Saint Louis Watercolor Society

the cold press paper

...excellence, as the river, flows...

Volume 30, Issue 4 www.stlws.org November

STLWS's 29TH ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP AWARDS EXHIBITION – BIG SPLASH

We are excited to announce that the STLWS's 29th Annual Membership Awards Exhibition – Big Splash opened to the public on October 27, 2026, at Norton's Fine Art and Framing, 2025 S. Big Bend Rd., St. Louis, MO 63117, with 60 artists participating in the event. The Awards Ceremony and Opening Reception was held on October 31st. The exhibition will end on November 21st, with retrieval of artwork from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Tuesday, November 24, Wednesday, November 25, Friday, November 27, and Saturday, November 28. Iain Stewart, our October workshop artist, was our juror for awards this year and was able to attend the opening reception and comment on his choices for awards. The award-winning entries are shown below:

1st Place, Judge's Choice, $400
Family Heirlooms by Janet Doll

2nd Place, Award of Excellence, $300
Towards the Unknown – Cannon Beach
by Maggie McCarthy

3rd Place, Award of Achievement, $200
Nest with Speckled Eggs by Steve Morris

Award of Recognition # 1, $100
Lovely Lily by Patricia Long

Award of Recognition # 2, $100
Italian Artichoke by Karen Romani

Award of Recognition # 3, $100
To the Beach by Jan Trager

Award of Recognition # 4, $100
A Stroll through Paris by Mary Drastal

Award of Recognition # 5, $100
Enlightenment by Margaret Schneider

Award of Recognition # 6, $100
Graze Craze by Julie Bantle

Honorable Mention Award #1, $50
Revelations by Jo Rezny McCredie

Honorable Mention Award #2, $50
Botanical Tapestry by Nancy Avdoian

Honorable Mention Award #3, $50
Bike Lane by Marilynne Bradley

Honorable Mention Award #4, $50
Elephants Resting by Terry Lay

Honorable Mention Award #5, $50
A Mother's Gift by Chandan Mahanta

Honorable Mention Award #6, $50
Quiet Light – St. Peter's by Annette McGarrahan

Honorable Mention Award #7, $50
Blue Hour by Amy Lottes

Honorable Mention Award #8 , $50
View of Old Town Quebec by Mary Riney

Honorable Mention Award #9, $50
Peace and Promise by Karen Papin

Honorable Mention Award #10, $50
Playtime! by Sandra Petersmeyer

Note: Our monetary awards this year were funded by the Saint Louis Watercolor Society.

We hope you will come out to see this beautiful exhibition and bring your family and friends.

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COLD PRESS PAPER

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Jane Hogg, Editor

www.stlws.org

The Saint Louis Watercolor Society is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization.

STLWS'S MEET & GREET – AUG 19, 2026

Members of the STLWS were invited to gather at Llewelyn's Pub in Webster Groves, instead of meeting at the church for our traditional membership meeting, to enjoy an evening of visiting on a more personal level with each other. Here are some photos from the evening.

SEPT MEMBERSHIP MEETING – DVD Watch Party on Negative Painting

It was a fun evening at the STLWS September Member Meeting. We gathered for a DVD Watch Party to learn Brenda Swenson's approach to Negative Painting. We were guided by an exercise from her DVD: Glowing Watercolors with Brenda Swenson, directed by Scot Young (released by Creative Catalyst, 2011). She is a well-known artist, author and signature member of numerous societies. For Brenda "Being a painter is more than mastery of techniques. It's my desire is to communicate how I feel about my world and my response to it."

Brenda's approach to Negative Painting begins with visuals on learning to see differently, she defines negative painting as painting around the subject to "release it" from the negative space.

After the introduction, we began to design our paintings with a stencil exercise arranging white leaf stencils on a black background so they overlapped and touched. Then we framed our designs with matboard pieces and adjusted to create interesting shapes of black background between the leaves. With our designs as inspiration, we arranged the leaf stencils on our watercolor paper and drew around the leaves creating our design to paint. Next, we linked our leaf shapes together by drawing stems and branches. Last step was to define the edges of the painting area by drawing a pencil line border around our design.

Once we had our design sketched, we prepared to paint the underpainting using wet-into-wet technique. Using a large brush we wet our paper with water. Then dropped Quinacridone Gold in the areas of the leaves varying the value and letting the paint flow on the paper, next we added Payne's Gray to the background areas allowing the gold and gray paint to flow into one another creating interesting effects. We let our paintings dry and grabbed a snack.

We came back to our work and began our first glaze using a wet into dry technique. We began by painting around the leaves, painting in a light shade of gray, working clockwise around the paper.

As the first glaze dried, we continued to watch Brenda demonstrate how to apply the second-Mid Value glaze and free hand draw a few background leaves/branches. Brenda finished the exercise with a "Final pass" to create the darkest darks and smallest shapes…pulling the painting all together.

LOOK WHO'S JOINED THE CREW

Sheri Ahner

Vivian Chi

Dayna Deck

Suzanne Gundlach

Laurie Hoffman

Caroline Pufalt

Deadline for the
next issue is
Oct. 15, 2026
Please send your articles,
kudos, and ads to
Jane Hogg

To place an
advertisement in
The Cold Press Paper,
contact Jane Hogg
5" X 6" $75
5" X 3" $45
2½" X 3 $25
1½" X 1½" $15
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Negative Painting following Brenda Swenson's Approach

Negative painting requires that we see differently! – *Brenda Swenson*

Learning to see Differently: Negative painting is painting around the subject to "release it" from the negative.

Positive vs Negative

Group Exercise activity

Design your painting:

1) Materials: Black paper for background, white leaf shape cut-outs, matboard frame pieces.
2) Arrange leaves in an overlapping design – leaves need to touch/overlap.
3) Frame with white matboard pieces – look at space and adjust leaves to make more interesting design.
Design should have all leaves touching/overlapping each other or the mat to create interesting shapes.
of black background between the leaves. Take a photo to use to inspire your design later.
Example:

Negative Painting following Brenda Swenson's Approach Cont.

Begin creating:

Step 1: Set the mood: Select colors
Explore how the colors combine and interact. Paints for this exercise will be Holbein Quinacridone Gold and Holbein Payne's Gray. Using only 2 paints to keep the exercise simple.

Print samples of different yellow/gray combos to show how different colors and placement give different results.

Step 2: Draw your design
1. Scatter and arrange your leaves on the watercolor paper, refer to your reference photo if you took one.
2. Once your leaves are how you want, draw the outline around the leaves – remember leaves should
touch and overlap.
3. Next link the shapes together by drawing simple stems and/or branches.
4. Place the black matboard pieces on your drawing to frame. View the interesting spaces around the
leaves. Shapes should be a variety of shapes and sizes in the corner areas. Use the matboard frame to
find the edges of the painting.
5. Using the matboard as reference draw the format line defining the edges of the painting.

Format line example

6. Roll kneaded eraser over drawing to pick up loose graphite and lighten pencil lines.

Step 3: Prepare to paint
Create a large puddle of each color (Payne's Gray and Quinacridone Gold). They should be about the same consistency. We will be painting "wet into wet" and want to have our paint ready to go!

Classes Offered by Members

Marilynne Bradley
Maureen Brodsky
Alicia Farris
Mirka Fetté
Jan Foulk
Carla Baron Giller
Janine Helton
Suzanne Galli-Koenen
Maggie McCarthy
Jean McMullen
Nancy Muschany
Shirley Nachtrieb
Mary Dee Schmidt
Judy Seyfert
Linda Wilmes

STLWS Plein Air Events

Watch for emails announcing the dates, times and places for our plein air events. And then refer to the website calendar where they will also be posted. Norma Vincent will be hosting them.

Show Your Artwork

Norton's Fine Art and Framing has offered the STLWS members exhibition space on a rotating basis. We are currently featuring up to four artists, allowing each up to four framed pieces and 8 pieces for the bin art sales. All sales will be handled by the gallery and be subject to a commission.
Watch for updates which will be sent out to members via email. If you have any questions, please contact Dana Rothberg.
If interested, you can find the information and entry forms on the STLWS website. Open the Exhibits tab.

STLWS Open Studio Painting Sessions

We just finished our Fall 2026 Session #1. Our Fall 2026 Session #2 is now open and being held at the Saint Louis Artists' Guild. The dates are posted on the website calendar and there is a product to pay for the session on the STLWS SHOP tab.

Negative Painting following Brenda Swenson's Approach Cont.

Step 4: Underpainting
1. Using a large flat brush wet the area of the paper within the pencil line with water. Use smaller round brush to get into the narrow areas to wet (i.e. points of leaves and branches that overlap the format line.
2. Paper should have an equal shine across the area. Time to add the color! Add yellow first, remember you are not painting, you're introducing color to the leaves. Tap in additional yellow to create spots of darker value.
3. Next add Payne's Gray to the background area or where you want. Remember, there is no mixing color on the palette, colors will mix on the paper.
4. You can aid the movement of color by gently tilting the paper. Be careful not to overwork it. You should see a variety of color/value on the paper. Let the paper dry (~10-15 mins. depending on how wet your paper is). Good time to take a snack break.

Step 4: Underpainting

Step 5: First glaze
1. Clear your palette of Quinacridone Gold, you will be working with Payne's Gray only going forward.
2. Make a gray puddle. You will be painting "wet into dry."
3. Select a starting point, Brenda selects the top left-hand corner of painting (or a corner background area of your choice). You will be working your way clockwise around the painting as you add the glaze to the background of the painting.
4. For large areas use a smaller flat brush (~1") to add gray to begin to outline the leaves, these will be the only hardlines in the painting. You should begin to see the subject matter begin to reveal itself.
5. Spread the color using water on your brush or tilting to move the paint and to lighten value as you move away from the leaves. Work to fill the background. Use a round brush (#8 or 10) to work in narrow areas.

Negative Painting following Brenda Swenson's Approach Cont.

6. Turn the painting clockwise as you work to move around the painting. Paint like a rabbit and think like a turtle. Your darkest areas are usually near the center of your design.
7. Remember the first glaze is the lightest value; we will continue to build value as we add additional glazes. Let dry completely before moving on.

Step 5: First glaze completed

Step 6: Second Glaze – Mid Value

1. Stencil in or freehand draw leaves/branches in the background areas. As before, make sure the leaves and branches are tucked under the original drawn leaves/branches. Suggest adding at least 3 new shapes.
2. As you begin the second glaze of gray, remember to maintain similar values as you cross between background areas to give the feeling of connection.
3. For overlapping leaves, you can "caress them into being" using a damp brush along the "under side of overlapping edge to create faint shadow and depth.

Overlapping leaves

4. While area is still wet check/correct values and remove puddles.
5. Let dry completely.

SEEKING A VOLUNTEER TO SERVE ON THE STLWS BOARD AS OUR PUBLICITY CHAIR

We are seeking a member to handle the responsibilities of the Publicity Chair which are:

To promote, inform, and advance the watercolor society within the community.

Responsible for posting press releases with the various advertising media on upcoming exhibitions.

Responsible for soliciting corporate prize donations for the STLWS Annual Membership Awards Exhibition - Big Splash, packaging them for distribution at

the awards ceremony, and sending the sponsors thank you letters with an exhibition catalog.

Responsible for managing all STLWS social media platforms (Facebook and Instagram).

STLWS 2026 WORKSHOPS

Janine Helton Workshop Demystifying Portraits in Watercolor

Tues. – Thurs., Mar. 16 – 18, 2027
Location:
First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
10 West Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119
Cost: $325 STLWS Members and $375 Non-Members
Class will be limited to 14 Artists

Brenda Swenson Workshop Sketching Techniques with Watercolor

Fri. – Sun., Sept. 17 – 19, 2027
Location: First Congregational Church of Webster Groves
10 West Lockwood Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119
Cost: $395 STLWS Members and $445 Non-Members
The Workshop is FULL.
Mail registration form without deposit to be put on Wait List.

Additional workshop details and links to our registration form are posted on our website, stlws.org/workshops.

Negative Painting following Brenda Swenson's Approach Cont.

Step 6: 2nd glaze completed

Step 7: Final Pass -Your darkest dark and smallest shapes… pulling it all together
1. Free hand paint dark shapes of branches and bits of leaves, making sure they are tucked under previous leaves/branches.
2. Repeat the glazing steps in Step 6 above.

Step 7: Exercise complete

Overview and exercise sourced from: Part 1: Materials & Techniques; Learning to See Differently; *Glowing Watercolors* with *Brenda Swenson*, directed by Scot Young (Released by Creative Catalyst, 2021).

FOUNDERS' DAY CELEBRATION AND PARTY HAT CONTEST

October 21st Member Meeting was a Founder's Day Celebration, 30 years of St. Louis Watercolor Society.

We were honored to have one of our Founders, Judy Seifert, on hand to join us in our celebration. Not only was she a founder but was one of our early presidents.

Cont. on next page

Founder's Day Celebration and Party Hat Contest Cont.

We had some creative fun by having a watercolor party hat contest. The hats came in all colors, shapes and sizes. They had flowers, paint brushes, palettes, animals, beads, pearls, ribbons, and one spoke to the journey of the creative process!

The Winners:
1st Place ($50 Blick gift card) Jone Boland with "Bluebirds of Happiness," the hat played music and birds "flew in circles" above her head and around a background of tree leaves and butterflies.
2nd Place ($30 Blick Gift Card) Judy Polys with "Roses," a tall, elegant hat with twinkle lights woven around a wide sparkly pink ribbon and large 3-D watercolor roses on a background of pale green
3rd Place ($20 Blick Gift Card) Barb Shaffer with "Party Animals," a tall freeform hat composed of multiple animals. I spied a couple of roosters, a Shetland Cow and Macaw among the party animals.
Honorable Mention ($20 Blick Gift Card) Dave Anderson with "'PP' Inspiration," a tall hat climbing toward the heavens literally! It was the tallest hat entered! The hat was a soft landscape of rolling green hills climbing through trees (and a branch) up to the blue sky with a bright yellow sun topper. The PP in the title refers to Plein air Painter, Dave created a clever "PP" logo on the front.

Judy Polys, Barb Shaffer, Jone Boland and Dave Anderson

We enjoyed cake and treats then posed for photos to capture the fun for our archives.

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Saint Louis Watercolor Society Membership

The Saint Louis Watercolor Society membership is open to all persons over the age of 17 interested in water media on paper.

No initiation fee is required for membership. Annual dues are from July 1st of the current year through June 30th of the next year.

Dues are $35, payable on July 1, and there is no prorating dues. Download a membership application from our website for mailing, or join online and pay your dues with PayPal. You do not need a PayPal account; select pay as a guest using a credit card.

Please direct membership questions to Sandra Petersmeyer.

STLWS Membership Benefits:

- Monthly Membership Meetings with Guest Artists' Programs.
- Receipt of E-blasts with important news, and our
- Quarterly Newsletters.

Eligibility to become a Signature Member.

- Invitations to our Exhibitions with Discounted Entry Fees for our Annual Juried Exhibition.
- Inclusion in our Annual Membership Directory and Access to a Monthly Updated Digital Version of the Directory on Our Website (password protected).
- Priority to our Workshops with Discounted Fees.
- Invitations to our Spring and Fall Retreats, Studio Painting Sessions, and annual Holiday Party.
- Posting of your Announcements, Classes Offered, and Link to your Website on our Website.
- Access to our members only Facebook page to view and post your news.
- Opportunities to Volunteer to serve on our Board and at events.
- Voting privileges.

Founder's Day Celebration and Party Hat Contest Cont.

Our Cake Celebrating 30 Years with Judy Seyfert and Jone Boland

Our meeting attendees.

Our hat entries

You are invited to our 2026 Holiday Party.
Here are the particulars on the event:

STLWS HOLIDAY PARTY

Date: Wednesday, December 9, 2026
Time: 5:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Place: Cyrano's, 603 E Lockwood Ave
Webster Groves, MO 63119
Cost: $20 per member (members only)
Purchase your ticket on the stlws.org website under the STLWS SHOP tab.

Menu:

Appetizers: Fruit, dip, chips and assorted cheeses
We will have table service with a select menu to choice one of the following entrees with sides:
****Lemon Rosemary Chicken** - Panko Breaded Chicken Breast in Lemon White Wine-Caper Sauce served with Linguine with Spinach and Grape Tomatoes
****Beef Brochettes** - Tenderloin Skewered with Red Onion served with roasted Red Peppers, Bleu Cheese, Red Wine Reduction, Horseradish Sauce, Garlic Mashed Potatoes
****Pan Roasted Scottish Salmon Fillet** - with Three Mustard Balsamic Herb Glaze, Garlic Mashed Potatoes, Roasted Broccoli
** **Pesto Penne Pasta -** Penne Pasta Tossed with Cherry Tomatoes and Artichoke Hearts served with Garlic Toast Points (Vegetarian)
and **Mini Dessert**: Mini Creme Brulee and Chocolate Chip Cookie

Cash bar will be available.

This will be a private event in Cyrano's Event Room (at the restaurant), it will be to the right of the lobby when you first enter.
We will have our **optional gift exchange** again (art related items under $15 if purchased, or gently used), and our **optional trading card exchange**. *Additional details on trading cards are below.*

There is a payment product on the stlws.org website to purchase your ticket*, or you may mail a check for $20, with STLWS 2025 Holiday Party written on the detail line, to Saint Louis Watercolor Society, P O Box 16893, St. Louis, MO 63105. Please pay asap as space is limited, **RSVP by Thursday, Dec 3**.

Carol Carvallo, Programs Chair

Trading cards:

How many cards should I make? I suggest 15-20 cards would be a fun number to exchange with folks.

Suggested size: 2 1/2' x 3 1/2' (you can cut your own from watercolor paper or purchase precut cards).

More information: I found a link to a short YouTube demo on making a watercolor artist trading card: Video Link

Carol Carvallo

STLWS 2026 CALENDAR

Nov. 4, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Plein Air Event at Don Robinson State Park, 9275 Byrnesville Rd., Cedar Hill, MO 63016. Meet at the shelter. Throw-down at 12:15 p.m.

Nov. 5, 1 – 4 p.m. – Fall 2026 Open Studio Painting Session #2 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild.

Nov. 11, 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. – Plein Air Event at Laumeier Sculpture Park, 12580 Rott Rd., Sappington, MO 63127. Throw-down at 12:15 p.m.

Nov. 12, 1 – 4 p.m. – Fall 2026 Open Studio Painting Session #2 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild.

Nov. 18, 7 – 9 p.m. – membership meeting with Norma Vincent who will present the benefits of working with a "Limited Palette,"

Nov. 19, 1 – 4 p.m. – Fall 2026 Open Studio Painting Session #2 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild.

Nov. 21 – STLWS 29th Annual Membership Awards Exhibition – Big Splash 2026 closes.

(Continued on the next page)

KUDOS

Jan Foulk, Julie Glossenger, Barbara McCormack and **Shirley Nachtrieb** were juried into *Brilliant Color IV* by juror, Rich Gordon, at Framations Custom Framing & Art Gallery, 218 N Main St., St. Charles, MO. The exhibition ran from Aug. 8 to Oct. 24, 2026.

Janine Helton had her first solo exhibition, *Kindred Spirits*, at the Margaret Harwell Art Museum,421 N Main St., Poplar Bluff, MO, Sept. 5 - 27, 2026. The exhibition showcased her bird and portrait paintings. **Janine's** painting *Reminiscing* received an Honorable Mention Award in the 7th Annual Women in Watercolor International Juried Competition in the Portrait & Figure Category. **Janine's** painting *In the Stillness* was awarded First Place in the Heartland Art Club's 2026 Members Showcase, exhibited from Aug 5 - 15. **Janine's** painting *Time Well Spent* was selected for inclusion in the Northwest Watercolor Society 86th Annual International Open Online Exhibition by Juror Dongfeng Li. The exhibition opens on October 30th and closes on December 11, 2026. **Janine's** painting, Sunstruck, was juried in the Pennsylvania Watercolor Society 47th International Juried Exhibition, by juror Chris Krupinski. The exhibition is on display online from October 8 through November 19, 2026. **Janine** received confirmation that she is now a Signature Member of the National Watercolor Society.

Mary Riney illustrated a book her cousin, Christine Gartner, wrote, *Bunnies don't Belong in the Greenhouse*. Mary and her cousin were at Missouri Artists on Main, 321 South Main Street, Saint Charles, MO, during the Festival of the Little Hills, Aug 21 – 23, 2026 offering the book for sale.

Connie Schmidt's painting *Morning Joy* was awarded Third Place in the Estes Valley Plein Air 2026. The event, sponsored by the Art Center of Estes Park, juried 41 artists from across the country to participate in the nine-day event. The exhibit ran from Aug 28 through Sept 28, 2026.

Chandan Mahanta's painting *Compass Plant*, was a Merit Medal Award winner at the 33rd Annual Red River Society (online) National Juried Watermedia Exhibition. The show was judged by Carrie Waller. The exhibition is now ongoing, thru December 31, 2026. https://www.redriverws.org/Wordpress/entrants-and-winners-for-the-33rd-national-juried-watermedia-exhibition.

Julie Glossenger, Terry Lay, Jane Maxfield, and **Joann McCredie** were juried into the Saint Louis Artists' Guild Members Exhibition, juried by Dana Ostrander, which was showing from Sept 4 through October 10 at the Guild. **Terry Lay** won an honorable mention award for his painting *Five O'clock Shadow*.

(Continued on the next page)

KUDOS Cont.

Deanna Nash was the featured speaker at Grafica's "Third Thursday Artful Conversation" on September 17th. She gave a talk on the Value of Sketchbooks.
Marilynne Bradley, Janine Helton, Annette McGarrahan, Karen Papin, Mary Riney, Karen Romani, Margaret Schneider, and **Lee Walter** are exhibiting their watercolor paintings in *Journey Into Watercolors* at The Old Orchard Gallery, 39 S. Old Orchard, Webster Groves, MO, from Oct. 23, 2026 through Jan. 30, 2027.
Mary Dee Schmidt is exhibiting in a curated exhibition featuring 6 artists that explore the link between art and wellbeing at SSM Health Physical Therapy, Brentwood Center, 2558 S Brentwood Blvd., Brentwood, MO, from October 8, 2026 through February 2027.
Chandan Mahanta's painting *Cape Buffalo* has been accepted into the New England Watercolor Society's 2026 North American Open Exhibition by the Juror Geoff Allen. The exhibition will be on display from November 5 to December 5, 2026, at the Plymouth Center for the Arts, 11 North Street, Plymouth, MA 02360.
James Brauer sold a bin painting, *When is Lunch*, in the Norton's Rotating Art Exhibition in October.
Erin Blumer's show, "Light, Water, & Care: St. Louis Flora in Watercolor" opened at Heartland Art Club on Oct. 9, with a reception from 6-8 PM, and runs through Jan. 9, 2027.. (Info about the show is here: Opening October 9, 2026 – Light, Water, & Care — Erin Blumer Creative Works).

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!

MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Our meetings are being held at the First Congregational Church of Webster Groves on the corner of Lockwood and Elm from 7:00-9:00 p.m. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Kishlar Room, on the 2nd floor of the building, monthly (except Dec).

The building is equipped with an elevator.
Parking is available in the front lot off S. Elm Ave.
In case of inclement weather conditions, please check your email for our notice of cancellations of any meetings or activities.

STLWS 2026 Calendar

Continued

Nov. 24, 25, 27 & 28, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. – retrieval of artwork entered in the STLWS 29th Annual Membership Awards Exhibition – Big Splash 2026 at Norton's Fine Art & Framing, 2025 S Big Bend Blvd, St. Louis, MO. *Note:* Gallery is closed on Thanksgiving, and on Sundays and Mondays.

Dec. 3, 1 – 4 p.m. – Fall 2026 Open Studio Painting Session #2 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild.

Dec. 9 – STLWS Holiday Party at Cyrano's (Webster Groves).

Dec. 10, 1 – 4 p.m. – Fall 2026 Open Studio Painting Session #2 at the St. Louis Artists' Guild.

Saint Louis Watercolor Society

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