



# BASS LAKE BULLETIN

Vol. XIX No.12 The Voice of the Bass Lake Community December 2021  
www.basslakeaction.org

## B.L.A.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS SET FOR 2022



Bass Lake Area, El Dorado Hills, CA. image credit - John Davey

By John Davey

The Bass Lake Action Committee conducted its election of the Board of Directors on Monday evening, December 13. The election takes place during the Annual Meeting, and Directors serve a one-year term.

This year, four directors stood for reelection. In a unanimous vote by members, four of five current directors were reelected. Returning in 2022 are President Kathy Prevost, Vice President John Davey, Secretary Jan Buxton, and Director at Large Ron Cassity.

Current Board Treasurer Wil Brunet is unable to continue to serve on the Board of Directors. Wil has accepted a position that doesn't allow for his participation on the Board of the non-profit Bass Lake Action Committee. And while we are excited for Wil's new opportunity, we're tremendously sad that he is unable to serve on the Board of Directors next year. Wil and his wife Karen will still remain Bass Lake Action Committee

members, and we know that we'll continue to get great ideas and support from the Brunets! Wil's service as Treasurer came at a very important time for BLAC, as the Treasurer position on the Board is responsible for keeping our books and financial details in good order, as a requirement of our Non-Profit 501(C)(4) corporation filing.

Wil's experience in the financial sector was invaluable! Wil also provided the majority of our membership renewal efforts each year, and made it easy and painless for everyone. Plus, Wil always kept an eye on how we can better serve members, and our community.

For the past three months we've been trying to find a member that would be willing to serve as Treasurer. Since we haven't identified a candidate for the position, California Law allows for a Board Member to function as Treasurer, (with the exception of the Board President) -

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## THE ORIGINS OF THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE

By Kathy Prevost

Winter solstice was considered to be the beginning of the brighter days ahead in ancient cultures and an indication that the Sun God was regaining strength. Evergreen trees were displayed in coordination with solstice because they retain their color for all four seasons and were a reminder that warmer months were yet to come.

The Sun God Ra in Egypt typically became weaker as it became colder and darker and solstice was seen as a turning point in seasons. Egyptians would decorate their homes with palm leaves and branches, and similarly in ancient Rome a feast called Saturnalia was held during solstice which encouraged people to decorate with evergreens as a celebration of springtime and the bountiful harvest to come. -



THE CHRISTMAS TREE.

image credit WikiMedia Commons The Christmas Tree - Godey's Lady's Book

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## ORIGINS OF THE TRADITIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE *(con't)*

- It seems there were a lot of myths around the origins of the Christmas tree including one that says Martin Luther believed that pine trees represented the goodness of God and another myth that was very popular tells the story of Saint Boniface who in the 8th century prevented a pagan human sacrifice under an oak tree by cutting down the tree and a fir tree grew in its place.

The real origins of Christmas trees may have started in Middle Ages in what is present-day Germany. A guild in Freiburg decorated a tree with apples, flour paste wafers, tinsel and gingerbread in 1419. The feast day of Adam and Eve fell on Christmas Eve when the "Paradise Plays" were performed and a tree of knowledge was represented by an evergreen with apples tied to its branches.

According to Judith Flanders in her book, "Christmas: A Biography", she found documentation of trees decorated with woolen thread, straw, apples, nuts and pretzels. The first decorated indoor tree was recorded in 1605 in Strasbourg and was adorned with roses, apples, wafers, and other sweets according to her research.

The use of greenery to celebrate the holidays in England was reported in rural English church records from the 15th and 16th century when they used holly and ivy bought in the winter. Flanders believes that a pole decorated with holly and ivy in parishes was the precursor to the Christmas tree.

In 16th century Germany, Christians began to decorate trees, or pyramid shaped stacks of wood if times were difficult, inside their homes and the true Christmas tree tradition began. Martin Luther, who was the leader of the Protestant Reformation movement in the 1500s, is most often attributed to the tradition of adding candles to tree branches. According to legend, he wished to recreate the stars in the night sky in his own home using candle light.

Located just over the southwestern German border in Strasbourg in Alsace (now France), unadorned trees were sold at what is thought to be the oldest Christmas tree market during the 17th century as Weihnachtsbaum, which is German for Christmas tree.

Most Americans did not adopt the tradition at first because they believed it to be attached to pagan beliefs but the tradition continued in Germany until the 1700s and early 1800s.

New England Puritans were very strict about their views of Christmas in America which was banned in the 17th century and people were severely punished for decorating or celebrating in anyway.

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New England Puritans were very strict about their views of Christmas in America which was banned in the 17th century and people were severely punished for decorating or celebrating in anyway.

They believed it was a sacred holiday and that the appropriate way to celebrate was with a church service. It had been a rowdy celebration, nothing like what we celebrate as a family holiday today.

This began to change with the immigration of the Irish and Germans who brought their own traditions in spite of the Puritan rule. Community trees were decorated in the late 18th century in German settlements, particularly in Pennsylvania, and trees began to appear in the homes of German families.

The first known published image of a Christmas tree was in a book called *The Strangers Gift* in 1836, by a German Harvard Professor named Herman Bokum.

It was illustrated with an image of a mother and small children around a Christmas tree lit with candles. Charles Dickens' 1843 story, *A Christmas Carol*, further popularized the idea of a secular holiday.

Christmas became a national holiday because of the campaigning by Sarah Josepha Hale who through her efforts managed to bring the Christmas tree into American living rooms. In 1848, Hale, who was the editor of Godey's Lady's book, (a popular magazine for women published in Philadelphia) published a story in December about the German celebration of Christmas. As part of the evening, a room was decorated with a beautiful lighted tree with presents hanging from the branches.

Subsequently, The Illustrated London News printed a woodcut of Queen Victoria and her family gathered around a tabletop Christmas tree that year which really brought the custom to England. Hale ran the picture 2 years later with boxes of German cookies under the tree to depict the modern American family.

Christmas began to make a comeback by the Civil War when families anticipated being separated. Hale published the picture again complete with instructions on how to make a Christmas tree stand up in a sand filled stoneware jar. She included directions on how to put a green chintz skirt around the tree and decorate it with ornaments for children. This included stringing holly berries and attaching candles to the branches with wires.

The following year, a woodsman named Mark Carr hauled evergreen trees he had cut down in the Catskills by oxen sled to New York City and sold every tree in the Washington Market. President Franklin Pierce put up the first Christmas tree in

the White House in 1856.

The 150,000 readers of the Godey magazine were joined by other magazine readers such as Harper's and began to promote Christmas and the rituals that went along it. Four New England states had declared Christmas a legal bank holiday and throughout the Civil War thirteen more states made Christmas a legal holiday.

The federal government declared Christmas a national holiday in 1870 and by that time most American families put up a Christmas tree at Yuletide.

Using gigantic Christmas trees in public places seems to be primarily an American idea which dates back to the late 19th century. The first "National Christmas Tree" at the White House was requested by the electricity lobby as a publicity stunt to advertise the beauty of electricity. The balsam fir which was nearly 60 feet tall was decorated with 2500 light bulbs.

The very first Christmas tree displayed in London was near what is now Leadenhall Market according to "*A Christmas Cornucopia: The Hidden Stories Behind Our Yuletide Traditions*" which was a one-time occurrence and Christmas trees were not seen again in Britain until the 19th century.

Ornaments (probably imported from Germany) became more popular in the late 1800s along with homemade decorations like cookies and garlands using popcorn, berries, nuts, etc. This changed significantly with the technological and industrial developments in the 20th century. German glass ornaments inspired the development of the popular Shiny Brite ornaments which began the US ornament industry in the early to mid 1900s.

A 20 foot tall Christmas tree which first went up in 1931 at Rockefeller Plaza, became a symbol of hope because it brought so many unemployed people back to work during the Depression.

References: <https://www.newenglandhistoricalsociety.com/stealth-campaign-bring-christmas-tree/>

<https://www.countryliving.com/life/a45590/christmas-tree> <https://time.com/5736523/history-of-christmas-trees/-origin/> ~



# B.L.A.C. BOARD OF DIRECTORS SET FOR 2022

(con't)

- so the Vice President and the Director at Large will fill-in to perform the Treasurer duties, until a member can be appointed for the 2022 term. The Treasurer spot is a critical position, so we expect to be very vigilant in selecting a member to serve.

If any member has interest in serving as Treasurer, contact President Kathy Prevost to discuss - blacinfo@aol.com.

While the Board has been able to conduct our quarterly Board meetings virtually via Zoom since the spring of 2020, we're looking forward to being able to meet in person, and to increase member participation. The Board is currently considering options to host hybrid in-person / virtual quarterly board meetings in 2022.

The quarterly Board of Directors meeting schedule for 2022:

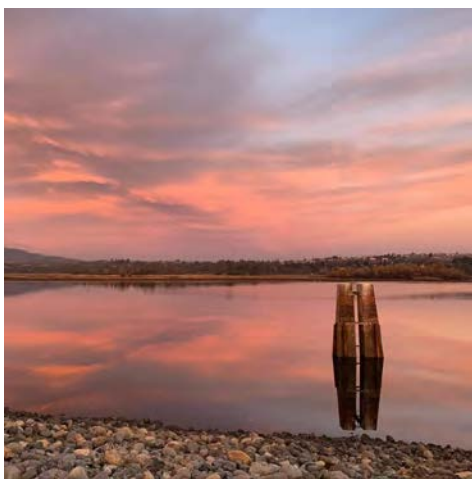
First Quarter Meeting  
Monday February 14, 2022

Second Quarter Meeting  
Monday May 9, 2022

Third Quarter Meeting  
Monday August 8, 2022

Fourth Quarter Meeting  
Monday November 14, 2022

The 2022 Bass Lake Action Committee Annual Meeting and Christmas party is scheduled for Monday December 12, 2022. ~



# BASS LAKE AREA - 2022 CRYSTAL BALL EDITION

By John Davey

The Bass Lake area will continue to grow and evolve over the next several years, just as it has for more than three decades. A list of development projects, build outs, and potential road and circulation improvements is rather lengthy. The list also includes proposed hotel/hospitality, mixed use, new park space, and commercial centers.

In terms of residential development, several projects are already underway.

The 65 home Edgelake in Serrano Village J7 in front of Bridlewood Canyon at the Bass Lake overflow, connects to Bass Lake Road at the new Senegal Way intersection. Model Homes are now open, and construction continues.

Lennar's Sienna Ridge Estates continues construction in the Serrano J6 village. This connects to Bass Lake Road at the Whistling Way intersection, and to Sienna Ridge Road at two intersections - Luzon Way, and Bronzewing Place.

The 90 home Bass Lake North project, marketed under the Hidden Ridge name by Toll Brothers is currently grading, and conducting infrastructure work. It connects to Sienna Ridge Road at the old Hawk View Rd alignment, which is under construction currently to cross Sienna Ridge Road and connect to Bass Lake Road. This road segment is expected to be renamed North Silver Dove Way.

Lennar's Hawk View at Bass Lake Hills project is still under construction on the west side of Bass Lake Road south of the Sienna Ridge Shopping Center.

Lennar's Emerald Peak at Bass Lake Hills above the east side of Bass Lake Road north of Holy Trinity Church is still under construction.

Lennar's Sapphire Cliff at Bass Lake Hills to the east of the Laurel Oaks village is beginning construction of 54 homes. The project is technically in Cameron Park with connections to Covello Circle.

North of Bass Lake, the Revere at Silver Springs by Blue Mountain Communities has sold out of their phase one homes along Silver Springs Parkway at Green Valley Road. Construction of additional phases continues.

Across Green Valley Road, Blue Mountain Communities has grading and infrastructure work underway for the Summerbrook residential community, behind the historic Pleasant Grove House. The Traffic signal at Pleasant Grove Middle School will serve as the main entrance, with another connection on Green Valley Road several hundred feet to the west.

The approved 36 home Bass Lake Estates is on the market for a buyer/developer. This high-density

project is just above Tea Rose Court, and below Woodleigh Lane, and is planned to have two intersections on Bass Lake Road.

The proposed 75 lot Rancho Tierra residential development west of Woodleigh Lane, with connections into the Woodridge Village on Great Heron Drive, and to Woodleigh Lane seems to be stalled, with no significant updates since July 2020.

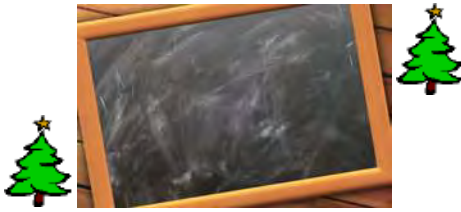


At the southern end of Bass Lake Road, south of US50, seeking approvals for development in the area are the proposed Villages of Marble Valley Specific Plan (Serrano Associates), which proposes the development of 2,342 acres of land consisting of approximately 3,236 dwelling units and 475,000 square feet of commercial uses, and the Lime Rock Valley Specific Plan (Gallo Family) which proposes the development of 740 acres of land consisting of approximately 800 dwelling units.

These are long term development projects, and if approved will likely come with twenty-plus year development agreements. First proposed in 2012, the last significant public discussions were the 2013 Public Scoping meetings for the projects, along with the 2013 notices of preparation of Draft Environmental Impact Reports. In early 2020, the Army Corps of Engineers did send a letter of public notice to property owners in the Marble Valley area regarding permit(s) which would result in impacts to approximately 4.585 acres of waters of the United States, including wetlands and streams.

Also still seeking project approvals from its 2012 project start is the Central El Dorado Hills Specific Plan from Serrano Associates. The proposed project would provide for development of up to 1,000 dwelling units, 11 acres of civic limited commercial use (50,000 square feet of commercial use), 15 acres of public village park, 1- acre neighborhood park and 168 acres of natural open space. It seeks a General Plan amendment, a specific plan amendment, and rezoning of the old El Dorado Hill Executive Golf course from its current Recreational Facilities - High Intensity, to Multi-family Residential-Planned Development Medium Density and High Density, Single-Family Residential-Planned Development, Civic-Limited Commercial-Planned Development, Community Park, and Open Space-Planned Development.

(continued on page 4)



### From The BLAC Board

#### President's Letter December 2021

Christmas trees are such an integral part of the holiday for many people and the memories we share of the Christmases past with our friends and family as each ornament is hung on the tree in just the right spot.

Raised in a Navy pilot's family, Christmas was often spent at Midwest relatives because we were on the road moving to someplace new which always meant driving Coast to Coast. However, one of my first Christmases found us in the Philippines which had no pine trees or lights for a tree either. But a group of young very creative aviators made sure there would be trees that year for their families they had moved so far from home.

Somehow they found some scrub Pines and ingeniously fashioned lights from anything they could find. Those same lights were placed each year upon our tree for many years wherever we were living at that time.

While my husband and I spent many years trudging around in the ice and snow in Illinois trying to find a Christmas tree, just the right one, we finally purchased an artificial tree before we moved to Asia. We never looked back after that and upgraded the tree a couple of times since we made our home in El Dorado Hills. This is not so unusual because while many of us enjoy the aroma of fresh pine, 63% of households in America display an artificial Christmas tree and only 24% of households have a real tree.

#### Some little known facts:

Thomas Edison's assistant, Edward Jones developed the idea of electric lights for Christmas trees in 1882, and they were first mass produced in 1890.

The vast majority of Christmas trees are grown on farms located in Oregon, North Carolina, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, Washington, and New York.

Approximately 98% of Christmas trees — about 350 million — are grown on farms

It takes about 8 years for a Christmas tree to achieve a height of 6 to 7 feet.

(continued on page 5)

## BASS LAKE AREA 2022 CRYSTAL BALL EDITION

(con't)

Commercial development poses future impacts for the Bass Lake Area.

Costco is moving forward with their plans for an El Dorado Hills store on the northwest side of the Silva Valley Parkway US50 interchange, alongside the proposed EDH52 commercial center on the northeast side of the Silva Valley Parkway US50 interchange. A partial extension of Country Club Drive on the north sides of these projects may be a result of development.



EDH-52 NORTH AND COSTCO SOUTH  
Proposed Costco/EDH52 Commercial @ Silva Valley Pkwy/US50

The proposed mixed-use Commercial/Hotel-Hospitality/residential Town & Country Village El Dorado at the southeast corner of Country Club Drive and Bass Lake Road is expected to file a formal project application in 2022. The project seeks to construct a hotel, mixed use, and upwards of 1000 residential dwelling units.



Conceptual Town & Country Village El Dorado

The El Dorado Hills Community Services District (EDH CSD) continues to move forward with the environmental documents for its proposed 200-plus acre regional park at Bass Lake, with over 700 parking spaces, trails, wildlife/outdoor education, an all abilities playground, and multiple playing fields.



Proposed Bass Lake Regional Park

The EDH CSD also has been considering alternate uses for the old El Dorado Hills Executive Golf Course property, if they were to be able to obtain the property through purchase from Serrano Associates. Several conceptual short golf course designs were recently shared with the public.



One of 4 conceptual EDH CSD 9-hole Golf Course designs

EDH CSD is also working towards a 50-plus acre facility at the south end of the El Dorado Hills Business Park along the west side Latrobe Road, with possible tournament playing fields, aquatic center, community center, senior and youth facilities.

The EDH CSD Board of Directors also recently approved a \$173,000 consultant contract to explore a possible bond ballot measure. Additionally, the EDH CSD recently released the results of the Preliminary Comprehensive Fiscal Analysis (PCFA) for the possible incorporation (cityhood) of El Dorado Hills.

In 2021, the EDH CSD in conjunction with the Rolling Hills Community Services District also began an initial discussion of a conceptual merger or annexation between the two agencies.

The El Dorado Hills Fire Department Board of Directors (\*technically the long ago oddly named El Dorado Hills County Water District) has proposed the annexation of the Rescue Fire Department. The two fire departments have had a shared services agreement in place since 2013. EDH Fire Chief Johnson also serves as Rescue's fire chief. The two departments train together and share resources.

The EDH Fire Department is also still working on a proposed Firefighter Training facility next to the Station 87 property in the El Dorado Hills Business Park.

Development of the Bass Lake area will continue for decades. After a lull in the 2007 - 2015 period, home building resumed at a rapid rate. The completion of the Sienna Ridge Shopping Center has provided significant benefits to the community, however road and circulation impacts will continue to grow as commercial traffic patterns evolve.

These listed future projects have the potential to impact the Bass Lake Area. Diligent review and feedback by members of the Bass Lake Community can provide good feedback to developers, County planners and staff, and local agencies. ~

## President's Letter - (con't)

**Future New Hospitals Coming to Folsom**

Earlier this year in May, Dignity Health decided to move forward with plans to build a 100 to 300 bed facility in Folsom on a 27 acre property they had purchased in 2020 near Folsom Ranch. The 530,000 square foot hospital, a fully fledged Medical Center, is to be called Folsom Ranch Medical Center and would reportedly include two 65,000 square foot medical office buildings with outpatient clinics, an Ambulatory Surgery Center, Imaging Center and a freestanding emergency department.

Reportedly the six story building would initially have 100 beds increasing to 300 over 20 years with construction beginning within the next five years pending approvals from state regulators. Construction is expected to begin on a 65,000 square foot medical office building next year.

At that time, UC Davis health, also, had purchased two properties in Folsom and planned to build medical offices and different surgery centers.



image credit: Dignity Health

The Dignity Health Center alone will bring in two thousand new jobs to the Folsom area and the two organizations have a long history of working together providing health care medical services to the communities where they reside.

In October, UC Davis Health announced plans to build a large-scale medical facility and high tech housing in Folsom. They purchased 34.5 acres at the intersection of East Bidwell Street

and Highway 50 in Folsom Ranch and the initial plans call for an outpatient medical office building and, in the future, a micro hospital, an Ambulatory Surgery Center and a hotel. The city of Folsom is growing at a rate of 2.97% annually and this year reached its highest population of 86,300, according to the latest census data, with an increase in people over the age of 65. El Dorado County, which is adjacent to the Folsom Ranch development, had the largest increase of adults over 65 plus at 58%.

Partnering with Angelo K. Tsakopoulos and AKT Development Corporation, they plan to develop a first in the world "Community for Health and Independence" in the region. "It will allow older people and persons with disabilities to live independently in technology-enabled homes designed with health care in mind."

"With the expected population growth of older adults in the Folsom area and our goal of ensuring that we can meet patients wherever they are, we are confident the combination of our new campus and this new development will keep people healthier, in their own community, for much longer," said

homes listed and sold by the end of 2021 plus 550 vacant land parcels (that will have closed escrow), 24 residential income properties, 19 commercial buildings and three business opportunities, two of which were wineries. The average amount of time a house has been listed before an offer is accepted has been 8 days and the sale usually closed within another 38 days.

**December 12, 2021 Atmospheric River Puts Dent in Drought**

With the recent December 12th atmospheric river in Northern California, we have begun to put a small dent in the states water deficit which brought the snowpack from 19% to 83% of average. Bringing drenching rains to both the North and South with snow in the Sierra Nevada, locations around the state reported very impressive storm totals from 11 inches of rain to Mount Tamalpais in Marin County to 60 inches of snow at the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab and Soda Springs and 8.18 inches at San Marcos Pass in Santa Barbara County.

Geneve Jones, Drought Manager for the California Department of Water Resources commented "that this storm had a bigger spatial footprint than the October one". "And it was a cold storm that brought snow and it pushed into Southern California, which had been neglected stepchild, so it's good for them even if it caused some messy street flooding."

This was the first cold winter storm that really started the snowpack and up to 2 inches of rain or liquid equivalent of snow fill in some areas along the central coast and Sierra where the storm was the strongest and stayed a little longer. This was a good boost to the water outlook including 10% of the annual average total for the Northern Sierras.

San Diego County received approximately 10% of its annual average precipitation in one day which was one of the top 1% wettest of the wettest days on record while bringing the season total to about normal for this time of year.

References: <http://basslakeaction.net/dec21weather>

We wish you all the very merriest of Christmases and the happiest New Year!

Warmly,

Kathy Prevost  
President

Thomas S. Nesbitt, professor emeritus and co-champion of the [Healthy Aging in a Digital World](#) initiative.

References: UC Davis Media <https://goldcountrymedia.com/news/175288/dignity-health-unveils-plans-for-new-28-acre-folsom-facility/>

**El Dorado County Real Estate**

El Dorado County will have had 3200

# EDH FIRE DEPARTMENT SANTA RUN WELL ATTENDED IN THE BASS LAKE AREA

By John Davey

The 58th annual El Dorado Hills Fire Department Santa Run came through the Bass Lake Communities in early December, and the community turn out at the Santa Stops was very large. It was evident from the reactions from residents, and the EDH Fire Dept Elves that everyone was happy to enjoy coming together as a community again, after more than a year of Pandemic challenges.

The EDH Fire Department shared in a Facebook post:

### "2021 Santa Run Wrap-up!

*This year the communities of El Dorado Hills, Latrobe, and Rescue donated over 3,500 toys and 3,000 pounds of canned food. All of the toys were delivered to Shriners Hospitals for Children and the food items were donated to the El Dorado County Food Bank.*

*Thank you and Merry Christmas!" ~*



EDH Fire Dept Santa Run, Laurel Oaks Park - image credit EDH Fire Facebook Page



EDH Fire Dept Santa Run, Oak Knoll Park - image credit John Davey



EDH Fire Dept Santa Run, Bridlewood Canyon - image credit EDH Fire Facebook Page



EDH Fire Dept Santa Run, Oak Knoll Park - image credit EDH Fire Facebook Page

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## BASS LAKE ACTION COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES FEBRUARY 14, 2022 QUARTERLY BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Bass Lake Action Committee Board of Directors has scheduled the first quarterly Board of Directors meeting of 2022 to be held virtually on Monday February 14, 2022.

All Bass Lake Action Committee Members are invited to attend, and members will receive an email invitation that will include the Zoom Link and instructions for attending the meeting.

If the California State restrictions on public gatherings have been reduced by the time of the February Meeting, the B.L.A.C. Board may be able to conduct a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting. Details will be provided to members via email prior to the meeting.

For further information about BLAC meetings and membership, please contact Vice-President John Davey at 530-676-2657, or email [basslakemembers@gmail.com](mailto:basslakemembers@gmail.com). Residents can also visit our online membership form at <http://basslakeaction.net/members> ~

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Editor Emeritus John Thomson Ph.D.

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