would like to volunteer your time or skills in any of the following areas, please let us know by calling Ellen at 379-3727 or email friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com

- Boxing and sorting donated books
- Assisting at the book sales (**next book sale is Saturday, Mar 14**)
- Assisting the treasurer
- Distributing posters around town (various times)
- Helping at special events
- Publicity
- Computer-related tasks

Book reviews and recommended reads by Friends of the Library Board Members

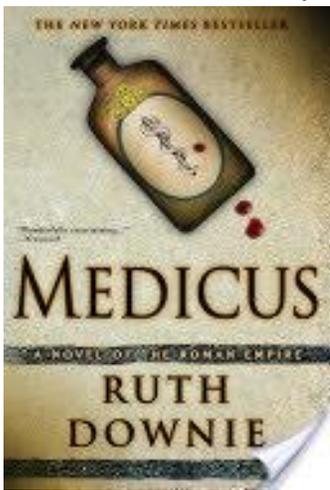
Our featured review this issue is by one of our newest members, Lois Stanford

Medicus: A Novel of the Roman Empire

by Ruth Downie, Bloomsbury Publishing USA, 2008
416 pages

If you like lighthearted mystery novels with an appealing detective, a cast of amusing and engaging characters, and a fascinating setting, *Medicus* may be the cup of tea (or the flagon of mead) for you.

Gaius Petreius Ruso, who has no intention of being a detective, is a *medicus*—a young army doctor attached to the Twentieth Legion of the Roman army of occupation currently stationed in Britannia. Life as an army doctor in cold, wet Deva (Chester) is somewhat monotonous—foot rot, “injuries resulting from drunkenness, stupidity, and arguments with drill instructors,” and complaints of the malingering variety feature prominently on Ruso’s case list—until he rescues and buys a badly abused slave girl, the Briton Tilla. (Her real name, Darlaghdacha, has proved too difficult for Roman tongues.)



When bodies begin to surface—young women from the local bordello—Ruso and Tilla are drawn into investigation of nefarious doings in the town, both of them reluctantly since Ruso is swamped with his caseload, a troop of ineradicable mice in his house, a hospital clerk of astonishing stupidity, and the arrival of a new and pompous hospital administrator... and Tilla still wishes only to move into the next world to join her family, dead in a Roman raid in the unsettled north.

The plot unfolds in a leisurely manner and Ruso and Tilla do, of course, solve the mystery. But the real joy of this book lies in the skillful portrayal of the many and varied characters—a rich tapestry of Romans and Britons who are involved in the problems that arise between a reluctant imperial army of occupation (who would rather be almost anywhere else than this wet, barbaric, backward island) and a rich native culture whose members, while also strongly wishing the invaders go elsewhere, are glad to take their custom in food shops, bars, and brothels.

Readers who enjoy *Medicus* will be pleased to know that it is the first of a series of six books about Ruso and Tilla—with a seventh in the works.

Mini-reviews and recommendations

I read Louise Erdrich's *The Master Butcher's Singing Club* after avoiding it for quite a while because of the title. I hadn't read any of her books in years and am so glad I changed my mind. I loved it and couldn't put it down ... not because it's suspenseful, but because it's just plain good storytelling with 3-dimensional characters, a few of whom border on the fantastic. I would definitely put it on my *not to be missed* list.

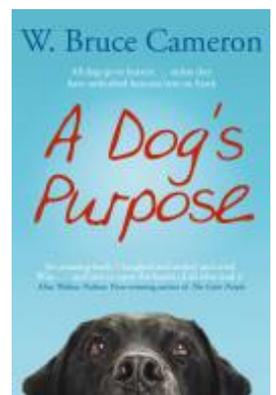
Colleen Freidberg

Jeanne Ray's books are always page-turners for me with good character development, interesting family dynamics, humor and fun, and slightly convoluted stories. *Eat Cake* is no exception. Ruth loves to bake cakes. Put yourself inside a Bundt cake and inhale deeply for some serious therapy. Baking for stress reduction becomes a necessity as her husband loses his job and her parents, long divorced, move in with them and their sulky, teenage daughter. Baking ultimately saves the family.

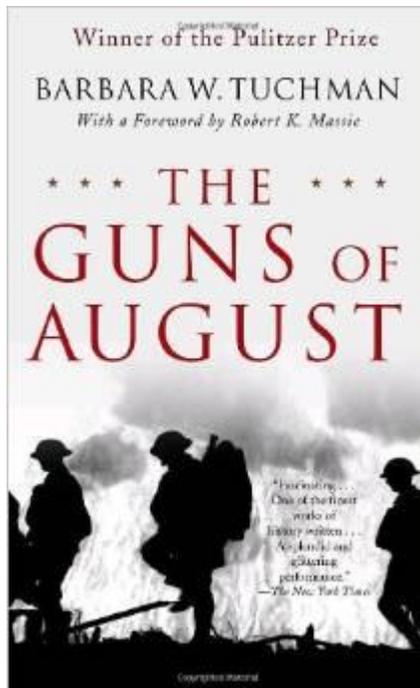
Geralynn Rackowski

If you like a book that makes you laugh and cry, try *A Dog's Purpose: a novel for humans* by W. Bruce Cameron. A delightful story about a very articulate canine named Bailey who searches for his “purpose” over several lives. This canine commentary on human relationships is ultimately about love.

Merilee Clunis



Mini reviews, continued

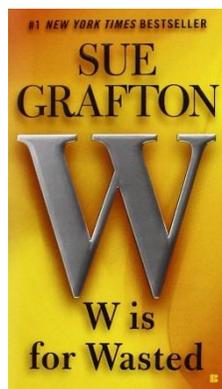


Those of you who attended the recent 3-part lecture on World War I presented by Lawrence Kerr in the Port Townsend Library Learning Center may be likely candidates for Barbara W. Tuchman's *The Guns of August*. I am not a fast reader and I thought Tuchman's high level of detail, covering just a couple months prior to and at the very beginning of the war, would be daunting, but instead, her suspenseful way of writing captured me. I found myself avidly reading descriptions of personalities, philosophies, and small accidental events that ultimately led to final outcomes. It is difficult to know how much one can understand the complexity that is war, but I recommend a reading of *The Guns of August* as one possible tool toward that end.

Phyllis Marckworth

She did it again. Sue Grafton's *W is for Wasted* kept me up all night, eager to find out what mischief she could generate in the fictional town of Santa Teresa. To fans, tales of her long lost family and her sometimes hostile reaction to these revelations can be jarring. But Grafton's avatar, Kinsey Millhone, seems to take pride in her lack of interpersonal skills, blaming it all on the maiden aunt who raised her. In *W is for Wasted*, she learns she is related to a homeless man found dead on the beach. His death and the astonishing fact that he's left her his fortune (it's a long, complicated story) leads to the discovery of yet another branch of her dad's family and the possibility that her first contact with them will be in court over the terms of their late father's will. For those of us who've lived in or visited coastal California, it's easy to see Santa Barbara throughout Grafton's excellent storytelling, with one exception – Santa Teresa is stuck in a time-warp. No mobile phones, no Internet, and not a tablet in sight. The real mystery is how this award-winning mystery writer makes this work. Oh yeah, and Kinsey's managed to stay a thirty-something throughout the long "alphabet" series. Grafton and I were both born in 1940 and she seems to be ageing gracefully, according to recent media images. I count myself a "fan," so I hope she stays the course and finishes the series she started 32 years ago. She says the final story will be titled "Z is for Zero." Could this mean it will end her writing career, as well as the alphabet series?

Linda Martin, Ed



I'm a very slow, easily distracted reader, but I have to say that this novel gripped me, and I finished reading it in a much faster-than-usual time frame. *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry*, by Rachel Joyce, follows a very ordinary upper-middle aged man who accomplished an extraordinary feat—for friendship. I can't imagine walking from one end of England to the other with not much else but true determination and resolve. He meets an eclectic assortment of people and situations along the way, much like Forrest Gump, becoming a kind of 'folk hero' to many and an inspiration to others. It is so interesting to follow the psychological growth of both Harold and his repressive, dogmatic wife. They both grow in directions beyond their understanding—apart, then together. Two thumbs up for this book!

Kathleen Hawn

"You wonder about me. I wonder about you." So begins and ends *A Tale for the Time Being* by Ruth Ozeki. Two women on different continents have written these words, one in a diary and one in a letter. One of the writers is Nao (pronounced "Now"), a suicidal Japanese 16-year old with a voice both funny and heart wrenching. The other is Ruth, a blocked, middle-aged novelist living on an island in the NW. Both reach across oceans and time, hoping to connect and yet never knowing if their words reach another person. This engaging book explores many themes as the two lives are alternately woven together including biculturalism, war, depression, suicide clubs, bullying, the slippery qualities of time, and Zen Buddhism.

Ellen Dustman

FOPTL Book Sales

are our largest source of revenue. When Sheila Khalov, our new book sale coordinator, accepted a generous donation of more than 3,000 books from a private library, we all had to get involved with the sorting and boxing effort. We "borrowed" a member's garage and worked long hours to get these wonderfully diverse books sorted by category, not just the usual "fiction/non-fiction" designation. We also received a large number of children's books and media, enough to fill an additional room at the Community Center. These are grouped by subject and "age appropriate." We hope you will come by and peruse our unique collections. Bring the children so they can select their own "treasures" from the special children's books and media room.

See you Saturday, March 14!



News from the Port Townsend Library Foundation

The Port Townsend Public Library Foundation is pleased to announce that Bonnie Hanson-Buckley has graciously agreed to serve on the Foundation Board. Bonnie's term will begin at the Annual Meeting in March. She will be a great addition to our Board. Also, Board member Polly Lyle would like to put out the word that volunteers are needed to help with landscaping at the library. Volunteers work their own schedules, on projects planned by the volunteer group. Please contact Polly at pollylyle@me.com if you would like to help spruce up the Library's grounds.

Welcome New Friends!

Since our last newsletter was published in October, the following people have expressed their support of our Carnegie Library by becoming valued members of the Friends:

Hilda & Barry Anderson
Maura Clevenger
Maria Moustakas Fleishman
Lois Huth
Elaine Lachlan
Meredith & Bill Lowry
Keith & Dee Norlin
Joe Schneider
Denise Joy & Daniel Wilson
Melanie Reynolds & John Wroblewski
Stephanie Yates
Shirley Zyph

We are very grateful for the generous support from our Business members as well. Please visit their websites and consider supporting them with your personal and business needs.

David Chuljian, DDS, PS
<http://www.chuljiandds.com>

Terrapin Architecture/Richard Berg
<http://www.terrapinarchitecture.com>

Uptown Physical Therapy/Richard Perez,
RPT/DMIN <http://www.uptowntherapy.com>

WallyWorks Enterprises/ Malcolm Dorn
<http://www.wallyworks.net>

Please become a FRIEND of the Port Townsend Library TODAY!

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

Amount of donation \$ _____

(Tax deductible)

- Individual..... \$10
- Family.....\$20
- Supporting.....\$50
- Sustaining... \$100
- Patron.....\$500 or more
- Business.....\$100 or more

(Your business card will be featured in each newsletter for the membership year.)

Additional Gift \$ _____

FOPTL is qualified for tax exemption under Section 501 (C) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, and your contribution is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

- NEW MEMBER RENEWAL

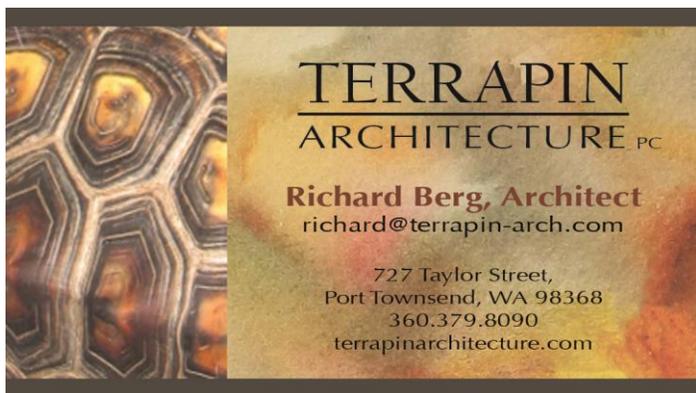
If you would like to volunteer, we'd love to have you. Please indicate your area(s) of interest:

- Book sales
- Handling book donations
- Membership drives
- Fundraising events
- Newsletter / publicity
- Computer/ technical support
- Adult programs
- Special events/Advocacy
- I have an idea, call me!

Annual membership runs from June 1st until May 31st. Dues may be paid at the library, at the book sale, or by credit card on the Library's website at

www.ptpubliclibrary.org/SupportYourLibrary/FriendsoftheLibrary.html or by completing this form and sending it with your check, made out to "FOPTL" or "Friends of the Port Townsend Public Library" to:

Friends of the Port Townsend Library
1220 Lawrence St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368



TERRAPIN
ARCHITECTURE PC

Richard Berg, Architect
richard@terrapin-arch.com

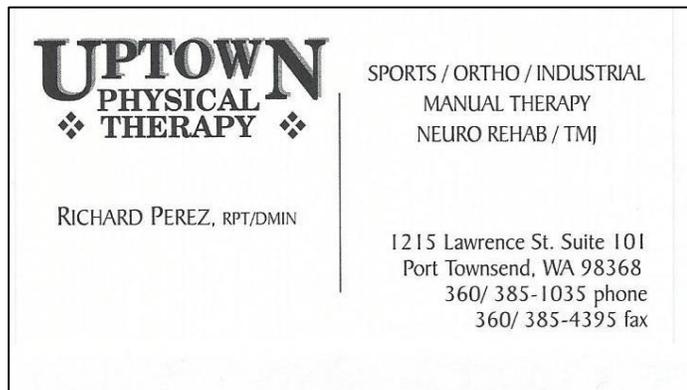
727 Taylor Street,
Port Townsend, WA 98368
360.379.8090
terrapinarchitecture.com



David T. Chuljian, DDS, PS
(360) 385-3100

1303 Washington Street
Port Townsend, WA 98368

dave@chuljiandds.com
www.chuljiandds.com

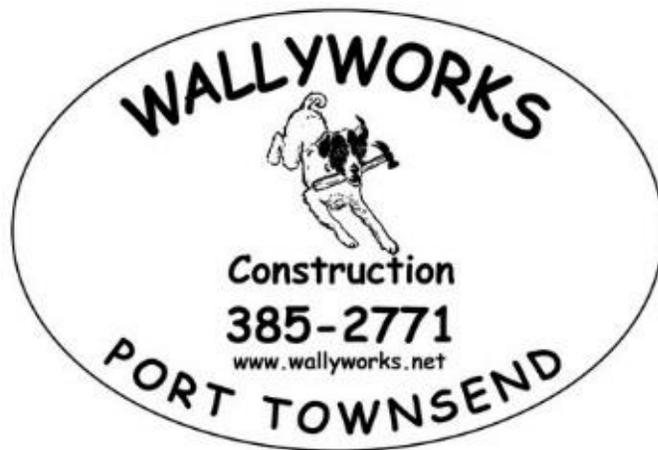


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PORT TOWNSEND

Friends of the
Port Townsend Library
1220 Lawrence St.
Port Townsend, WA 98368
www.ptpubliclibrary.org

**Used Book and Media Sale
Saturday, March 14, 2015
Uptown Community Center
9 am - 3 pm
8 am for members
of the Friends**

Friends of the Port Townsend Library (FOPTL)

raise funds to provide services, programs, and materials for the library that are beyond the means of the city budget, for the cultural and educational enrichment of the community. FOPTL publishes three newsletters each year -- spring, summer, and fall. Members may receive their newsletter via email or post. Everyone can read the publication at www.ptpubliclibrary.org or pick up a printed copy at the Port Townsend Library.

Everyone is welcome to attend an FOPTL Board meeting, held on the second Wednesday each month, 3:30 pm, at the Library Learning Center (at the corner of Lawrence and Harrison). If you are interested in any volunteer activity or a Board position, please phone Geralynn at 385-120 or email us at friendsofptlibrary@gmail.com

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