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Support for Sotomayor, Obama Continues Widespread

By Patricia Guadalupe
Hispanic Link News Service
Brushing off right-wing attacks over the nomination of New York federal Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court, Hispanic groups remain steadfast in hailing President Obama's historic act and Sotomayor's unblemished record of jurisprudence.
Obama elevated Sotomayor, 54, to replace retiring Justice David Souter, who leaves at the end of the current session this summer.
"Those of us who have known her for a long time know her as a tough, fair and thoughtful jurist," said U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce president Augustine Martínez.
Obama himself made the point, "Over a distinguished career that spans three decades, Justice Sotomayor has worked at almost every level of our judicial system, providing her with a depth of experience and a breadth of perspective that will be invaluable as a Supreme Court Justice."
Congressional Hispanic Caucus chair Rep. Nydia Velázquez (D-N.Y.) expanded that Sotomayor "brings with her the experience, diversity, integrity, commitment and intellectual prowess she cultivated throughout an extensive career. She has consistently demonstrated a balanced, clear-minded respect for our laws and our Constitution."

Sotomayor was born in the Bronx, N.Y., to Puerto Rican parents, and her nomination is being received with extra pride on the island.
"Never has the U.S. Supreme Court seen a Puerto Rican rise beyond a clerkship in that institution. President Obama has cracked that glass ceiling for us," said Puerto Rico lieutenant governor and secretary of state Kenneth McClintock. "Once confirmed, Sonia Sotomayor will join the ranks of Louis Brandeis, Thurgood Marshall and Sandra Day O'Connor, whose nominations paved the way for other demographic groups and helped make the United States the more inclusive nation it is today."
Raised in a public housing project, Sotomayor graduated as her high school valedictorian and attended Princeton University on a scholarship. She is a graduate of Yale Law School, where she served as editor of the Yale Law Journal. "What makes Sotomayor's credentials all the more impressive is her inspiring personal story," said Democratic Vice Chair Linda Chávez-Thompson, vice president emerita of the AFL-CIO. Sotomayor's parents moved to New York from Puerto Rico during World War II. Her family was of modest means, and her mother instilled in her a belief in the power of an education.

Sotomayor's experience includes several years as an assistant district attorney in New York City, and as an attorney in private practice. She was appointed to the District Court for the Southern District of New York by President George H.W. Bush, and elevated in 1998 to the Second Circuit Court by President Clinton.
"The nomination of such an overwhelmingly qualified judge should be celebrated by all Americans," commented U.S. Rep. Charlie González (D-Texas), calling it "a tangible proof of the strength derived by the diversity represented in American society."
Contributed Sen. Mel Martínez (R-Fla.), "As a Hispanic American, I take great pride in seeing the nomination of an Hispanic person to serve in this high position — an historic first. Judge Sotomayor's personal life story is one of great accomplishments and a source of inspiration. It also demonstrates the opportunities our nation has to offer."
Most conservative groups criticized her nomination. Reacting to her remark seven years ago that Latinos have special empathy, ex-House Speaker Newt Gingrich called her words racist and urged her to withdraw.
"Very few doubt Judge Sotomayor's legal expertise or her

compelling personal story. But confirmation to the Supreme Court should not solely depend on professional experience or biography," said Rep. Mike Pence (R - Ind.).
"Confirmation should primarily be based upon judicially to the Constitution."
Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid said he would try to ensure as smooth a confirmation process as possible.
Republican presidential candidates have nominated Judge Sotomayor to the federal bench, and the Senate has confirmed her with strong bipartisan support. I look forward to working with both

Democrats and Republicans."
Sotomayor's nomination will be considered by the Senate Judiciary Committee before moving on to the full Senate.

(Patricia Guadalupe, of Washington, D.C., covers Capital Hill for Hispanic Link News Service and other Hispanic print and broadcast media.) ©2009

District I and II Residents Air Complaints About Proposed Animal Shelter

Members of the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association joined a coalition of residents of the East Lubbock to speak against the building of an animal shelter at the entrance of Mackenzie Park and Interstate 27. Carlos Quirino Jr. stressed the need for the City Council to take a closer look at the needs of North and East Lubbock. He pointed out how Guadalupe barrio residents are still waiting for the community center which was torn down several years ago and never rebuilt. He also mentioned how zero motions which were allocated for the Canyon Lake #3 Project after the 2004 Bond Election never materialized. Out of the \$10 million that was allocated for this development, the city never even considered spending any of those funds to clean up the "army" including such things as slabs of concrete with 2 1/2 inch rebar and sheet metal left from the May 11, 1970 tornado. Guadalupe residents have also complained on numerous occasions that they fear that their children are being unduly exposed to safety and health hazards. For instance, the existence of hypodermic needles & syringes have been found and possibly used by abusers. The focus of these comments point to the undeniable fact that as far as our city council is concerned the northern and eastern parts of Lubbock should be taxed accordingly, but do not deserve the same type services as the rest of the city.

The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association has met with Councilwoman Linda DeLeon concerning the proposed shelter for animals but with a goal to inform residents of Guadalupe and East Lubbock was never called to inform residents of these plans. However, a meeting organized by City Council members DeLeon and Floyd Price was held at Clipp Park. Another meeting for this meeting was made utilizing official City of Lubbock communications measures and publicity. The Guadalupe Neighborhood Association invited Councilwoman DeLeon to a meeting held on April 28, 2009 to discuss the issue of building an animal shelter close to the barrio at the closed swimming pool site in McKenize Park. DeLeon responded to the meeting by stating "I would like to see the building of I-27—would induce the desire to invest other capital in the surrounding area." She explained the difficulty in finding an appropriate site

and that the city did not have money to purchase land for the new animal shelter. When asked if she would consider changing her position and vote on a different location for the animal shelter, Ms. DeLeon did not actually answer but said that an archeological survey must be conducted and cleared before any work could start. She also related that city staff was doing research on contracts set in place by the donors of the land to establish McKenize Park in the early 1930s. On May 26, 2009 the Guadalupe Neighborhood Association voted unanimously to oppose the building of the animal shelter in McKenize Park and also voted to petition officials of the City of Lubbock to revoke the April 9, 2009 council vote. A coalition of Lubbock residents from District I & II has emerged and has initiated a plan of action to fight to stop the city's efforts. Many residents have been angered by the city's failure to properly inform affected residents and have suggested legal action such as an injunction in addition to a petition drive to revoke the decision by the City Council.

Hard times send Latinos back across the border

By JEAN HOFFENSPERGER
A year ago, Primitivo Morales had a home in the suburbs, two children in college and two successful businesses on E. Lake Street in Minneapolis.
But the economic downturn, combined with cranked-up immigration enforcement, has driven customers away and crushed his personal finances. After 25 years in the United States, he now is reluctantly making plans to return to Mexico.
Morales, 45, is part of a trend unfolding across the state and the nation. Latinos in the prime of their work life are returning home because their dreams have collapsed along with the economy. The numbers are still relatively small, say Latino leaders, but for the first time in years, the door back to Mexico is swinging open.
"There were people up and down Lake Street a year ago who are there's nobody," said Morales, glancing sadly out the window of his restaurant, La Poblantina, onto the street. "The construction workers who used to come here are gone... And many [undocumented] people now are afraid to venture out."
Many people have left for Mexico.
While there is no data that precisely documents the trend, there are clear indicators that Latino communities are facing their biggest economic challenges in years. The number of Mexicans immigrating to the United States dropped by 25 percent from August 2007 to August 2008, according to recent Mexican census data. The amount of money sent home by Mexican migrants dropped by \$1 billion last year, the first decline since the government began tracking it 15 years ago, according to Mexico's central bank.
In Minnesota, Latino unemployment jumped from 4.7 percent in 2006 to 7.5 percent in 2008, according to the most recent figures from the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development. Latino leaders believe the figure is even higher today.

"I've been an ESL [English as a Second Language] teacher five years, and this fall and winter is definitely different," said Brenda Arfstrom, sipping punch at a graduation party last month.
"People are talking a lot about getting laid off. People are talking about going home... I've had four or five people go back to Mexico."
Down the street at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, the Rev. Kevin Kenny says church-goers are seeking advice about whether to stay or leave. The decision is particularly painful, he said, because workers here support families back home. They feel like failures, he said.
"This week I talked to two families considering it," Kenney said recently. "One didn't have [legal] papers and couldn't find a job. The other was a woman with papers, who has been here about 20 years. She was thinking of going back, but was worried whether it was the right decision for her daughter."
On Minneapolis' E. Lake Street, store owners also report that some workers have called it quits.
"We had about six workers go back to Mexico in the past couple months," said Maria Lala, owner of La Mexicana grocery store. "And some customers, too."
Ricardo Alday, spokesman for the Mexican Embassy in Washington, said that the embassy is hearing anecdotal evidence from around the country about reverse migration, but that documenting it is difficult. One way to count the numbers of permits issued to Mexicans returning home with large household goods, he said. But that doesn't measure immigrants who pack a few suitcases and head south.

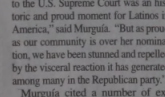
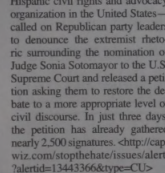
NCLR President Calls on Republican Leaders to Denounce Extremist Rhetoric Surrounding Sotomayor Nomination

Washington, DC—Saying that "The Republican rhetoric is better than this," Janet Murguía, President and CEO of NCLR (National Council of La Raza)—the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the United States—called on Republican party leaders to denounce the extremist rhetoric surrounding the nomination of Judge Sonia Sotomayor to the U.S. Supreme Court and released a petition asking them to restore the debate to a more appropriate level of civil discourse. In just three days, the petition has already gathered nearly 2,500 signatures. <http://capwiz.com/stophate/isues/alert?alerid=13443366&type=CU>
"The nomination of Judge Sotomayor is a historic and proud moment for Latinos in America," said Murguía. "But as proud as our community is over her nomination, we have been stunned and repelled by the visceral reaction it has generated among many in the Republican party."
Murguía cited a number of extreme statements by voices within the Republican party which have gone virtually unchallenged since the Sotomayor nomination by President Barack Obama.
"Speaker Limbaugh, former House Speaker Newt Gingrich, former

Congressman and presidential candidate Tom Tancredo, and others are claiming that Sotomayor is a 'reverse racist.' Mark Kirkorian of the Center for Immigration Studies—the "think tank" of white supremacist John Tanont's anti-immigrant groups—and the National Review online attacked Judge Sotomayor for pronouncing her own name correctly.
In an article that appeared in The Hill newspaper, Republican insiders are quoted as saying "concerned" that Sotomayor's avowed moves of arm candy bundles and other Puerto Rican delicacies will cloud her judicial decision-making. Conservative commentator Debbie Schlussel called Sotomayor "Judge JLo" and suggested she was about as qualified to be on the Supreme Court as the well-known singer.
"Clearly," said Murguía, "his ethnicity has proven to be too much of a temptation for those who give voice to hate and extremism. Instead of looking at her judicial record, they have launched a verbal rampage that has reached new heights of absurdity."
"While we applaud Senator Royce's call for civility, these gross mischaracterizations of Judge

Sotomayor coupled with the deafening silence of the Republican leadership are leaving many within our community with a disturbing picture of the Republican party."
Leader Mitch McConnell to stand up to the extremists. Stand up for your party. Stand up for what is best in America. We are better than this. The Republican party is better than this."
In one attack on Judge Sotomayor late last week, Tom Tancredo faulted the Justice nominee for being a member of "La Raza" and likened Murguía's organization to a "Latino KKK."
"It was offensive, shameful, and a slap in the face to my predecessor, Raul Yazguire, who marched with Dr. Martin Luther King. It to secure civil rights for all Americans," said Murguía. "Raising questions and concerns about Judge Sotomayor's 17-year record on the bench is legitimate. Resorting to outdated stereotypes, defamation of character, and outright falsehoods is not."

Much hangs in the balance, including our votes."
"We are calling on Republican National Committee Chair Michael Steele, House Minority Leader John Boehner, and Senate Minority



"Ricardo Alday, spokesman for the Mexican Embassy in Washington, said that the embassy is hearing anecdotal evidence from around the country about reverse migration, but that documenting it is difficult. One way to count the numbers of permits issued to Mexicans returning home with large household goods, he said. But that doesn't measure immigrants who pack a few suitcases and head south."

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Obama Upbeat About Stimulus, But Not Much Has Been Spent

"Only a small part" of the nation's \$787 billion economic stimulus has been spent through the end of last month, according to congressional analysts, despite the Obama administration's boasts Wednesday that the plan is a big success.

"One hundred days later, we are already seeing results," President Barack Obama said during a visit to Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada.

"Across America, recovery is under way," Vice President Joe Biden said in a statement accompanying a 28-page progress report.

However, Douglas Elmendorf, the director of the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, was more cautious in his "State of the Economy" review to the House Budget Committee last week.

"The economy will stop contracting and resume growing during the second half of this year," he said, "but the hardships caused by the recession will persist for some time."

The CBO report found that through April only about \$19 billion in stimulus funds has been spent.

In addition, Elmendorf predicted, unemployment is expected to peak at 10.5 percent in the second half of next year. Last month's rate was 8.9 percent, up from 8.1 percent in February, when the stimulus became law. The number of unemployed increased by 1.26 million during the past two months to 13.7 million.

The administration's report Wednesday was nonetheless upbeat, maintaining that in the past 100 days, "We have obligated more than \$112 billion, created more than 150,000 jobs and helped communities and tribes in every state and territory."

Without the stimulus, said Jared Bernstein, Biden's chief economic adviser, those jobs wouldn't have been available.

Moreover, Biden said, recovery is "more than just a compilation of statistics; it's the return of hope and optimism about the future that comes with making life better for communities and families across the country."

The CBO report said the \$19 billion in stimulus funds spent was part of a \$380 billion stimulus package authorized for this fiscal year, which ends on Sept. 30.

Independent economic analysts largely expected the initially slow pace of spending, as much of the money so far has gone for tax breaks, health care and other immediate needs.

"The biggest chunk of stimulus spending involves infrastructure, energy, education and other projects that take time to develop, and are described in the administration report."

Bernstein said there was a "tradeoff" between getting the money out quickly and getting it out correctly. "Our focus is on trying to get as much money out the door as quickly as humanly possible, while ensuring that there isn't waste," White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said.

In fact, the CBO found that the stimulus should boost economic growth between 1.4 percent and 3.8 percent for 2009. "The peak effect of the stimulus on GDP is the end of this year," Elmendorf said.

However, 2010 poses potential problems. In its March forecast, the CBO saw joblessness peaking around 9.5 percent early next year.

Now, Elmendorf said, the econ-

omy has weakened to the point that, "If we were writing down a new forecast today, we would go off that peak and we would raise it. Currently, we expect the unemployment rate might peak around 10.5 percent in the second half of next year."

Worse, he warned, "The recovery will falter in 2010 if private sector demand for goods and services doesn't accelerate to offset the diminishing federal stimulus."

The administration's report doesn't specifically address next year. "You know as we do that the road to full recovery will be long and not always smooth," Biden said.

The CBO review, which will be an important resource for lawmakers who're expected to begin debating budget legislation when they return from their Memorial Day recess on June 1, served to reinforce how the stimulus remains a political and economic gamble. At the same time, it's reinforcing long-held views on both sides of the debate.

Private forecasters have been revising their economic projections downward for some time,

so it's no surprise that the CBO has done so too, said Scott Lilly, a senior fellow at the liberal Center for American Progress, which generally supports Obama's positions.

"The stimulus, he said, is working. "It's very good that they did this very early and made it as big as they did," said Lilly, formerly a congressional Joint Economic Committee executive director.

Others were unconvinced. "The economy should begin to show positive growth in the fall, but it won't be because of the stimulus," said Brian Riedel, a budget analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation.

"So far the results have not been all that promising," added Rep. Scott Garrett, R-N.J., at a committee hearing.

Elmendorf replied, "Everything about this sort of picture is uncertain... We don't know what would have happened without the legislation."

He, too, had reason for concern:

The CBO estimates that about three-fourths of the stimulus



money will have been spent by the end of next year.

"The effect on the level of GDP is (that it) sort of goes up this year," Elmendorf said, "and then it starts to come down after next year and then wanes after that."

Even that forecast is shaky. "Uncertainty about the stimulus' effect through 2010 is 'greater than normal... because the stimulus was enacted during a period of unprecedented financial turmoil and was significantly larger than such efforts in the past." Among the risks: "How much further (the stock of housing and goods) must fall to encourage a rebound in production."

Uno de cada 5 niños es latino

Los hispanos menores de 18 años son ahora 22% — más de uno de cada cinco de la población — en Estados Unidos, un notable incremento desde 1980 en que fueron el 9%, según un estudio.

El Centro Hispano Pew dijo que en la medida en que varían esas cifras, las características demográficas de este grupo también han cambiado.

En Estados Unidos hoy unos 16 millones de niños y jóvenes hispanos menores de 18 años y el 52% de ellos son de "segunda generación", dijo Pew en su estudio "Niños hispanos: El

surgimiento de la segunda generación", basado en estadísticas de la Oficina de Censos.

Ello significa, explicó su autor Richard Fry, que son hijos de cuando menos uno de los padres nacido fuera de Estados Unidos, típicamente de aquellos que vinieron de México, Centro y Sudamérica en la corriente migratoria de alrededor de 1980.

Un 11% de los niños latinos son de "primera generación", es decir que nacieron en un país extranjero, y el 37% son de "tercera generación o mayor", es decir nacidos de padres hispanos que a su vez nacieron en Estados Unidos.

En 1980 sólo tres de 10 niños hispanos era de segunda generación, seis de 10 de tercera generación o mayor, dijo Pew.

Estos cambios, agregó, son importantes debido a que las características sociales, económicas y demográficas de los niños latinos "varían substancialmente con su estatus generacional".

Según el estudio, los niños de primera y segunda generación son menos proclives que los de tercera o más a hablar inglés fluidamente o tener padres que completaron cuando menos la educación secundaria. Tienden a vivir en pobreza, pero tienen

menos probabilidad que los de tercera o mayor generación a vivir en hogares de un solo padre o una sola madre.

Pew estima que el 7% de los niños latinos son inmigrantes no autorizados, pero el porcentaje varía drásticamente según su estatus generacional.

Dos tercios de los 1.7 millones de niños latinos nacidos fuera de EE.UU. son indocumentados, mientras que ninguno de los 6 millones de los de tercera generación o mayor lo son, ya que nacieron en la nación de padres igualmente estadounidenses.



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Belinda regresa a las telenovela



Hace siete años Belinda causó mal-estar entre sus compañeros al dejar inconclusa la trama de "Cómplices al rescate", también producida por Estrada, según Televisa por "compromisos escolares y de trabajo contrarios con anterioridad".

Atrás quedaron las diferencias entre ambas. Aunque las negociaciones con Belinda se complicaron debido a que se encuentra en medio de la grabación de un nuevo disco y

Luego de siete años fuera de la pantalla chica, la cantante Belinda regresa a las telenovelas y no sólo como actriz.

La mexicana que consiguió al público con su doble papel de gemelas preadolescentes en "Cómplices al rescate" protagonizará ahora una historia un poco más adulta a titularse "Camaleones" y cuya producción estará a cargo de Carla Estrada.

También se encargará de diseñar varios aspectos de su personaje y cambiará el tema principal del dramático.

Pero lograr su regreso a la televisión no fue sencillo.

dio el primer encuentro con Belinda. Fue algo muy emotivo en mi casa, durante una comedia que se prolongó hasta casi la medianoche. Resultó impactante de verdad", relató Estrada.

Una vez superadas las asperas la misma Belinda le propuso a la productora cómo podría lucir el personaje.

"Cuando me mostraron las primeras maquetas me quedé sorprendida. No solamente porque me gustó, sino porque sabe de lo que me habla. Ella sabe lo que quiere y tiene ideas bien claras. Es una jovencita muy inteligente y bien ubicada", dijo Estrada. "Estará a cargo del vestuario, accesorios, imagen, cabello, etcétera, del que sólo puedo decir que será fuerte y quizás hasta agresivo, pero es seguro que va a imponer un estilo".

El tema musical de la novela, cuya trama no se adelantó, no se mezclará con el personaje de Belinda, como ocurre en "Verano de amor", protagonizada por Dulce María, o "La fea más bella", en que los actores principales Angélica Vale y Jaime Camil cantan como parte de la historia.

Las grabaciones del melodrama comenzarán a finales de mayo y el estreno será en julio. Para protagonista masculino Estrada baraja tres posibilidades: Christopher Uckerman, Diego González y el ex RBD Alfonso Herrera, aunque cada uno está involucrado en otros proyectos.

CNN Plans Latino Documentary

Following last year's successful Black In America documentary series, CNN will turn its cameras on America's Latino community with the two-part documentary series Latino In America premiering in October.

CNN, which will also revisit the African-American community in July with Black In America 2, hopes to use the In America franchise to draw more attention to the struggles and triumphs of diverse communities, according to Mark Nelson, vice president and senior executive producer for CNN Productions.

"The In America brand strand gives us the opportunity to look at groups of people in America that have been misreported or in some cases neglected [by the media]," Nelson said.

Latino In America, hosted by CNN personality and Black In America host Soledad O'Brien, will focus on the growing U.S. Hispanic population and the pertinent issues that face the community.

"We found out with Black In America that many people who watched were not only black but Hispanic as well," Nelson said. "This is the fastest-growing minority group in America today, but we don't understand how really diverse this group is. The show focuses on how Latinos are changing America and how America is changing Latinos."

The first part of the series will explore the lives of people across the country who share the surname "Garcia," the eighth most popular family name in

America. The second part focuses on how four different communities are meeting the challenges of disparities, immigration and discrimination in terms of language, education, citizenship, and cultural identity.

Celebrities such as Edward James Olmos, Eva Longoria Parker, Jesse Garcia and Lupe Ontiveros will also be featured in the documentary. Nelson said

CNN will create a Spanish-language version of Latino In America, although it's unclear when and where that version will be aired.

On the Black In America 2 front, Nelson said the network will look to continue the dialogue started with last year's inaugural Black In America series, which drew 13 million viewers. The first Black In America 2 segment, "Today's Pioneers," will debut July 22, with the second part, "Tomorrow's Leaders," airing the following evening.

"What we heard was that viewers wanted more solutions," Nelson said. "We've got an economy that is sick, and it usually affects the have-nots more than the haves. But in spite of the economy, there are remarkable things that are happening out there; there



are people who are taking it upon themselves to make changes, and we want to show how that's happening."

A third special, CNN & Essence: Reclaiming the Dream, will be tied to the African-American women's magazine's July Essence Music Festival in New Orleans. As part of the Black In America 2 rollout, Nelson said CNN will launch a dedicated Web site (www.cnn.com/blackinamerica) for the franchise in June.

Nelson added that the In America franchise may also be expanded in the future to focus on other multicultural communities.

"We're in the business of weighing the important issues of our time and the fascinating people and stories that impact those issues — that includes other cultural and ethnic groups," said Nelson.

Obama sends video message to 'Sesame St.'

U.S. President Barack Obama sent a video message of congratulations to be shown at an event celebrating the 40th anniversary of Sesame Street.

NBC News anchor Brian Williams and Elmo the Muppet served as hosts Wednesday night at the

7th annual Sesame Workshop Gala benefit dinner in New York. The evening featured a performance by singer Sheryl Crow and a screening of Obama's message.

It is my honor and privilege, as a parent and as president, to say on this wonderful occasion that this

video is brought to you by the Number 40, Obama said.

I'm pleased to join all of you in supporting and celebrating this program, as someone who remembers fondly watching "Sesame Street" with my younger sister and as a parent of two girls

who learned a great deal while spending time with Elmo and Big Bird and all of their pals, he continued. 'Sesame Street' has over the course of four decades managed to remain, at once relevant in changing times, timeless in the values that it instills in our children. In

fact, there are many adults who could stand to learn again the lessons that 'Sesame Street' offers: lessons of compassion, and kindness and respect for our differences. The world is a better place for the world you create on 'Sesame Street,' a world that

enriches our children's minds and hearts each and every day.

New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg was also honored at the Manhattan event with the Global Leadership Award, while toy giant Mattel, Inc. was honored with the Corporate Leadership Award.



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Joyce Bertolacini, HUB Coordinator
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