

Scotch Plains NJ

WHAT'S HAPPENING MONTHLY

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Issue 16 • January 2017

NETWORKING EVENT

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STUDENTS RAISE FUNDS FOR CHARITY DURING HANUKKAH

Sixth and seventh graders at Congregation Beth Israel's Religious School in Scotch Plains created and staffed "Mitzvah Booths" to raise money for several charities at the synagogue's annual Hanukkah party held on Sunday, December 18. The students collected more than \$750 by running games and craft activities in support of their chosen charities, which included: the Linden and South Jersey Animal Shelters; Jewish National Fund (JNF), No Kid Hungry; World Literacy Foundation; Camp Lee Mar, a camp for children with special needs; cancer-fighting organizations; a fund for homeless female veterans; an anti-bullying campaign; and even a fund to save narwhals. Seventh graders made chocolate lollipops and sold "Oil-O-Grams", with proceeds going to aid families with oil heating bills this winter.

"Our goal was to teach children to look beyond the holiday presents and to focus instead on giving of themselves through their time and effort," said Gail Beckman Buchbinder, Education Director of Congregation Beth Israel.

Because the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah is also known as "The Festival of Lights", party attendees were given multiple opportunities to brighten someone else's life. Not only could they contribute to the Mitzvah Booths, but they also could create gifts for the elderly and make coupon books for loved ones.

Co-sponsored by Congregation Beth Israel's Religious School and Men's Club, the Hanukkah party also featured food, games, crafts and entertainment for the whole family.



(above l-r) Gabby Smulewitz, Rebecca Kessler and Alyssa Rubenstein at their Mitzvah Booth in support of Camp Lee Mar, a camp for children with disabilities.

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(above l-r) Emma Margolis and Samantha Klausner at their Mitzvah Booth in support of the South Jersey Regional Animal Shelter.



(above l-r) Benny Abrams and Adam Schneider at their anti-bullying Mitzvah Booth.

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COLLEGE CLUB HOSTS MARK DI IONNO, STAR-LEDGER COLUMNIST

On Monday January 23, 2017, the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains welcomes lifetime newspaperman and a 2013 Pulitzer Prize finalist in news commentary, Mark Di Ionno to share stories about his journalism career as a columnist or editor on topics such as Hurricane Sandy, and as an author of award-winning nonfiction books about New Jersey with a specific focus on the Revolutionary war in the Watchungs and his book A Guide to New Jersey's Revolutionary War Trail which received the New Jersey Academic Alliance Award.

Mr. Di Ionno is a four-time winner of the New Jersey Press Association's first-place award for column writing. His columns appear regularly in The Star-Ledger, and its online partner, nj.com, with an estimated readership of over 1 million people.

Mr. Di Ionno began his career in sports and was a columnist at The New York Post, where he broke many stories, including parts of baseball's

case against Pete Rose and the undoing of Mike Tyson.

Prior to becoming a columnist at the Star-Ledger, he was of the principal editors involved in the paper's 2005 Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of Gov. Jim McGreevey's abrupt resignation and the 2001 Pulitzer-finalist coverage of the Seton Hall fire.

Mr. Di Ionno is the author of three award-winning nonfiction books that include New Jersey's Coastal Heritage, and A Guide to New Jersey's Revolutionary War Trail, which were put on NJ 350's "101 Greatest New Jersey Books." His publication is The Last Newspaperman, which was also a finalist in USA Books and ForeWord Reviews "Best of 2012" contests.

Please join us to hear about the interesting career in journalism of Mark Di Ionno. The program is free and open to the public and will be held at The Chelsea located at 295 South Ave, Fanwood, NJ, starting at 7 p.m.

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SPF STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION MAKES DONATION TO BREAST CANCER CENTER

The Student Government Association at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School donated \$750 to the Breast Center at Overlook Hospital. Funds were raised by selling pink homecoming tee shirts in honor of breast cancer awareness month.

The tee shirts were worn by students at the Homecoming football game and they were so popular, they sold out! The entire Student Government Association presented the \$750 to representative at Overlook Hospital on Friday, December 2nd.

11 CRITICAL HOME INSPECTION TRAPS TO BE AWARE OF WEEKS BEFORE LISTING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

Scotch Plains NJ - According to industry experts, there are over 33 physical problems that will come under scrutiny during a home inspection when your home is for sale. A new report has been prepared which identifies the eleven most common of these problems, and what you should know about them before you list your home for sale.

Whether you own an old home or a brand new one, there are a number of things that can fall short of requirements during a home inspection. If not identified and dealt with, any of these 11 items could cost you dearly in terms of repair. That's why it's critical that you read this report before you list your home. If you wait until the building inspector flags these issues for you, you will almost certainly experience costly delays in the close of your home sale or, worse, turn prospective buyers away altogether. In most cases, you can make a reasonable pre-inspection yourself if you know what you're looking for, and knowing what you're looking for can help you prevent little problems from growing into costly and unmanageable ones.

To help homesellers deal with this issue before their homes are listed, a free report entitled "11 Things You Need to Know to Pass Your Home Inspection" has been compiled which explains the issues involved.

To order a FREE Special Report, visit www.njhomeinspectiontraps.com or to hear a brief recorded message about how to order your FREE copy of this report call toll-free 1-888-243-5861 and enter 3006. You can call any time, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Get your free special report NOW to learn how to ensure a home inspection doesn't cost you the sale of your home.

This report is courtesy of All Towne Realty Realtor. Not intended to solicit buyers or sellers currently under contract. Copyright © 2014



(above l-r) Front row: Lukas Stein, Katherine Keiser, Max Lusk; Back row: Benjamin Schneider, M.D. and Anne Davidson, Medical Director and Coordinantor of the Breast Center, respectively; Alexa Hudak, Taylor Zucosky, Gia Pares, Grace Murphy, Gabriella Marino, Sam Lusk, Henry Lewand

Pediatric House Calls

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(above) Daisy Troop # 40827 from Scotch Plains-Fanwood visited Clark Nursing & Rehabilitation Center On Friday, December 9th to bring holiday cheer to the residents. The troop sang Christmas carols and offered an ornament craft to the residents delight!

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WORLD LANGUAGE HONOR SOCIETIES INDUCTION CEREMONY SCOTCH PLAINS-FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

A total of 69 students were inducted into their respective world language honor societies during a ceremony held in November replete with pomp and circumstance and which celebrated the first group of students to be inducted into the newly instituted Chinese Honor Society. Flag-bearing officers led their inductees into the auditorium as cultural music played. Senior Emily Levitt, who served as Master of Ceremonies, introduced the various guest speakers of the evening.

Christian Buren, representing the Chinese language, talked about learning Chinese, and in particular, about “the concept of zhun zhong, or respect - Respect for ourselves, for each other, our elders, for opinions and ideas, and especially respect for our studies.” Rose Giandana related her experiences traveling to France through our French exchange program, commenting on the confidence she gained by communicating in French beyond the classroom and by having the opportunity to question and rethink some of her beliefs, perspectives and ideas. Olivia Barcia, who represented the Italian language, spoke to how, as a fourth generation Italian, learning the language has helped her connect more deeply with her family heritage. Max Mazursky, a senior in AP Spanish, spoke eloquently about the 10-day all expenses paid trip to Ecuador he won through the AATSP Bertie Green Junior Travel Award. Max noted that his most memorable experience came from the day his group visited an orphanage in Quito, where he realized that, “no matter how different our cultures may be, the orphans, and every other human in the world, just want a place to belong, with people who care about them.”

Officers from each honor society led their individual candle-lighting induction ceremonies, which were all conducted entirely in the target language. Senior Simon Oster, the final guest speaker, was not only inducted into the French Honor Society that evening, but also represented German as the last, lone member and President of the German Honor Society. In his speech,

Simon spoke of his love for learning languages, relating his unique and admirable path to proficiency in both German and French.

The evening concluded with a celebratory reception in the cafeteria.

Officers included Francesca Jones, Lorie Marie Rosado, Erin Sheehy and Justin Yang (Chinese), Alyssa Cordero and Ian MacPherson (French), Julia Guarneri, Caroline McNichol and Kelsey Werkheiser (Italian) and Kiara Cruz and Daniela Fonseca (Spanish). Chinese Honor Society Inductees were Sara Begalman, Christian Buren, Amy Chen, Kelly Hopkins, Francesca Jones, Lorie Marie Rosado, Erin Sheehy and Justin Yang. Inducted into the French Honor Society were Sara Banasiak, Rachel Breit, Maya Dunchus, Hannah Finan, Mackenzie Inacker, Katherine Keiser, Quinn Kekelis, Brianna Linder, Michael Lockfeld, Caraid McGovern, Briana McGowan, Sara Miller, Alexa-Jada Nelson,

Simon Oster, Nikita Paranjape, Gabriella Scannell, Megan Small, Sydney Smith, Gabriel StaRosa, Connor Wirth and Karl Wirth. Italian Honor Society Inductees included Olivia Barcia, Brandon Boyarsky, Francesca Carlino, Josephine Catuogno, Maria DelSordi, Riya Desai, Angela DiGiacomo, Alanna Gaona, Nina Halberstadter, Adam Mayerson and Ryan Midwinter. Inducted into the Spanish Honor Society were Jason Acevedo, Madeline Bord, Caitlin Bourke, Jack Cannon, Natalie Choque, Daniella Cohen, Phoebe Collins, Hannah Davis, Francesca DiFabio, Anna Dunchus, Caroline English, Patrick Gannon, Madison Goldberg, Caroline Gutierrez, Jacqueline Harvey, Isabella Hurtado, Kathryn Kalaigian, Nicholas Lavin, Rachel Maizes, Jared Mann, Paige McMorro, Kerri McNeely, Gia Pares, Molly Pritchett, Nathaniel Redmount, Veronica Sendao, Lauren Trentacoste, Isaac Velasquez and Ethan Wollman.



(above) Chinese Inductees

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EDUCATORS PRESENT “FINDING THE ARTIST WITHIN, THE STUDENT WITHIN”

Recently Scotch Plains-Fanwood teachers and administrators unveiled their opening art exhibit of watercolor paintings showcasing their work and highlighting a new dimension of district Professional Development: “Finding The Artist Within, The Student Within.”

Ms. Barbara Prestridge, Park Middle School Art teacher, designed the workshop and this was their culminating event. This art exhibit provided an opportunity for the school community, along with the Board members, to view the work and discuss this unique form of professional development. Those who participated reflected on the experience of being a global student through the dynamics of combining artistic creation and personal expression. This initiative produced multiple benefits. Educators were provided with a hands-on arts experience in order to increase their understanding of the value of the arts in the curriculum, as well as to focus on ways of fostering creativity in themselves and in their students. Further, by understanding the complexities of creating art as a novice learner, this group of educators had a unique opportunity to reflect on ways this experience would help them in their own teaching.

One participant stated that this workshop was such a powerful experience that all district educators should participate in it because it involves entering the students’ perspective, appreciating the value of struggling, learning from one’s mistakes, and recognizing the importance of thoughtful and timely teacher support. Dr. Joan Mast, Assistant Superintendent who participated in the workshop, saw the tremendous value of providing an opportunity for teachers to experience first-hand what it’s like being a novice learner on the path towards expertise. The district plans to continue this initiative as part of an after school series of workshops open to teachers.



(above) French Inductees



(above) Italian Inductees



(above) Spanish Inductees

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Hundreds of local residents turned out for the annual holiday celebration on the Alan Augustine Village Green on Sunday, December 4. The

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The graduates of a recent suicide intervention training class held by caring and crisis hotline Caring Contact of Westfield proudly hold their certificates.

The Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) class was held Dec. 3 and Dec. 4 at the RWJ Rahway Fitness and Wellness

Center in Scotch Plains.

ASIST is an internationally acclaimed interactive training program in suicide first-aid that provides participants with the tools to intervene in the case of a suicide and create positive outcomes when dealing with someone who is feeling suicidal. The participants brought

a variety of backgrounds, including social workers, teacher, realtor, retired therapist and college students and came from throughout Union County and as far away as Flemington and Jersey City.

For information about attending future ASIST training contact janet.sarkos@caringcontact.org.



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SIX SCOTCH PLAINS- FANWOOD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

Submitted by Michael Loberfeld, member of SPFHS Alumni Association

On November 15, 2016, the public was deeply inspired by the stories of six Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School alumni who were inducted into the school's Hall of Fame.

Moria Cappio, class of 1998, is VP for Early Childhood Programs at the Children's Aid Society in New York City, a nonprofit whose mission is to support children who are living in poverty go from cradle to college. She has also been involved with Sister Pat's Camp for cancer for over twenty years.

Growing up, Cappio was very fond of the Adopt-a-Cop that visited her elementary school as part of the DARE program in the eighties. When she was Head Start director in East Harlem, in a neighborhood consisting of predominantly newly immigrated Mexican families, Cappio arranged for a police officer in uniform to read to young children with family members present. The parents and children were visibly uneasy the first time because they were not used to this, explained Cappio. But Cappio was able to turn it around. "That year as a community we did some incredible work around building positive relationships between the police and the immigrant community. We facilitated open dialogue, joint activities, we ate together, played together, all in the spirit of breaking down barriers to learn more about the other....I'm particularly proud of this example, because I think that it's a good reminder of how important

it is to have respectful conversations with people that are different, in order to gain understanding and to move forward", Cappio articulates.

Because Cappio grew up in Scotch Plains, she feels it was always assumed that she would go to college. But for some of the kids that Cappio currently works with in the South Bronx, in the poorest Congressional district in the country, going to college is far from an absolute, Cappio points out. As part of Cappio's "life of service", she is committed "to work towards supporting others so that they might have access to all the incredible opportunities like the ones I had". She works to empower children as well as their families.

"Very young my parents instilled in me and my two sisters the belief that we could do anything, and that they would always be there to support us and to love us" reflects Cappio. "When it came to going to college, my parents told us that as long as we took care of getting into the school, they would take care of the rest. At the time, I think the real power of that message was probably lost on me. But now looking back. I am in awe of my parents, for how they always prioritized our family, how they always helped us overcome any obstacle, and how they've always been beside us as we go after our dreams".

Cynthia Sayer '74, an international jazz banjoist who has performed at the White House and is a member of the National Four String Banjo Hall of Fame, was led into her career by chance. "When I saw the [SPFHS] Moonglowers, and I saw the drums swinging in the Jazz Band, I wanted a drum set. And that was a really big deal to me. I had a fight with my parents for two weeks, and they said 'no' 'too loud' 'too much racket', and I was very headstrong about it, and one day I came home from school and there was this banjo on my bed. I knew immediately it was a bribe, I knew immediately I would never get my drums, and I thought, 'Okay, I'll play this thing, you know, whatever', and you know the strangest accidents lead to your life: The person you end up spending your life with, the things you end up doing for your life....I stumbled across this. It was really by accident", Sayer marvels.

Michael Antal's ('65) widow, Ann, wrote in a letter from Hawaii, about an early experience that showed Antal's heart.. "Science was always Michael's passion", wrote Ann Antal. He told me that when he was in kindergarten the teacher had the boys and girls line up in separate lines to visit the lavatory. Michael was so excited and happy, but he had misunderstood. He thought the children were going to visit the laboratory. So you see, science was always in his blood".

"The patent for which he was most proud of was for the flash carbonization process which produced high yields of charcoal.....Michael proved that charcoal can play a role in arresting global warming [by sequestering carbon dioxide and reducing the carbon dioxide level in the atmosphere]. Charcoal is the renewable equivalent of coal, but unlike coal, charcoal has

no mercury or sulfur so it is environmentally friendly", wrote Antal.

Concluded Ann Antal, "Michael....was indeed a very fine human being with a cute sense of humor. He had a deep love for life, a sweet humbleness, and an intense love for humanity".

Marc Shaiman '74 was in London and unable to attend the ceremony, but delivered a taped video message to those in attendance. Community member, Skip Ungar's late wife, Manya, first met Shaiman when Shaiman auditioned for a theater program at the age of ten. "He told her he wanted to play the piano for the musical. He then demonstrated his ability by putting his back to the piano and playing it", remarked Skip Ungar. "He got the job". Later on as a teenager, "Marc went to New York and while trying to get a job playing piano in a bar, he met some girls....They were working with a woman by the name of Bette Midler on Saturday Night Live TV show. Midler got him the job as a backup pianist on the show. When the regular pianist left, he got that job. When Midler and Rob Reiner decided to go to Los Angeles, they took Marc with them, and that is how he became involved with movies", stated Ungar.

John Bernard Riley '71 is an accomplished Grammy-winning jazz drummer, who has played drums since he was in fourth grade at Coles Elementary School. Riley in the last six months has had the honor and privilege of playing in eight countries throughout the world in addition to the United States, "playing concerts and discussing music with professionals and students in all of these environments". Riley remarked that his music teachers in the district "gave me the foundation that allowed these things to happen".

The late Dr. Christian Lambersten, class of '34, who invented SCUBA (Self-contained underwater breathing apparatus), was noted by his colleagues as having a very hands-on approach in training American commandos in how to use his invention during World War II. "He really did not have to go on these missions, but he did so", pointed out Marie DiFrancesco Leppert, who had nominated Lambertsen. Early on, the Navy had shown little interest in Lambertsen's invention. But Lambertsen did not give up, pitching his idea to the Office of Strategic Studies, which liked the idea and partnered with Lambertsen.

Cappio, in reflecting upon the inductees' stories, articulated "I think tonight highlights that you never know where your influence is going to go...The impact of Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School has had a ripple effect that is constantly expanding".

Dr. David Heisey, principal of SPFHS, praised the inductees, explaining, "We see you as a role model for our current and future students".

To find information on all thirty members of the Hall of Fame, and to nominate an alumni you feel deserves to be in the Hall, please visit the Scotch Plains- Fanwood High School Alumni Association's website at www.spfk12.org/alumni

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BRINGING CHEER TO VETERANS

The Rake and Hoe Garden Club of Westfield in the spirit of giving and fulfilling their mission of service to the community donated 146 gift bags for the veterans of Lyons Hospital. This is the largest number of bags ever collected. Previously, the most successful collection was 120 bags. The beautiful bags were filled with toiletries, socks, games and other necessary items to bring joy to the veterans during this holiday season.

Also, Rake and Hoe members wrote 450 cards to the veterans at Lyons thanking them for their service. This will be done again in the Spring.

Since 1952, the Rake and Hoe Club has joyfully fulfilled their mission to provide decorating services to the Lyons Veterans Medical Center, Lyons, NJ. Four times a year the members provide floral arrangements for dining tables and individual bedside arrangements for the veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs New Jersey Health Care System is comprised of two main campuses, which provide health care to veterans. Services include long-term care,

psychiatric care and a full range of medical and surgical care. Special programs include cancer screening, diabetes education, healthy aging, home based care, post-traumatic stress disorder, war related illnesses and women's health services. Lyons is affiliated with the University of Medicine and Dentistry and the Trenton State Psychiatric Hospital. On a regular basis Lyons Hospital serves approximately 390 veterans.

Federated with the National Council of State Garden Clubs, and the Garden Club of New Jersey, Rake and Hoe Garden Club has between 50 and 80 members all of whom share in common: a love of flowers, gardening and community service.

Rake and Hoe meets in the Scotch Hills Country Club, at 720 Jerusalem Road in Scotch Plains every second Wednesday of the month at 12:30 pm.

Please join us if you enjoy nature, plants and design! To learn more about joining Rake and Hoe Garden Club, please contact Pat Wilson, 908-389-9342 or visit their website at <http://www.rakeandhoe.org>.

GREATER WESTFIELD AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NETWORKING EVENTS

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Tuesday, January 10 | 7:30 - 9:00 am
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To register for events, or for more information about the Chamber call 908-233-3021.

MINI BOOK SALE SET FOR JANUARY 14TH

The Friends of the Scotch Plains Public Library next month will hold a mini book sale focused exclusively on DVDs, CDs, and children's books. The mini-sale will be held Jan. 14 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Library at 1927 Bartle Ave. in Scotch Plains.

Donations for those items only will be collected between Jan. 3-10 during normal library operating hours. The Friends request donations do not include older and time-sensitive materials such as videotapes, records, magazines and textbooks. The mini-sale will held this year in lieu of the Friends' normal Giant Book Sale.

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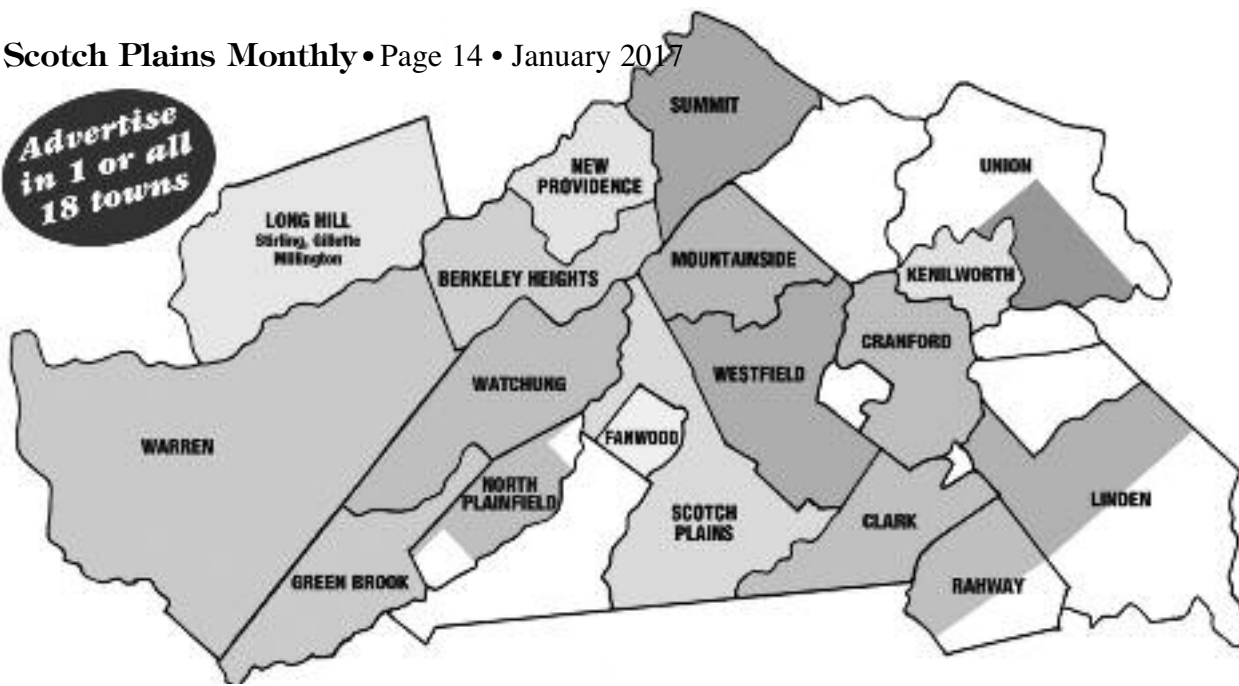
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