

November 2020

CALVARY CROSSROADS



Calvary Episcopal Church

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Sundays, 10:30 am and Thursdays, 11:30 am

November Message

The Rev. Dr. Austin L. Leininger



Happy Halloween and All Saints Day, and happy November, Calvary Family!

As I write to you all on Thursday the 29th, we're just on the cusp of our fall and winter holiday seasons. My family has our Halloween costumes, pumpkins, and ofrenda decorations ready for Saturday's celebration of All Hallows Eve and the start that night of Dia de los Muertos, and Calvary has its rolls of the departed, communion kits, and festive music ready for Sunday's remembrances and All Saints Day. As a diocese, we've been working and planning for convention, which will take place on the 7th, and as a nation we've been preparing for next week's elections. In my family, we've also already been planning for Thanksgiving and the attending 14 days of quarantine so that we can have a guest join us, and with our careful planning, we've also been thinking ahead to Christmas. As much magic as these seasons may hold, they sure take a lot of work for that magic to happen!

The true magic that holds these seasons together, of course, is the relationships that make them worth going through the work of magic-making. So much of what we do during this time of year is inspired by the people closest to our hearts whom we want to make feel

Stewardship Update

Living God's Truth: Enough for All

At the end of the second week of our pledge campaign, we have received 27 pledges totaling \$101,500.00. Thanks to all those who have turned in their pledge! Each household is encouraged to make a financial pledge to Calvary for 2021 by Sunday, November 15. Received pledges will be blessed on that Sunday. Check out the Treasurer's Report in this issue to see the importance of your pledge.

You are enough. God is enough. There is, and will be, enough.

Musical Soulmates

Celebrating Collaboration

presents



Shannon D'Antonio | violin Kate Alm | piano

Benefitting



Saturday | November 7, 2020 | 5:00 pm

Celebrating the Americas and Their Influence

featuring **Shannon D'Antonio, Violin**
with **Kate Alm, Piano** and friends

TICKETS | \$30 plus fee; Donations also accepted
Calvary Episcopal Church
LIVESTREAM

Hosted by



EVENTBRITE:
Search "Musical Soulmates"

More Info | 831.227-7535

Presented by



special, appreciated, taken care of, remembered, and loved.

At the heart of each of our community offerings at Calvary lies the same ethos. With each attempt to offer something new, we reach out to our parish family to say, you are loved and appreciated! Join us in fellowship! As much as we did a great job of that in "the time before," I feel like the effort to ensure that relationships continue to be enriched and deepened during this Covid-era of digital fellowship might be a lesson to us. Much though we miss each other's embraces and three-dimensional faces in worship, outreach, and fellowship, this time has also reminded us of how important each and every member of our community is to us. With phone calls, bible study, adult ed series, Zoom and Live-streamed worship, a multitude of weekly Zoom meetings and other Zoom opportunities for fellowship, premarital counseling for two parish family couples, social-distance visits to each other's balconies and sidewalks, Sunday School, youth group, video lectors, incredible music offerings pieced together from individual homes, and a host of other ways, we seek to remind each other each week of just how much we each mean to each other. The learning curve of these past eight months has been steep, to say the least, but it has taught us more than just the necessary skills to take Calvary digital. It has taught us that distance should no longer be a factor in our ability to participate in community and fellowship together. It has taught us that our members who have been unable to attend because of distance or impairment are not only still a part of our community, but that with a little digital ingenuity, we can celebrate our joy and love for each other on a regular basis.

I've heard it said from several different sources over the past month or two that we ought carefully to consider if we want to "go back" to the way things were when the way things were was less equal, less aware, less compassionate, and less concerned for community and relationship in "the time before." Moving ahead into "the time yet to come," let us take with us the lessons we're learning in the "now," that we may find ourselves better able and equipped for what comes next. May the magic of these coming fall and winter seasons, the magic of our relationships of joy, love, caring, and deep connection inspire us to continue finding new and innovative ways to connect and make the magic happen. And as we remember all those who have come before us this Sunday, may we continue to be inspired by the love and care they've taught us and left with us as we draw from the best of our past to bring with us into the days ahead.

God bless you, my dear ones!



-Austin
Blessings,

From the Music Director

We have started a new program year like none other. Choir rehearsals occur over Zoom and our choral sound is created, not by singing together in intimate community, but by singing all by ourselves into our cell phones while listening to a pre-recorded accompaniment through our headphones. All our individual tracks are mixed together electronically and, behold, we have a virtual choir. This is not very fulfilling work for the singers and a lot of extra work for our music staff and our volunteer video editor, Alex Johnson. One nice thing (perhaps the only nice thing) about the virtual choir is that singers do not need to live in the same place. At the moment Calvary Choir members are in Santa Cruz, Los Angeles, Davis, Sacramento, Milwaukee, Portland and, next month, Barbados then New York.

We are pleased to have a full complement of able choral scholars. This year, the COVID-caused chaos in educational institutions, particularly in the area of performing arts, has kept us from having four current students in these positions. Two are UCSC students; the other two are recent UCSC graduates who are just starting out in their careers.



Kylie Smith (soprano) is a fifth year Vocal Performance and Environmental Studies major at the University of California, Santa Cruz. This is her second year singing with Calvary, and she has enjoyed every second of learning whilst being a part of this community. Calvary has taught her professionalism, improved her sight-singing abilities, and has also been an incredible resource for discovering church music. Kylie intends to take these priceless assets with her into her professional life. She would like to thank all of you for your warm welcome into the choir.



Magdalena Travis (alto)

"Pleased to meet you! My name is Magdalena Travis and I am so excited to be your Alto Choral Scholar starting this year. I am grateful for this opportunity to apply the things I learned at UC Santa Cruz to a real choir. Even though I have only been here a short time, I feel very honored to be working with Murray and Kylan, and cannot wait to learn more from them and from the returning choir members." Magdalena graduated from UCSC in 2019 and is beginning a career in Special Education.



"Hello, I'm **Zade Dardari (bass)**! I'm a composer, singer, and arranger who studied at UCSC. I joined the Calvary Choral Scholar Program in December 2018 and was recruited as an understudy. For the next two years, I rehearsed, performed, and composed for Calvary Episcopal Church and learned a lot about what it takes to be a professional chorister. Much of the work I have done here has helped with professionalism in a musical workplace and given me the opportunity to workshop different compositions with a real choir. I'm very fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Murray, Kylan, and everyone involved in the choir and I hope you enjoy our program this year. " Zade graduated from UCSC in 2020 and is considering the next step in his career



David Kronenberg (tenor) is currently a fifth year student at the University of California, Santa Cruz, and is pursuing a Bachelors of Music in Vocal Performance. As an advocate for classical music, he just recently completed the CoOPERative summer intensive program, and was most recently seen in UCSC's production of Cendrillon as Prince Charming. Because he is pursuing a degree in vocal performance, David wishes to diversify his repertoire, both with solo works and ensemble works. Performing with Calvary Choir is introducing him to new music and performance techniques he has not experienced before. He is also truly grateful to be a part of the choir now more than ever, as the school choir he usually is a part of will not be meeting this year. He is very happy and appreciative to create music for the congregation.

Family & Youth Report

By Teacher Sonja Reetz

As was predicted, our St. Francis Sunday coffee hour blessing of animals was a great success. Austin blessed many animals, both local and afar, as well as some favorite crickets and spiders of various members' back yards. He also blessed some favorite home nurtured plant life. On a Sunday following this event it was again suggested in Sunday School that "Be Kind to Plants and Animals" be added to the Ten Commandments, or The Ten Best Ways as we say in Godlyplay. This month, in preparation for All Saints Sunday, we talked about the importance of remembering and celebrating our lost ones. We colored and cut paper (papel picado) that can be used in decorating a home "ofrenda" in their honor. This project generated much sharing about family traditions from fun and games to costume making and movies. Kylan fulfilled the theme for us by playing "When the Saints Come Marching In" on his accordion.

COPA Report

By Sonja and Al Reetz

A special thanks to the many Calvary COPA Core Team members who attended the County supervisor accountability forum on Oct 4. It was a most successful zoom session with over 210 participants. Each candidate promised to continue work with COPA in support of major human care issues such as housing and health.

Moving forward our fellow COPA leader from Holy Cross, Barbara Meister, is organizing COPA's ongoing work with local governing officials and with members of CAB (Community Action Board) to assess the success of the local renter/small property owner CARE's ACT funding processes. Meanwhile, we will be encouraging our county supervisors to search for additional funds to apply to this need. We will also be researching other programs such as the Small Property Owner program, in San Mateo. This important COPA work is financially supported by the 30 some institutions. We encourage our members to include COPA in their generous year end contributions. We suggest that you write a check to Calvary and designate it for COPA. For more information, contact Sonja & Al Reetz, email alsonjareetz@gmail.com or phone 831-227-6800.

Announcements

Outreach Sunday, November 22 – Each month we focus on a Calvary outreach ministry and collect a special offering. Beginning November 22 and through December 20 we support **Calvary's Choral Scholars Program**. The program reflects an ancient part of the English Church music tradition wherein qualified students at church-sponsored universities and colleges such as Oxford and Cambridge sing in the chapel choirs in exchange for tuition remission. Many cathedrals and other major churches in university towns augment their choirs with university students who receive a stipend for their services. Since 1996, Calvary Church has engaged a quartet of post-secondary students to sing with the Adult Choir. It is truly a win-win situation: The Choir always has a quartet of trained, capable vocal musicians to support its volunteer members who often have to juggle their choir commitments with other responsibilities. The choral scholars also enable the choir to learn more challenging music faster and perform it better. For their part, the choral scholars, mostly starving students, can earn money to live on and develop valuable work skills in the music field. Over the years, many of our choral scholars have moved on into professional music careers. The Choral Scholars Program provides Calvary the opportunity to reach out to the local college community and offers students a chance to be part of a lively faith community. We are grateful for your support of this program. Checks may be made payable to Calvary Episcopal Church with a note designated for the Choral Scholars Program or donate online at <https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/donate/>

Thursday Interactive Worship. Thursdays at 11:30, Father Austin and others gather on Zoom for Morning Prayer with conversation around the assigned readings and the saint of the day. Join us for some mid-week worship, conversation, and fellowship! Please email Father Austin directly (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

Bible Study Tuesdays at 11 am. Please email Father Austin directly (rector@calvarysantacruz.org) to ask to be included in the Zoom email list and to provide an email address for the invitation!

Calvary Film Club – will meet via Zoom on **Saturday, November 14 at 4:00 p.m.** to discuss the film **Ida**, the winner of the Academy Award for Best Foreign Film in 2015. Set in Poland in 1962, it follows a young woman orphaned as an infant during WWII. She meets her only surviving relative, her aunt, when she is on the verge of taking her vows as a Catholic nun. Her aunt tells her that her parents were Jewish and the two women embark on a road trip into the Polish countryside to learn the fate of their family. Called a "compact masterpiece" and an "eerily beautiful road movie", the film has also been said to "contain a cosmos of guilt, violence and pain". In 2016, the film was named the 55th best film of the 21st century. **Ida** is available to stream free on Kanopy via the Santa Cruz Public Library or to rent on Amazon for \$1.99. For more information and/or to get on the club email list for announcements and Zoom invitations, contact Martha Dexter at mmdexter@gmail.com

Calvary Book Club – will meet via Zoom on **Friday, November 20 at 4:00 p.m. (NOTE new time)** to discuss **Red at the Bone**, a novel by Jacqueline Woodson. "In less than 200 sparsely filled pages, this book manages to encompass issues of class, education, ambition, racial prejudice, sexual desire and orientation, identity, mother-daughter relationships, parenthood and loss...."- NPR. For more information and/or to get on the club email list for announcements and Zoom invitations, contact Martha Dexter at mmdexter@gmail.com.

SUPPORT: During this time of virtual-church, we have no way to pass the plate other than offering the option to donate online or mail in a check to Calvary. Please feel invited to make an offering by clicking the "Donate" button on our website, or by mailing a check to the Calvary office: 532 Center Street, S.C., CA 95060.

Spread the Word! As Calvary has moved online for the time being, we need help in spreading the word to all those who may be interested in attending—regardless of how far away they may be! We've had viewers from Spain, New York, Colorado, Utah, Montana, and Arizona—and those are just the viewers we know about. If you know of someone who isn't on our calvary email address who might appreciate knowing about our Sunday service and other online (Zoom) gathering .

Interested in serving in person at Calvary? Starting this Sunday we'll be inviting those of our lectors comfortable serving in person to do so! (Presence is not required—we'd still love for you to read whether present or not). If you have signed up to be a lector, or would like to sign up to do so, please let Nicole, Austin, and Blaine know so we can put a list together and get a schedule set! Duties will include being present by

9:45am to vest, reading the three lessons, Nicene Creed, and Prayers of the People at their appointed times in the service, and standing 6' away from Austin behind the altar during the Eucharist (on camera). If there are others who would like to serve in person but don't want to read, please let me know. We can try to pair folks with those who would like to read but can't serve in person. Sundays when we have video/audio lections and no volunteers to serve in person, I'll continue to invite Marie and Anthony to fill in :). There are no associated LEM duties as we aren't allowed to be close enough.

United Thank Offering News

Thank you to everyone who, through a personal spiritual discipline of gratitude, contributed to the United Thank Offering's 2020 Ingathering through August 2020. As a result of your gratitude and generosity, we raised \$450,000 in thank offerings in time for the first round of COVID-19 grants. The COVID-19 grants combine some historic traditions for UTO, namely sustaining previous grant winners to ensure that vital ministries continue in addition to funding innovative responses to the pandemic.

The UTO Board received almost \$785,000 in requests for this first round of 2020 grants. With your help and the encouragement that you give to others to join the United Thank Offering, we hope to raise additional funds in the remaining months of this year to support even more of our wonderful applicants during the second round of COVID-19 grants. Remember that every penny given to the United Thank Offering is given away to support innovative mission and ministry in The Episcopal Church. Since our official founding in 1889, UTO has awarded 5,357 grants for a total of \$140,625,355.77. The United Thank Offering Invites Every Episcopalian to:

1. Notice the Good Things That Happen Each Day.
2. Give Thanks to God for Your Blessings.
3. Make an Offering for Each Blessing.

This fall the Diocese of El Camino Real was awarded a UTO COVID-19 Grant. I went to Sustaining Stepping Stones (formerly Project Bridge) \$25,000 Stepping Stones, networking with the faith community as strategic support partners, provides strengths-based reentry case management for incarcerated men by establishing a connection within 24 hours of release; as part of a legal advocacy coalition, presses for jail and prison reform; hosting weekly worship that includes incarcerated members.

UTO November Gratitude Challenge

Each November, the United Thank Offering invites Episcopalians to spend thirty days intentionally practicing gratitude. This year we encourage you to spend each week of November focusing on areas in our lives that we often overlook or take for granted. Each week we will introduce a new theme, invite you to engage on social media, and offer an idea on how to give thanks for areas within the theme at home.

You can participate as much as you want during the week. Some will want to share a photo every day on Instagram, while others might not post beyond their personal Facebook page, and others still might not post at all. You may want to do some of the at-home activities as a small group (either virtually or in person as safety permits). Finally, we hope you jot down a few words of gratitude at the end of the week so that at the end of the month you can reflect on all of the blessings you wrote down.

Week One: November 1-7

This week we give thanks for all of the departed, saints in our time and saints who have gone before us. This week the church recognizes two feast days: All Saints and All Souls. For many, the focus falls heavily upon those the whole church remembers for their heroic deeds or strong faith. But we also remember all of those who have died in the faith, whose faith and life affected ours. We give thanks for all the saints of the church, known and unknown, who have strengthened the church and made the world a better place.

Online: This week we encourage you to post photos online of the saints in your life. Share with us a bit about these

people and why you are thankful for them.

At Home: One of the ways the saints in our lives stay with us is through the food-related memories they left behind. This week, we encourage you to make at least one recipe from someone you are giving thanks for this week. You can share the story and recipe with friends while inviting them to also share a recipe and story.

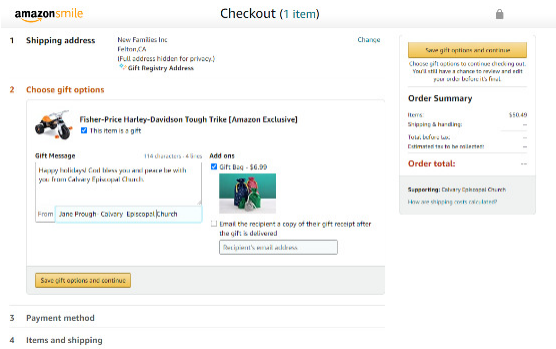
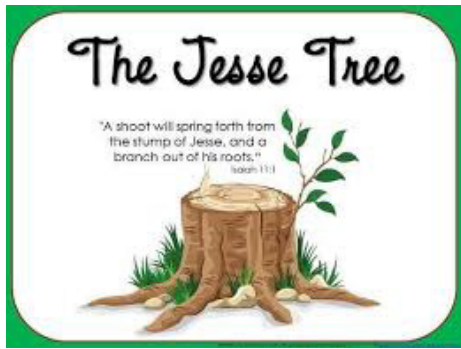
Give Thanks: As the week comes to a close, share a word or phrase to help you remember those things you gave thanks for this week.

To see November Gratitude Challenge / weeks 2-4 go to:

www.unitedthankoffering.novemberchallengebooklet.org

A Gift of Music. As Shelter-in Place and Online services continue, Calvary Choir is hoping that we can, in some small way, help to ease the stress of this difficult time. Our video performance of Handel's "Let the bright seraphim" and "Let their celestial concerts," heard on May 24, The Sunday after Ascension Day, was a great hit. Here is a link to the video so you can enjoy it again and again.

<https://calvarysantacruz.org/index.php/music/calvary-choir-recordings/>



Dear Calvary family and friends,

The tradition of the Jesse Tree has been part of the holiday celebration at Calvary for many years. As you might recall, the Sunday school children make simple ornaments that have a Christmas wish, from a local child in foster care, written on them. Participants select an ornament from our Jesse Tree (branch) in the narthex, purchase and wrap the "wish" and return it to church with the ornament attached as the gift tag.

Chris Perrin, Sara Peterson, Savannah Smith -- many people have worked to make this successful in the years past. The agency we work with is called New Families, Inc. and they specialize in working with kids coming from traumatic and high-risk situations. It's very rewarding and they love Calvary!

With the pandemic, pretty much everything went topsy-turvy with our "usual" process. Here's the plan. I hope you will participate; please contact me by email if you need assistance or if you would like to send a check to me and I will do the computer portion on your behalf.

New Families has set up an Amazon Smile account specifically with the wishes of the Calvary list. Here is the link --

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/ls/2K16SHX6HNM9/ref=smi_cl_wl_rd_cl?ref=smi_se_cl_rd_cl

I made a purchase myself so that I would be familiar with the fields you will see.

- The link takes you directly to the New Families "page" on Amazon
- Select a gift(s) and add it to your cart
- Proceed to checkout when your selecting is complete
- Log in with your own Amazon login information or set up an Amazon account if you do not have one
- NEW FAMILIES, INC will be a Shipping/Delivery choice. Their street address is blanked out for privacy reasons.
- When you get to the screen asking if it is a gift? Select YES and you will get a box to send a message with your gift. Please leave a message that you are either from Calvary Church or are a friend of Calvary Church. Here is a picture of my screen with the message box.

I didn't include the list of kids with this email, but I will send it to you if you'd like to see it. There are more teenagers than past years, which I've always found particularly heart wrenching. Their wishes are typically utility items (clothing, bedding) and many ask for something for a sibling or parent. This year 9 of the 23 names are for kids older than 10. Each child can ask for up to 3 items, that is why the Amazon page is lengthy. Note there are a variety of prices.

Please find some history of The Jesse Tree below.

From my heart, thank you for shopping. This project has become the most important and rewarding part of my Christmas season. God bless each and every one of us and God bless these perfect children who have landed in a tough situation.

Jane Prough
janeprough@gmail.com

The Jesse Tree

So who is Jesse and why do we care about his less-than-spectacular tree? The Jesse Tree tradition dates back to the Middle Ages; representing the family tree of Jesus. Jesus was a descendent of King David and Jesus is represented by a branch on King David's family tree. A branch is a sign of new life and new beginnings. Jesse is the Father of King David and therefore a part of his family tree. The stump of Jesse is the image from which comes our popular term "family tree".

The story of the Jesse Tree comes from Isaiah 11:1-10 "A shoot shall come up from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor and decide with equity for the meek of the earth."

What Isaiah is saying in this passage is that Israel, God's people, will suffer judgement and war. What will be left of war and destruction and chaos is a desolate landscape filled with the stumps of once living trees. Yet Isaiah's prophecy isn't finished. Though there is war and chaos, there is also hope. At this time when things seem most bleak the prophet promises that God will send a

king from the line of Jesse. A king who will rule with wisdom, justice, and mercy. Jesus is born, a branch of King David's family tree.

The naked Jesse Tree is filled with meaning and purpose. The birth of Christ was not a sentimental nursery story, but a powerful sign of God's presence in the midst of suffering and of God's fierce insistence on universal love, justice and mercy. The Jesse Tree hopefully leads us to remember that good things come from expectation.

Somewhere, if someone is keeping a detailed account of the tree of Jesse, there's a twig or bud that has your name on it.

Did you know?

The Stewardship Committee meets monthly on the fourth Friday of the month at 11:00 am, via Zoom. We are preparing for our upcoming pledge drive and welcome your ideas and participation. If you would like to join us please email Alice Lopez at enna.lopez@yahoo.com.
Thank you for your support! We are stewards of God's love, grace and mercy.

Treasurer's Report

Our Income Statement remains steady with predictable losses in income due to our Covid 19 reality as well as similar predictable decreases in expenses. Plate was down a bit this month according to budget expectations, but pledges were up a bit, so that part of our income statement was just about a wash for September. Year to date, pledges are up \$8400.00, and plate is down (\$700.00). We budgeted big in both these categories for December as it has been a historically big month, but with our Christmas services moving to online this year we'll have to keep our fingers crossed that we meet our goal. The big hole in our Income Statement continues to be in 12-step income and Facilities Rental. We're seeing a bit of progress in these two with a regular kitchen rental of close to \$2,000.00/month and also income from one or two 12 step groups that are meeting again, bringing us in \$500.00 or so per month. Combined loss from these two groups is (\$17,000.00) year to date. The Balance Sheet is steady, also, with a bit of a decrease this month in our Trust account of (\$2300.00) due to the stock market downturn at the end of the month; that will probably right itself by next month if it hasn't already. I think it's also important to periodically remind the parish of the loans to ourselves that we carry on the Balance Sheet. We owe ourselves \$73,000.00 of past loans taken to cover deficits and the organ fund balance remains at \$33,000. If both these were paid off our Trust Fund would be at a much healthier \$187,000.00 as opposed to the \$81,000.00 the fund is at today. I feel these numbers are important to keep in mind when contemplating the financial health of Calvary.

And don't forget, it's Stewardship time. Please be sure and get your pledge in early and urge other parishioners to prayerfully consider their pledge in light of the uncertain times we're living through. This year, pledges have proven to be the reliable factor in our income statement, and we should be very grateful for that fact. Let's make it true for next year, also.

Submitted by Cathy Watson

Vestry Meeting Report

Notes from the October meeting of the Vestry:

- In terms of the 2020 budget, Treasurer Cathy Watson reports that YTD we are right on track. However, Cathy raises two caveats: The 2020 operating budget is a deficit budget, and can we expect the usual bump in December income, when we are not meeting in person? The Budget Committee is working on the 2021 budget.
- Bishop Lucinda has given her blessing for curbside communion. Calvary's first distribution of curbside communion will be on All Saints Day.
- This year's diocesan convention will be a virtual meeting on Sunday 8 November, with a rehearsal and happy hour on Saturday 7 November.
- We have been gaining new members! Father Austin reports that at least three families have found us because of our virtual services.
- The youth group, Teens of Santa Cruz County, has been doing well. They have met twice since September, for 3.5 hours each time. Other parishes from outside the county wish to join, and the blessing of online meetings is that geographic barriers are removed.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Gong, Clerk of the Vestry

Crossroads Articles. If you have an article to submit to the Crossroads please email to enna.lopez@yahoo.com by the 27th day of the month.

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