Hello Friends,

The calligraphic community here in the San Francisco Bay Area has been more than a little busy lately, what with classes, workshops, and lectures. Here’s a little bit about what’s been going on.

In early April, Julie Wildman gave an evening lecture on Calligraphy in Historical and Contemporary Context, followed by a two-day workshop where participants wrote unique letters and combined them to make an Alphabet Book. To understand what I am describing, see the article on Page 2.

The Friends of Calligraphy held our Annual General Meeting, AGM, on May 5. Traditionally, FOC holds this public meeting at the San Francisco Public Library, and the first half of the meeting is devoted to a lecture. This year, Carl Rohrs presented an exclusive West Coast viewing of Alphabet Magic: The Work of Gudrun and Hermann Zapf, a movie created by Gudrun Zapf's niece, Alexandra Albrand. The movie is not available for general viewing yet, so we were incredibly fortunate to be able to see it.

Meredith Klein: Although she is stepping down as Secretary this year, Meredith is a font of FOC knowledge and procedure, and generously shares that knowledge. She is our Membership Chair extraordinaire, leader of the mailing team, member of the Workshop Committee, and so much more.

Nancy Noble: Nancy continues to produce the Bulletin. Anyone who has ever produced a newsletter can tell you that, while it is rewarding, it is also a task that is filled with unexpected twists and turns that are sometimes not rewarding. Nancy brings her many years of teaching and design skills to the task and takes these surprises all in stride. She also serves on the Workshop Committee and has coordinated workshops.

Carl Rohrs: You are all aware of the marvelous job that Carl does as editor of the Alphabet. But Carl always does far more for FOC. With his world-wide circle of calligraphic friends and acquaintances, he is a liaison and recruiter for articles in the Alphabet and for workshop teachers.

Dena Sneider: Dena keeps in her mind the sometimes incredibly convoluted details of the Workshop Committee and the FOC workshops. She makes sure that coordinators do what they need to do when they need to do it. She is stepping down from Council this year but is not stepping down from the Workshop Committee. Thank goodness!

Mary Ann Wight: Mary Ann, the mailing process Czarina, does the actual mechanics and organization of the mailings. Without Mary Ann's expertise, mailing would be chaos.

The weekend of May 18 to 19, Judy Detrick taught the Dutch Masters Script workshop. The script is a beautiful and unique combination of flourishes and letters that remind me of French Ronde. To read more about the workshop, see the article and photos on page 3.

Yours truly, presenting Carl Rohrs with the Outstanding Contribution commendation for his outstanding work as editor of Alphabet.

Continued on Page 5
Comments by Julie Wildman that I found online summed up the spirit of The Alphabet Book workshop held in April. I look at letters as not just the things we use to communicate to others, but as marks and shapes. Shapes that can be manipulated or distorted—and I like to explore the question of what actually makes a letter a letter. With the goal of creating 26 letterforms for an accordion book—either all similar or all different, Julie started with a discussion on what gives a calligraphic hand its coherency. Slope? Weight? Length of ascenders/descenders? Tool used to create? and so forth. She analyzed a couple of her own creations, including a delightful found alphabet she encountered on a family hike—Wait, wait, I’m still looking for the—, she’d tell her family. She then had us brainstorm creating an entire hand starting with a single letterform to create similar letterforms in the same family, e.g. T, F, L, and branching out into other families in the alphabet, e.g. B, D, R. It was then on to a warm-up exercise, scribbling randomly on copy paper and picking out bits of the scribbling that could be used as the starting point for a letterform. I especially liked the brainstorming page in her handout which listed many ways by which one could vary the starting letterform: rotate, make spiky/round, write fast/slow, use a different tool, and so forth. She recommended picking three elements of the starting letterform to manipulate and choosing a limited number of exercises from the extensive brainstorming page. We spent the rest of the day coming up with our new hands, while Julie circulated around the room, offering insight and lots of individual attention and advice. I left with a reasonably clear vision of what I wanted and I couldn’t resist the temptation to keep developing my alphabet late into the night. The next morning I was glad that I’d done homework, as it was on to putting a finished alphabet on good paper. As we worked, Julie demonstrated her many tools and techniques, including the COLA pen, broom bristle pen and vintage nibs she’d gifted to us. The class was especially intrigued by the Fineline Precision Applicator filled with matte media and gesso in a 1:1 ratio, plus water to taste, and the Brody Neuenschwander Ruling Pen—which many of us would never have tried were it not for Julie. We finished up by constructing our accordion books and oooh-ing and ahh-ing over the results—all so creative and distinctive, many of which you can view at Julie’s Instagram page. I thoroughly enjoyed this class as I had never before thought about what goes into making an alphabet, hang together. When I find a calligraphic work I like, I now have a better understanding of why it works.
Dutch Master's Script

By: Lee Littlewood

From Wikipedia: “The Dutch Golden Age was a period in the history of the Netherlands, roughly spanning the 17th century, in which Dutch trade, science, military and art were among the most acclaimed in the world.”

Unmentioned here, but of interest to us as calligraphers, was the bloom of Dutch letterers and teachers of lettering—the Dutch Masters that Judy Detrick’s class would learn from. As Judy pointed out, there were a number of threads that came together around 1600 in the United Provinces, later to become the Dutch Republic. One was economic—the Dutch East India Company was founded in 1602 and it and other commercial enterprises required an expanding number of clerks and other officials who had to be able to write legibly. The language of commerce was French, so Francoysch Schools were established to teach handwriting and arithmetic. Exemplars could be engraved into copper plates and printed, and the student could buy individual pages to copy or a bound book—the copybook. Some of these copybooks survived the centuries and were reproduced in facsimile, allowing us in 2019 a pretty good view of 17th century Dutch lettering art.

Some of these copybooks were the work of Maria Strick, a calligraphy master and owner of the Francoysch School in Rotterdam, and Judy had copies of her pages for inspiration.

With this script, at least in these copybooks, the swirly flourishy capitals and border are the showstoppers, but Judy led us into the lowercase and page layout first. Big margins, lots of space between lines of copy, and tall, flashy capitals inside the text block. Then, with the geometry of the page decided, one could look at designing the flourished borders.

So, to work. First up was drawing our own guidelines, to make a master that could show through a blank page. Lowercase letters are three pen widths, then a space of 15 pen widths, then another three pen widths writing line. Judy recommends drawing one’s own master liner for each nib size, and saving them for reuse over many years. We all used 2.5 mm nibs, so the guidelines worked out in inch fractions. We would be drawing lines off the corners of our nibs, and Judy recommended walnut ink as being wet enough to run thin lines. If you want it darker you might add black watercolor, and to thicken it add some walnut ink crystals. The pen angle is a fairly flat 30°, but there is a lot of pen manipulation.

The lowercase is a mix of blackletter and French ronde, with some forms strange to our eyes. Judy had a printed alphabet and drew the letters large, explicating the fine points as she went. Sometimes the descenders run wild, making a shape that was dubbed the ‘zucchini swash’. By lunch we were ready for a break and, maybe, ready to get practicing. Since it was pouring rain outside, only we foolish ones who didn’t bring a lunch had to go out, while most of the class sat warm and dry. At the end of lunch there was a rousing version of Happy Birthday aimed at Catherine and we all got cake.

Our first assignment was just to write a nonsense phrase. Scritch scritch scritch Owl!, but a good way to understand some of the stranger letterforms. After a coffee/cupcake break we started on the flowing capitals. The caps are seven pen widths tall, or more, with lots of thin linework possible. These thin lines need to flow out from the letter, but they can be done with the corner of your nib or a different pen altogether. Thick parts of the letter may be strengthened by double-stroking. Like the lowercase, the caps are based on circles, big circles. The caps don’t really sit on the baseline, they bounce a bit. Judy Detrick: Look at your own handwriting; It’s all about reversing curves. Judy wrote out the alphabet with a big felt-tip, showing how the parts of the letters line up and relate to a circle.

Day Two: Circles and circle practice. Judy said: Draw a line around a beach ball. Look where you’re going, not where you’ve been. Draw half of the circle, then close your eyes and draw the other half with muscle memory. Drawing good circles is hard, but the underlying shape of most of the capitals is circular. We tried writing the caps and thinking in circles until lunch. And there was another birthday, and more cake and coffee! One could get used to this …

After lunch we got the psychedelic part, the Swirly Caps. The trick seems to be to work from the ground up: make the letter’s simplest identifying strokes with a broad pen. Then mark the 1/2 or 1/3 distances on the stroke, and pencil sketch circular swirls through the points. As the swirls make new spaces, run your lines through the center of the new space, or 1/2 way through the new lines. It is amazing how quickly a complex pattern builds up from such simple instructions. Draw and erase, draw and erase, looking to avoid breaks in the curves and ‘hot spots’ where too many lines converge. Try to have the new lines flow in and out of the basic strokes, don’t
just glue them on. Don’t chop the negative space into tiny pieces. And when you go to ink, swing your pen around loosely just above the paper before you touch down to keep the curves graceful. Judy emphasized that these flourishes and scrolls did not happen randomly, they were planned out and then drawn freely.

So then we tried to write something and let flourishes grow out of the letters and not be too small or cramped but not too big and floppy, and thicken the caps as needed, and if possible try to spell words correctly. With 20 students we put up a lot of pieces on the wall to enjoy, finished or not.

It was a hoot, and we learned a lot by analyzing and doing, and I can’t wait to do more. Did I mention there was cake?
Membership

Annual Message from Membership

Thank You to everyone who joined and supported FOC over the past year, and to those who encouraged friends or students to join or gave a gift membership. Our membership continues to increase.

Prompt Renewal: My annual pitch. We deeply appreciate it when you renew promptly. It means I don’t need to send you a follow-up reminder. And, more importantly, it saves money. If you renew before the first mailing of the year, you are in the bulk mailing, which costs us a little over 60¢ a mailing. If I have to send first class, after the mailing, the cost goes up with each catch-up mailing we need to send, beginning around $3, and ending at $7.35.

Changes: We try to keep our information current. When you receive your mailed or emailed renewal form, please check the information and let me know of any changes. It really helps.

Support: As we remind you from time to time, regular membership dues don’t cover membership costs, and we are grateful when some members can renew at higher levels because this is one way to help cover the cost of administering FOC. But please know that we appreciate your renewal at any level of membership.

Thank you!

Meredith

gkle@sbcglobal.net

FOC Facebook & Instagram Pages

Check out our Facebook and Instagram pages. You do NOT need a Facebook or Instagram account to do so. Our pages are open to all. At the bottom of the FOC home page, click either icon: the F in a blue square, or the little red square camera outline.

New Members

Friends of Calligraphy extends a warm welcome to our newest members. We’re glad you joined!

Bonnie Bainbridge Cohen
Heather Barton
Nancy Dempster
Carol Dutoit
Judy Farris-Phares
Scott Smith
Sandra Tyler
Annette Wichmann
Julie Wildman

Mail Crew Thank You

Many thanks to the FOC Mail Crew for the Renewal and Regular mailing:
March 28, 2019
JoAnn Brand
David Brookes
Darla Engelmann
Meredith Klein
Raoul Martinez
Dean Robino
Dena Sneider
Mary Ann Wight

Special thanks to JoAnn Brand, who calls the crews, and to Georgianna Greenwood for hosting mailings in her studio.

If you are interested in being on a future mail crew, please contact JoAnn Brand at: lettersandimages@comcast.net

Regular mailings are on Thursday evenings in Berkeley five times a year.

Memory Lane

On May 18, Carl Rohrs presented the first annual Suzie Taylor memorial lecture in the Skylight Gallery at the San Francisco Main Library. The lecture highlighted Suzie’s career at the library and featured many examples of her calligraphy. FOC members Judy Detrick, Linnea Lundquist, and Meredith Klein helped organize the lecture.

That’s it for this time. Have a wonderful time with your calligraphy in the next few weeks.

Cheers,

Evelyn

Continued from Page 1

Anne Miller sent in this photo taken in 2002 of the FOC Council at the home of Jerry Lehman.

Left to right: Helen Fung, Ann Miller wearing the “President” hat, Suzie Taylor, sitting of the floor; Elizabeth Nisperos, Sherrie Loeler, Marcia B, Marcia Friedman, Melissa Titon, Sandy Sanches.
Friends of Calligraphy Council Meeting,
20 January 2019
Sunday 1 PM Raoul Martinez’s Home

Council Members Present:
Officers: Evelyn Eldridge, Elena Caruthers, Dean Robino, Meredith Klein; Council: Cynthia Cravens, Fredi Juni, Raoul Martinez. Excused: Martha Boccalini, Dena Sneider.

Evelyn called the mtg to order at 1:30 PM

Minutes: The minutes of the November 3, 2018 Council meeting were approved as presented. Motion: Elena, second: Dean, unanimously approved.

Reports: Membership: Meredith reported, as of January 20, 460 renewals, 50 new, 8 honorary and 2 honorary spouse, for a total of 520.

Treasury: Dean presented the treasurer’s report. Cynthia moved that the Alphabet printing budget be increased. Fredi second; all approved.

Dean next noted that we are at 93% of our foreign postage budget already, with two more mailings yet to come. Meredith moved that we double the foreign postage budget; Cynthia second, all approved. Tax filings were sent in before the due date of November 15, and all 1099s have been sent out. Dean presented the Transaction Report for 1/1/2019 through 12/31/2018, which was approved. Motion: Elena, second: Fredi, unanimously approved.

Workshop Committee: Evelyn reported that all is on track for the Kathy Milici workshops. On January 29, an email reminder will be sent for the February 1 sign-up for Julie Wildman’s workshop in April.

Meredith reviewed transportation payment arrangements for Brody Neuenschwander’s June workshop with the Council.

Fort Mason Committee: Raoul’s Copperplate class is off to a good start; the class size was cut to 14 because of the smaller space. Chris McDonald’s Roman Caps class begins March 2, at Albany Senior Center. Meredith Klein’s Gothicized Italic Class at Fort Mason is half full; Rick Paulus’s Versals class in the fall is nearly full. We will remain in touch with Fort Mason about the renovation schedule for Fall.

Retreat: Meredith reported that we are at the minimum number of 25 required for large groups to have the full facility and be able to eat in the dining room. Preparations for the March 6–10 event are proceeding smoothly.

Trivial Pursuits: Marcia Friedman sent her report that Trivial Pursuits was highly successful. Next year’s date is reserved: Saturday, January 11. Tentative teachers for 2020 are Melissa Titone, Virginia LeRoux, Susan Ito, Caryn Lum, and Sara Frank. Marcia needs someone to take charge of goody bags for the coming year. A Bulletin article will ask for volunteers to contact Marcia.

Publications/Mailings: Meredith reported that the December mailing was rescheduled a week later to accommodate Carl Rohrs’s schedule. The March 28 mailing will contain Alphabet 44:3, Bulletin 134, deadline for copy is March 11, AGM nominations form and AGM program flyer, the Summer Workshop flyer and Directory Update III.

Hospitality: Cynthia reported that the November 17 Thomas Ingmire reception went very smoothly. Hospitality for the Milici lecture on February 7 will be handled by the workshop coordinator, Evelyn. The next event for which Cynthia needs to coordinate hospitality is the Annual General Meeting.

Social Media: Dean revised the FOC Electronic Communications Guidelines, as discussed at the November 3 meeting. Evelyn moved that the Council accept the revised Electronic Communications Guidelines dated January 20, 2019. Raoul seconded, all approved. Eventbrite will be tried out to announce the Milici lecture, as an addition to FOC’s internal notifications. Evelyn will write a short blurb for the Bulletin to clarify that our Facebook and Instagram pages are open to all and one does not need to have an account to see postings.

Web Administrator: Raoul reported 3163 followers for our Facebook page, 1230 for Instagram and a total of 753 who are on the email listserv. Meredith questioned whether we should respond to requests by non-members to post events or information on our Facebook page. The Council did not see a downside to posting pages of possible interest, whether or not they come from members. Raoul switched FOC to an Instagram Business profile a month ago; this gives us additional statistics.

Meetings/Events

Holiday Party: The party on Sunday, December 9 at Jerry Lehman’s was well attended. The Council acknowledged Jerry as a gracious and generous hostess and commented on the frosted gingerbread snowflakes she had made for all the guests.

Annual General Meeting: Carl Rohrs has agreed to present a program on treasures in the Harrison Collection.

Antiquarian Book Fair: Evelyn, the coordinator, reported that the Fair, February 8, 9 and 10, is totally staffed, and the event planner assigned FOC two calligraphy cases to show work.

Unfinished Business

Rendez-Vous Welcome Bag: The organizers of the Rendez-Vous conference in Canada, June 29–July requested that FOC contribute to the welcome bag. Fredi will research the cost of pencils to compare with the nail brushes Dorothy found.

Elena moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:56 PM. Dean second, approved unanimously.

Next meeting: 17 March 2019, 1–4 PM, either at Martha Boccalini’s home, or Jerry Lehman’s.

Friends of Calligraphy Council Meeting,
17 March 2019
Sunday, 1 PM, at Jerry Lehman’s Home


Evelyn called the mtg to order at 1:29 PM

Minutes. The minutes of the January 20, 2019, Council meeting were approved as presented. Motion: Dean, second: Martha, unanimously approved.

Reports: Membership: Meredith reported, as of March 17, 461 renewals, 54 new, 8 honorary and 2 honorary spouse, for a total of 525. Meredith noted that we are running low on membership brochures; printing of a revised brochure is in the budget. Meredith will ask Ann Miller if she will do the update. The Council decided that a simple update of the prior brochure would be fine.

Treasury: Dean presented the treasurer’s report. The current issue of Alphabet is 44 pages; for June, Carl has proposed a 32-page issue to stay within budget. Dean suggested that if he needs more pages, he could let us know. The form 1096 was sent to IRS by the January 31 due date (the 1099s were sent early). Dean is scheduling the April financial audit. Cynthia and Martha volunteered to be the Council participant and will decide between themselves who will do. Dean will also ask two non-Council participants per the by-laws. Dean presented the Transaction Report for 1/1/2019
through 2/28/2019 for Council approval. Motion to approve: Martha, second: Cynthia, unanimously approved.

Workshop Committee: Dean presented Dena’s report. Kathy Miliči’s workshops were a success. The Julie Wildman workshop in April now has one opening. A lecture is planned at Flax Oakland. Judy Detrick will teach Dutch Master’s Script on May 18–19, at Albany Senior Center, with registration beginning March 25. Dena is the coordinator. Meredith arranged with Barbara Lande to design the flyer for the Brody Neuenschwander summer workshop in June. Loredana Zega will teach for FOC September 6, 7 and 8; Nancy Noble is coordinator. Carl Rohrs has been working on a workshop with Andrew van der Merwe October 3–6, with Dorothy helping. Denise Lach is currently scheduled to be here February 24–25, 2020, only two days.

Fort Mason Committee: Raoul’s Copperplate class went very well. Chris McDonald’s Roman Caps class at Albany Senior Center is underway; there are some new people in it. Meredith Klein’s Gothic Italic Class at Fort Mason, April–May, has openings.

Retreat: Meredith reported that retreat, March 6–10, was wonderful.

Trivial Pursuits 2020: Marcia Friedman still needs someone to take charge of goody bags for the coming year. Evelyn wrote a blurb to go in the Bulletin soliciting one or two volunteers. Cynthia indicated she could help with this; the Council thought it would be good to see if there is a response to the Bulletin. Jerry Lehman agreed to store Trivial Pursuits materials until next year.

Publications/Mailings: For the March 28 mailing, Meredith reported Alphabet 44:3 is at the printer. Nancy said most of the articles are in for Bulletin 134. The AGM nominations form and Directory Update III are ready; the summer workshop flyer needs one more tweak; and Carl is working on the AGM program flyer.

Hospitality: Cynthia will take care of hospitality for the Annual General Meeting. Finger food will be brought by people who attend, as usual.

Social Media/Web Administrator: Raoul reported 3,325 followers for our Facebook page, 1,313 followers for Instagram and 752 on our email listserv. There were 88 profile visits on Instagram in the last week and a reach of 852. Raoul is tracking our top posts on Instagram. Evelyn has been responding to questions on our Facebook page. Dorothy raised a question about double posting when she and Evelyn pick up the same item to post to Facebook. Raoul confirmed that this means it is posted twice. Cynthia inquired whether students might be encouraged to post work from FOC classes. Eventbrite was used for the Wildman lecture; so far there are five sign-ups. Raoul asked about putting an Eventbrite logo on the FOC home page, along with the Facebook and Instagram logos. Dean said Eventbrite is a portal to us, but did not think there is a reason for us to be a portal to them. The Council will consider and discuss at the next meeting.

Meetings/Events

Antiquarian Book Fair: Evelyn reported that the Fair, February 8, 9, 10, was highly successful: nearly 700 bookmarks were written out, based on sign-up lists to get a bookmark. The two display cases were curated by Mary Ann Wight and Meredith. Many membership cards and class brochures were given out.

Annual General Meeting: Carl Rohrs, who will give an illustrated talk on treasures in the Harrison Collection, has agreed to do the flyer. He is working with Andrea Grimes on the presentation.

Unfinished Business

Rendez-Vous Welcome Bag: FOC will contribute to the welcome bag. Fredi will research cost and timing of the pencils that she found on the internet.

Scholarship: The development of a program for scholarships to FOC workshops and classes needs to be reactivated. The people who had done the initial work on this were Evelyn, Nancy and Chris MacDonald.

FOC Business Card: Nancy presented a page of options for input by Council members. She will email it to Council members as a PDF; they are requested to give her feedback on the design options.

New Business

Workshop Issues:

Coffee: Workshop committee will discuss who will be responsible for coffee at workshops, and make a recommendation to the Council.

Locations: Dorothy reported that the space at Ruth’s Table is not yet available and the rental cost is not yet set. O’Reilly Media, in Sebastopol, where Marcia Friedman works, has space available for free for nonprofits. We should keep it on our list of possible venues. Cynthia mentioned that her church, at Gough and Bush has space available on weekends.

Raoul moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:39 pm, Martha second, approved unanimously.

Next meeting: 28 April 2019, 1-4 pm, at the home of Nancy Noble.

Calligraphies In Conversation: An Exhibition of Multicultural Calligraphy

Location: San Francisco Center for the Book, 375 Rhode Island Street, San Francisco

Free and open to the public. FOC members Thomas Ingmire, Renee Owen, Arash Shirinbab, Naomi Teplow and Andrea Wunderlich are among the featured artists in this exhibition. For more details, please see: https://sfcb.org/calligraphiesinconversation

FOC Council Members

President
Evelyn Eldridge

Vice President
Elena Caruthers

Treasurer
Dean Robino

Secretary
Meredith Jane Klein

Council Members
Martha Boccalini
Cynthia Cravens
Fredi Juni
Raoul Martinez
Dena Sneider

Alphabet Editor
Carl Rohrs

Bulletin Editor
Nancy Noble
Friends of Calligraphy is a nonprofit society of people interested in calligraphy and related arts. Membership is $40.00 annually, open to amateurs & professionals. Mailing address: PO Box 425194, SF, CA 94142 FOC Website: www.friendsofcalligraphy.org FOC Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofCalligraphy Instagram: www.instagram.com/friendsofcalligraphy Content on our Facebook and Instagram pages is open to all. Login is not required.

Address Change
If your contact information changes: address, phone or email, please send the new information to: Membership Chair Meredith Klein 707 Spokane Avenue, Albany, CA 94706 gkle@sbcglobal.net 510.527.0434

AGM Meeting
Annual General Meeting
Held at the San Francisco Main Library May 5, 2019. More info can be found in President Evelyn Eldridge’s Letter, Page 1.

AGM Awards
Your editor was surprised, and so honored, to receive this beautiful certificate lettered and designed by Ward Dunham and printed by letterpress on a gorgeous paper. My name was hand lettered by Rick Paulus. I already framed it and it is now proudly displayed on my wall. More info can be found in the Letter from the President.

Copy Deadline
Deadline for articles for Bulletin 135: September 9, 2019. Please submit articles or questions to Nancy Noble, nnoble@sfsu.edu

AGM Calendar of Events

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FOC Bulletin #135
Masthead: Julie Wildman
Text: Palatino Linotype, Palatino & Optima
Adobe InDesign CC was used for the layout on a MacBook Air
Proofreading: Barbara Daniell, Raoul Martinez & Dean Robino.
Photos: Caryn Lum, Raoul Martinez & Nancy Noble.

Colophon

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Address Change
If your contact information changes: address, phone or email, please send the new information to: Membership Chair Meredith Klein 707 Spokane Avenue, Albany, CA 94706 gkle@sbcglobal.net 510.527.0434

AGM Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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