

# Lamorinda OUR HOMES

Lamorinda Weekly Volume 17 Issue 8 Wednesday, June 7, 2023



Lamorinda Home Sales

... read on Page D2

## Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian Fields of Dreams

Photos Cynthia Brian



A field of gold and orange nasturtiums with irises.

Photos Cynthia Brian



This field in the apple orchard is planted with seafoam statice, nigella, calendula, and climbing roses.

### By Cynthia Brian

*“When the primal forces of nature tell you to do something, the prudent thing is not to quibble over details.” ~ From the movie, “Field of Dreams”*

Is there anyone who doesn't marvel over the sight of a fabulous field of flowers? As a plantaholic, I swoon each spring when the promise of a kaleidoscope of flora burst from the ground. Alas, this year my swooning turned into sweating.

With the 12 atmospheric rivers and continued rain through May, the ground is also bursting with unwanted weeds of every sort – bindweed, choke weed, thistle, dayflowers, vetch, black medic, wild cutleaf geranium, dock, fleabane, spurge, ragweed, cudweed, euphorbia, poisonous hemlock, unidentifiable thugs,

and a plethora of grasses blown in from the hills.

Yes, I know. A weed is just a plant growing where it is not wanted. Yet many of these unwelcome invaders are pernicious, poisonous, prickly, and painful. For the past two months, I have spent every free moment living the advice from the film and doing the prudent thing caused by the primal forces of nature: digging and pulling up the roots of these assailants. I practice the no-dig method to maintain my fields and borders. The less the soil is turned, the few weeds sprout, or so the research indicates. Last spring, I added innumerable yards of nutrient-rich soil and covered it with equal amounts of mulch. In the fall, I scattered seeds of nasturtium, nigella, seafoam statice (also known as sea lavender in the *Limonium* species), and calendula, as well as rhizomes of

various bearded iris and corms of common cornflag. Climbing roses adorn the fence. Everything sprouted as anticipated, but the winds and the birds brought these uninvited visitors who happily took up residence in the lush environment.

When the broadleaf wild cutleaf geranium is small, it is quite beautiful with tiny pink flowers and bright lime green leaves. It is also very fragrant. As this cranesbill matures with its red stems it spreads two or more feet wrapping around neighboring flower stems, making weeding more difficult. The leaf structure mingles with the nigella often resulting in more love-in-the-mist being eradicated than is wanted. Bindweed, with flowers that mimic morning glory, twines to the top of any plant, adding to the difficulty of clearing it from the orchard.

... continued on Page D8



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## Lamorinda home sales recorded

City	Last reported	Lowest amount	Highest amount
LAFAYETTE	1	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000
MORAGA	5	\$622,000	\$4,000,000
ORINDA	7	\$1,590,000	\$2,005,000

Home sales are compiled by Cal REsource, an Oakland real estate information company. Sale prices are computed from the county transfer tax information shown on the deeds that record at close of escrow and are published five to eight weeks after such recording. This information is obtained from public county records and is provided to us by California REsource. Neither Cal REsource nor this publication are liable for errors or omissions.

### LAFAYETTE

3238 Driftwood Drive, \$1,400,000, 4 Bdrms, 1540 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-28-23

### MORAGA

1992 Ascot Drive #C, \$622,000, 2 Bdrms, 1062 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-24-23,

Previous Sale: \$340,000, 06-17-13

802 Augusta Drive, \$1,781,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1978 YrBlt, 04-24-23

12 Corte Annette, \$1,565,000, 4 Bdrms, 2341 SqFt, 1969 YrBlt, 04-24-23

124 Derby Lane, \$4,000,000, 6 Bdrms, 5057 SqFt, 1973 YrBlt, 04-25-23

22 Idlewood Court, \$1,600,000, 4 Bdrms, 2147 SqFt, 1964 YrBlt, 04-28-23

### ORINDA

15 Aspinwall Court, \$1,975,000, 3 Bdrms, 2140 SqFt, 1958 YrBlt, 04-24-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,480,000, 05-24-18

48 Camino Don Miguel, \$1,900,000, 3 Bdrms, 1842 SqFt, 1950 YrBlt, 04-26-23,

Previous Sale: \$1,190,000, 08-21-15

35 Citron Knolls, \$1,590,000, 3 Bdrms, 1954 SqFt, 2013 YrBlt, 04-24-23

1 Crestview Drive, \$2,005,000, 4 Bdrms, 2336 SqFt, 1947 YrBlt, 04-25-23,

Previous Sale: \$967,500, 10-20-06

40 Las Palomas, \$1,795,000, 3 Bdrms, 1156 SqFt, 1939 YrBlt, 04-28-23,

Previous Sale: \$445,000, 09-13-00

24 Miner Road, \$1,725,000, 3 Bdrms, 2278 SqFt, 1956 YrBlt, 04-27-23,

Previous Sale: \$900,000, 11-15-02

10 Rustic Way, \$1,925,000, 3 Bdrms, 3329 SqFt, 1965 YrBlt, 04-24-23

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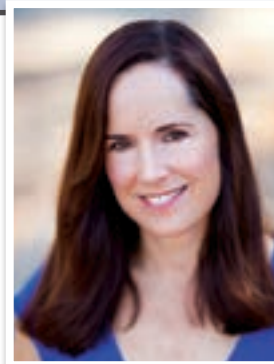
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## Recycling through the Reuse program

By Ashley Louisiana

Growing up in Moraga, my mom would get excited when it was "pick-up day." She would get up early and drive around picking up the goods she wanted from the curb that others no longer needed. She would come home with new kitchen gadgets and household items. The good news for our unsuspecting neighbors, she retired almost 10 years ago and doesn't live in the area.

Coming full circle and working as the Program Manager at RecycleSmart, I am now carrying on my mom's legacy of finding good homes for usable cast-offs, but in a more organized (and legal) way. I help manage a unique program our communities can feel proud to be part of, called Reuse & Cleanup Days. The program was started in 1999 to respond to the environmental, social, and economic issues impacting Contra Costa County. Twice a year on pre-scheduled days, all 65,000 single-family homes in the RecycleSmart service area can set out gently used household items at the curb, at no additional cost, to be picked up by Mt. Diablo Resource Recovery (MDRR).

... continued on Page D9

## Turning Up the Rock Star Treatment

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## WE'RE SELLING HAPPY VALLEY



3972 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
4 BEDS | 4+ BATHS | ±7651 SF | ±32 ACRES  
**OFFERED AT \$12,450,000**



4067 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
6 BEDS | 6.5 BATHS | ±6383 SF | ±2.35 ACRE LOT  
**OFFERED AT \$8,625,000**



3666 HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
6 BEDS | 7.5 BATHS | ±6890 SF | ±1.5 ACRE LOT  
**OFFERED AT \$7,250,000**



3746 MEADOW LANE, LAFAYETTE  
5 BEDS | 3 BATHS | ±2702 SF | ±.48 ACRE LOT  
**SOLD FOR \$3,700,000**



9 RANCHO DIABLO ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
5 BEDS | 3.5 BATHS | ±3610 SF | ±.70 ACRE LOT  
**SOLD FOR \$2,500,000**

## THREE NEW BUILDS COMING SOON IN UPPER HAPPY VALLEY



1040 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
5 BEDS | 5.5 BATHS | ±4824 SF | ±.85 ACRE LOT  
**OFFERED AT \$5,395,000**



1046 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
5 BEDS | 5.5 BATHS | ±4447 SF | ±.73 ACRE LOT  
**OFFERED AT \$5,245,000**



1036 UPPER HAPPY VALLEY ROAD, LAFAYETTE  
5 BEDS | 5 BATHS | ±3691 SF | ±.51 ACRE LOT  
**OFFERED AT \$4,395,000**

\*\*Preliminary architecture shown is subject to change based on jurisdiction's design review process. Illustrative landscaping shown is generic and does not represent the landscaping proposed for this site.

**FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT OUR LAMORINDA OFFICE:**  
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## **52 Bates Blvd, Orinda**

**Good Things Happen in 3's**

**3 Days - 3 Offers - \$3MM+**

**Listed at \$2,395,000**

**Sold for \$3,020,000**



## **710 Miner Rd, Orinda**

**5 Bd | 3 Ba | 3088 sqft | 1.15 ac.**

**Light-filled home offering great spaces, a peaceful setting and sunset views.**

**Listed at \$2,295,000**

## **Coming Soon!**

### **Moraga Country Club**

**Sought-after, one-level living  
perfect for downsizing.**

**2 Bd + office | 2 Ba | 1552 sqft**





## **NEW LISTING! 14 Hacienda Circle, Orinda**

**4 bedrooms | 2.5 bathrooms | 2536 sqft | .32 acre**

**Beautifully updated home with an open floor plan,  
large chef's kitchen and a bonus lower level family room.**

**Close to Wagner Ranch Elementary, town and commute!**

**Another New Listing By:**

**Amy Rose Smith, Shannon Conner & Molly Smith**

For More Information Contact Amy Rose Smith

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All information herein deemed reliable but not guaranteed.



*Digging Deep with Goddess Gardener, Cynthia Brian*

## Fields of Dreams

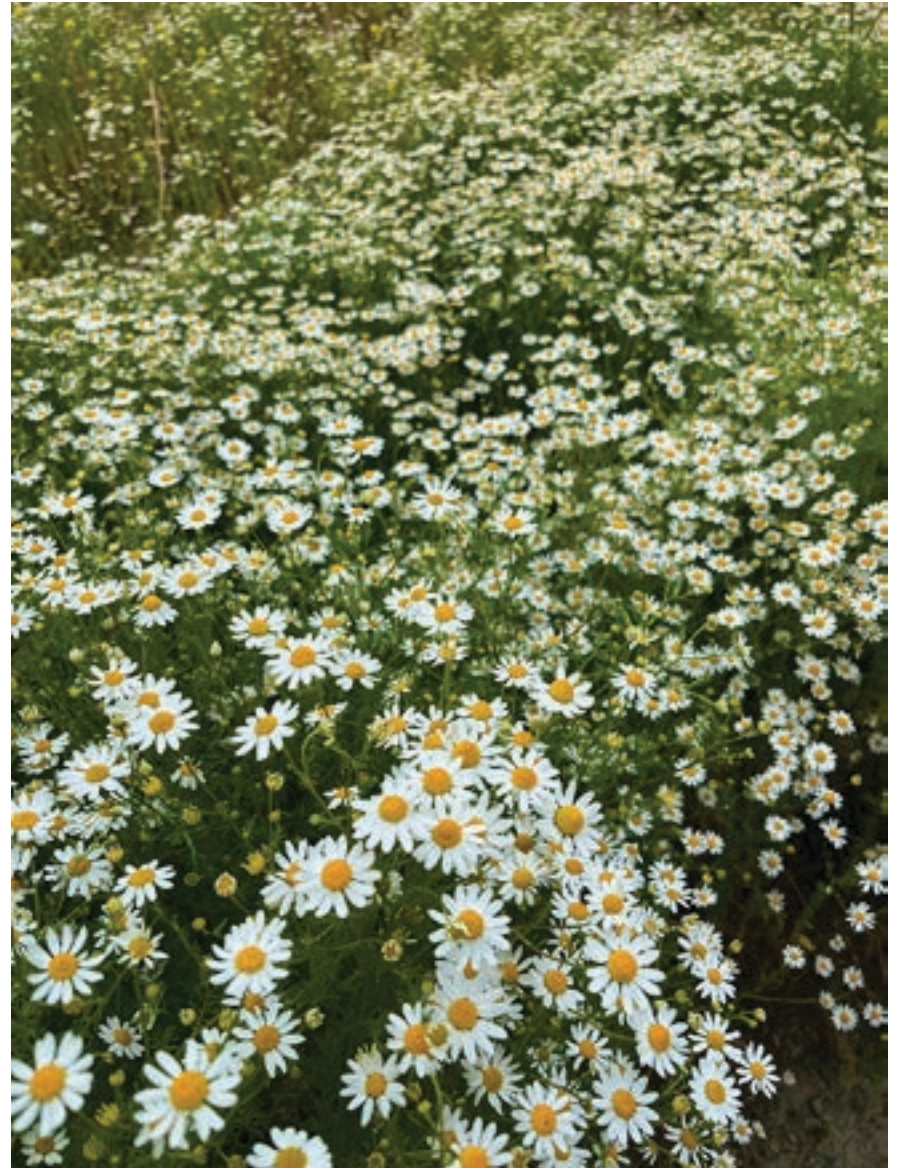


**This field has not been weeded and is overgrown with vetch, euphorbia, thistle, grasses, and more, covering the flowers below.**

... continued from Page D1

Many of the grasses that self-seeded from the surrounding hillsides would be interesting in a container as a stand-alone display, but infiltrated into the centers of my flowers hinder the graceful arches of color.

Allergy season is ferocious this year. My eyes are consistently red and irritated and despite taking an antihistamine, I sneeze while weeding. According to a 2021 study published in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of America, an academic journal, between 1990 and 2018, the North American pollen season lengthened 20 days with 20% more pollen. Warming temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, and ris-



Photos Cynthia Brian

**This field of chamomile smells as beautiful as it looks.**

ing atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are cited as causing increased pollen production. Trees, grass, and weeds are causing this sniffing, stuffiness, coughing, congestion and itching. Hopefully, these seasonal allergies will be alleviated by late June.

As I write this, I'm taking a break from my weeding work. Tomorrow I'll be back wearing my coveralls, hat, sunglasses, apron, boots, and gloves for another round of freeing my fields of dreams from the primal forces of nature. Slowly and joyfully, I am witnessing the glistening glory of my efforts.

Happy Gardening. Happy Growing.



# Recycling through the Reuse program

... continued from Page D4

I recently visited the 18,000 sq. ft. warehouse in Pittsburg where all the reusable items collected from the curb are taken. The warehouse is more organized than many homes, thanks to the dedicated staff of MDRR, Jim Nejedly and Adriana Medina. It was a bustling scene of incoming trucks and a sorting crew separating small furniture, appliances, electronics, clothing, home décor, medical supplies, school supplies and books, scrap metal and batteries. Almost 20 tons of batteries were collected in 2022 on Reuse Day!

Adriana had so many stories of where our central Contra Costa reuse items end up, from the Paradise fire victims to Contra Costa schools needing sporting equipment. She happily connected me with "Make it Home," a nonprofit in Walnut Creek that Social Services uses to help furnish apartments for those previously unhoused or aging out of the foster care system. "Giving is not just about making a donation. It's about making a difference," says Adriana, as she expressed how fortunate she feels to see the faces of families receiving some-

thing they need. Furniture in usable condition is the number one item needed.

Since RecycleSmart contracted with MDRR in 2015, over 22 million pounds of reuse items have been donated to East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, St. Vincent DePaul, HOPE Solutions, Homeless Action Coalition, Uplift Family Services and many other charitable organizations. Over 32,000 homes placed reusable items at the curb in 2022, and RecycleSmart saw the program's highest participation in 2020-2021 when we all had plenty of time to clean house. Residents can also take advantage of the Cleanup Day provided by Republic Services, the day after the Reuse Day, for any junk or unusable materials.

Reuse of materials is even better for the environment and the community than recycling. RecycleSmart is a national leader in curb-side collection of reusable items and has inspired other communities to develop similar programs. We are proving the old adage that one person's trash is another person's treasure. To learn more about the Reuse & Cleanup Days Program, or to look up your upcoming dates with our new search tool, visit [RecycleSmart.org/Cleanup](https://RecycleSmart.org/Cleanup).



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### PLATINUM



### GOLD



### SILVER

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Altie Schmitt, Village Associates  
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### BRONZE

Diane Dwyer, Compass  
Margaret Zucker, Village Associates

## Cynthia Brian's June Digging Deep Gardening Tips

**CLEAN** patio furniture with a thorough scrubbing of lounge chairs and cushions.

**MAINTAIN** your weeding schedule. Be vigilant pulling weeds as soon as they appear as they zap nutrients and water from plants. Make certain to get the roots.

**ECHO** colors when you plant. Even if you plant different plants of form and texture, to capture the exuberance and energy of flow, plant swaths of the same color in opposing areas.

**PRUNE** lilacs after blooming to encourage more blooms next year. Lilacs can be pruned by 1/3 for optimal flowering.

**LIFT** your mood by designing a refuge area amongst your favorite plants with a bench or chair where you can relax, recharge, and feel protected. Throughout my landscape, I have created areas to sit, rest, and appreciate the natural beauty.

**PLANT** pumpkins now for a Halloween harvest. This is also a perfect opportunity to get your corn, eggplant, beets, and cucumbers started.

**SUCCESSION** plant your greens every three weeks including lettuce and arugula as well as root vegetables like carrots, radishes, and turnips.

**SOW** seeds of basil, cilantro, chives, and parsley for a summer season of savory spices.

**CHECK** your drip irrigation systems as well as any sprinkler heads.

**WATER** only once or twice a week, early in the morning when the plants will absorb the most or later in the evening.

**PROPAGATE** azaleas, carnations, fuchsias, and hydrangeas by taking cuttings and planting in rich soil.

**DEADHEAD** spent rose petals weekly to encourage continuous blossoms. Roses are spectacular this year. Keep them healthy and blooming.

**MULCH** your entire garden with at least three inches of material to help retain moisture, keep the soil cooler, and prevent drought related problems throughout the upcoming hot months.

**BRIGHTEN** patios, porches, and balconies with containers of colorful Bowles mauve (wallflower), petunias, or sweet William flowers.



Graceful and dainty blue nigella, love-in-the-mist, re-seeds, and is long-lasting in cut arrangements.

Photos Cynthia Brian



Roses are spectacular this year. David Austin rose with salsify, Jerusalem star.



A favorite maroon and mauve bearded iris.



Bowles mauve wallflower is excellent in a border or a container.

PS: Don't forget the Be the Star You Are!® Shoe Drive. Shoes may be dropped off through June 30 at <https://5aspace.com/>, 455 Moraga Rd. #F, Moraga or [www.TeamHoogs.com](http://www.TeamHoogs.com), 629 Moraga Road (next to 7/11), Moraga. For more information, visit <https://www.bethestaryouare.org/shoedrive>



Sweet williams, petunias



**Working in the weeds, Cynthia Brian is suffering from seasonal allergies.**

Raised in the vineyards of Napa County, Cynthia Brian is a New York Times best-selling author, actor, radio personality, speaker, media and writing coach as well as the Founder and Executive Director of Be the Star You Are!® 501 c3. Tune into Cynthia's StarStyle® Radio Broadcast at [www.StarStyleRadio.com](http://www.StarStyleRadio.com). Her newest children's picture book, No Barnyard Bullies, from the series, Stella Bella's Barnyard Adventures is available now at <https://www.CynthiaBrian.com/online-store>. Hire Cynthia for writing projects, garden consults, and inspirational lectures. [Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com](mailto:Cynthia@GoddessGardener.com) <http://www.GoddessGardener.com>

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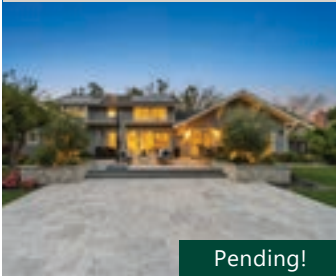
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# LAMORINDA'S LEADING INDEPENDENT REAL ESTATE FIRM

## ORINDA



Pending!

### 246 Overhill Road

Beautifully updated 5 bd/ 4 ba home on an incredibly rare .69 acre flat lot features expansive designer backyard!

\$3,750,000

## ORINDA



### 134 Diablo View Drive

1st time ever on market! Stunning 4000 sf custom built estate! Private 1 acre knoll w/ dazzling panoramic views & level yard!

\$3,495,000

## ORINDA



Pending!

### 78 Estates Drive

Located in the beloved Glorietta neighborhood, this expansive 5 bd/ 4.5 ba home features seamless flow for indoor & outdoor living!

\$3,325,000

## ORINDA

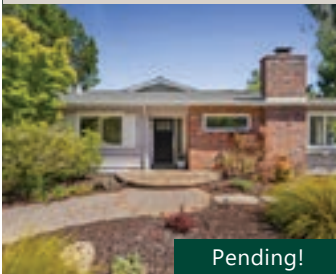


### 367 Dalewood Drive

Fabulous single level home w/ large chef's kitchen & formal living room w/ doors out to incredible backyard!

\$2,995,000

## ORINDA



Pending!

### 52 Bates Blvd

Sprawling, light-filled, 2677 sqft rancher with 4 bd/ 3 ba on a level .53 acre lot w/ incredible vista views & convenient location!

\$2,350,000

## ORINDA



### 710 Miner Road

Peaceful 1.15 acre knoll setting w/ sunset views! 5 bd/ 3 ba, 3088 sqft home w/ spacious open floor plan & exceptional separation of space!

\$2,295,000

## ORINDA



New Listing!

### 1 Valley Court

Quiet 5 bd/ 3 ba single level Glorietta ranch on a .55-acre cul de sac!

\$2,595,000

## LAFAYETTE

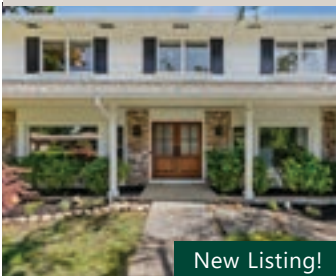


### 3158 Withers Avenue

Charming ranch style 4 bd/ 2 ba home on wonderful private lot ready for pool, gardens, play yard, or ADU!

\$1,288,000

## MORAGA



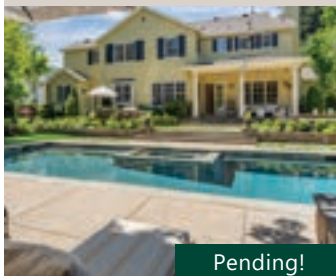
New Listing!

### 35 San Pablo Court

Beautiful 5 bd/ 3 ba traditional home w/ great views, large grassy backyard & sparkling pool!

\$2,249,000

## ALAMO



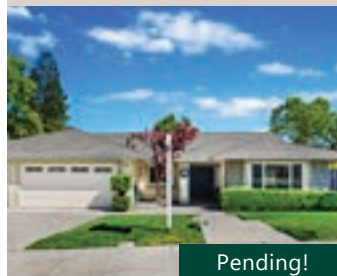
Pending!

### 954 Forest Lane

Beautiful custom-built Estate located in the highly coveted West Alamo neighborhood features 5 bd/ 5.5 ba & luxurious backyard!

\$5,500,000

## PLEASANT HILL



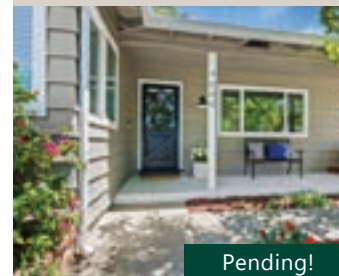
Pending!

### 1416 Stonehedge Drive

Lovely 4 bd/ 2 ba single-story home features updated kitchen, lg living room w/ soaring ceilings & spacious backyard!

\$1,399,000

## CONCORD



Pending!

### 4649 Benbow Court

Complete turn-key home in the heart of the Bishop Park neighborhood! Updated & light filled w/ beautiful finishes throughout!

\$875,000

## The Village Associates:

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