



first parish, hingham
old ship church
unitarian universalist

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October 2026 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for November's newsletter: Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Multi-Platform:

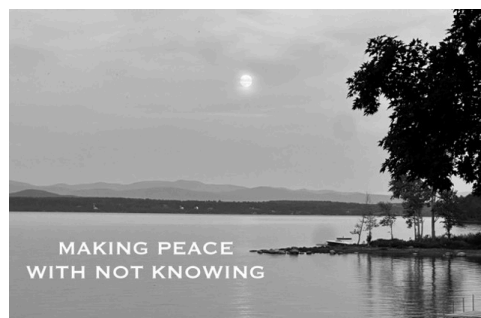
**Join us in-person in the Meeting House
or on Zoom**

**Please remember to bring contributions for
the Food Pantry!**

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

[Click here to join Sunday Worship!](#)

October Newsletter
Living with Questions



October 4th Singing in Change

Rev Carie Johnsen and Christopher Nickelson-Mann

This service celebrates the power of music to move, inspire, and connect us during times of change. Through congregational singing, Rev. Carie and Christopher will share the stories behind beloved pieces and the composers whose harmonies, melodies, and spirit help carry Unitarian Universalist values beyond words. This service will include a blessing for the weekly protesters who carry our values into the streets week after week after week.

October 11th Remember- Imagine – Act: Land, Truth & Action

Rev. Carie Johnsen and Chris Maher

We gather to honor Indigenous Peoples' Day by naming this land's original stewards, confronting the Doctrine of Discovery, and centering Indigenous voices. Together, we seek actionable solidarity, turning awareness into meaningful change.

October 18th Transitions: Stages of Aging

Nan Moore and Christopher Nickelson-Mann

Nan Moore Affiliated Lay Community Minister for United First Parish Church will be leading worship on the Stages of Aging. Before reaching our 60's we are children, teenagers, young adults, adults and then elders. Whatever generation you were born into, and wherever you are on the aging trajectory, there are always gifts, challenges and questions along the way. This Sunday you will have an opportunity to review age-ing times from childhood to elderhood with the hope of receiving a vision of how Sage-ing can be the most precious gift of all.



Nan Moore, Commissioned/Affiliated Lay Community Minister

Nan Moore has been a Unitarian Universalist for over 40 years. She has served multiple UU churches as the Director of Religious Education (DRE) in Barnstable, Chatham, Interim DRE in Cohasset, and the Church of the Presidents in Quincy, where she currently serves as the Lay Community Minister. For many years Nan also served the continental Young Religious

Unitarian Universalists community in multiple roles including ten years on General Assembly youth caucus staff, youth council, national social justice conferences and as a devoted youth advisor for the Ballou Channing District. She completed a four-year Clinical Pastoral Education program (CPE) at Brigham and Women's hospital and then served seven years as a Spiritual Care Coordinator for Good Shepherd Community Care Hospice in Newton. As a chaplain she provided end of life care for all ages, which included spiritual care for children with life-limiting illnesses who were on pediatric and palliative care services.

Nan took a personal sabbatical after hospice chaplaincy and completed a two-year Spiritual Direction Certification program at Rowe. She currently has a private practice and officiates ceremonies, such as, child dedications, memorial services, celebrations of life, and weddings. In 2017 Nan created a home in Scotland, and became a member of the Findhorn Ecovillage community. She resides yearly in the Highlands of Scotland from January until June.

October 25th Awe and Wonder: A Celebration for All Ages

Rev. Carie Johnsen and Christopher Nickelson-Mann

Step into a space of awe and wonder, where the ordinary becomes extraordinary, and the mysteries of life invite us to pause, reflect, and connect. This service is designed for all ages, weaving together stories, music, and interactive moments to awaken the senses and nourish the soul. Join us for a morning of inspiration, connection, and wonder, where we remember that awe is not just a fleeting emotion but a guiding force for living with intention and joy.

This past Sunday, we gathered to explore Spiritual Ecology through the practice of naming the deep grief and expansive love we feel for Mother Earth. We recognized how these two forces are not opposing, but rather complementary with one serving the other. In this tension, we affirmed the human need to let grief occupy as much space as love, to walk with both emotions filling our hearts, inspiring our living, and guiding our actions.



This call to embrace both love and grief is the theological foundation of our Celebration of Life and Internment rituals. Because we love, we also grieve. This human experience is all too familiar to us these days, as we say goodbye to loved ones.

As Kahlil Gibran wrote:

"When you are sorrowful look again in your heart, and you shall see that in truth you are weeping for that which has been your delight."

This truth extends beyond our relationship with Gaia and individual loss. The relationship between Love and Grief is true for all of life. Loss, disappointment, and despair are inseparable from the things we love most deeply. Because we love, we grieve. And grief also manifests as outrage, indignation, or even disgust. We live in times marked by the rise of authoritarianism, the violence of genocide, and the erosion of democratic ideals. It is precisely in the space between love and grief, between despair and action, that we find the clarity to act.

As we move through hard days, albeit the death of a loved one, connection with Gaia, or getting out the vote, may we discover resilience, authenticity, and a commitment to care.

May we continue to honor this sacred dance, letting grief and love guide us toward lives of deeper intention, connection, and action.

In faith,
Rev. Carie



Remember – Imagine – Act

Last year, the Social Justice Council proposed, and the Board of Trustees adopted, a new [Historical and Land Acknowledgement](#). This statement invites us to live our Unitarian Universalist values through its closing call to *remember, imagine, and act*.

We remember that history, and imagine the world that is possible, and will become, as we act in solidarity with Indigenous People, Black People, and Other People of Color for our human liberation. ~ [First Parish in Hingham \(Old Ship\) Historical and Land Acknowledgement](#)

With this rallying cry for racial justice, I will offer a monthly series of services exploring United States, Unitarian Universalist, and Old Ship history. Together, we will articulate clear visions not only for what is possible in the world, but also for what is possible within us, individually and collectively. Finally, we will seek actionable solidarity as we turn our awareness into meaningful change.

In Unitarian Universalism, this declaration to **remember – imagine – act** functions as a covenant: a living testament to who we aspire to be in the world. It calls us into the ongoing practice of being human in relationship, grounded in commitments to equity and liberation. This is an imperfect and humble path of learning, practicing, recommitting, and growing together.

Old Ship began this work in 2021 with a vote affirming that, for the next three years, the primary focus of its social justice efforts would center on racism, white supremacy, and climate change. Since then, you have engaged in anti-racism work through classes and book studies, and lived into this commitment through the report, [Black and Indigenous People in the Early History of Old Ship Church](#). In September, two members of the Social Justice council and I attended the [Sacred Reckonings](#) Training, [watch a film here](#).

On October 11th we deepen Old Ship commitment and covenant to racial justice ministries with a service honoring Indigenous People's Day. On October 18th, we welcome our Tuttleville neighbors into the Meeting House to share with us their history.

May the pathways we walk together be filled with fierce, bold, courageous, and compassionate love. And when we stumble, as we surely will, may we take responsibility and begin again in love.

With Love at the Center,
Rev. Carie

October 2026 Board Notes

Greetings Old Ship Congregants,

The Board of Trustees met on September 9. The first order of business was to formally reappoint the newly reconstituted Community Space Team (a.k.a.

The Parish House Team) under the able leadership of Nina Wellford. This hardworking committee is moving quickly to move the project into reality. In financial business, Jack and Jane closed on the \$300,000 Line of Credit at Hingham Institute for Savings on September 21. This was approved at the parish Annual Meeting in June. This will cover any initial costs on the parish house project before any grants are received or later costs before pledges are fulfilled.

The Board heard a report from long-serving Treasurer, Jack Gomez on a unique issue. When Ken Read-Brown was called as our minister in 1987, the church contributed to the purchase of the Read-Brown's Hingham home and held joint title with them. Recently, on June 8, 2026, following the provisions of the housing agreement made between Old Ship and the Read-Browns at that time of hiring, the Read-Browns took full title by repaying the church's portion



of the equity at current market value resulting in approximately \$432,000 that will be held by Old Ship. The Board decided to place \$400,000 in the Endowment and retain approximately \$32,000 in operating funds. (Jack notes that the amount was \$432k and change, so he said approximately for the totals).

The Board then turned its attention to the questions of our priorities and direction for the upcoming year. These ideas included community outreach and communication, sharing our UU values with the wider community, "right sizing" our activities, and how to go about all that. Input from the congregation is always welcome. We will revisit and clarify these ideas in future meetings. We also looked at the list of the many committees of Old Ship and are looking at ways to streamline and clarify committee workings and how to enhance support from the board. We looked at gaps in committee leadership and will work on ways to fill those needs. This discussion considered whether or not committees should be Standing, AdHoc, or eliminated.

Jane Zimmermann,

Janice McPhillips, Jack Gomez, Elaine Cusker, Corey Fitz-Marquez, Chris Johnson, Kathie Mignacca

**Fellowship Hour & Snacks
Sunday, October 4th**

Fellowship Hour will be held at the Meeting House (weather permitting) Last names beginning **A - H** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, October 4th** Some type of finger or toothpick food that can be placed on a napkin is best. We don't have volunteers to hand wash dishes and are going to keep things simple. Please bring your food item ready to go. Food can be left in it's box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone.



**Attention Families!
Join us for Children's Spiritual Exploration
(formerly known as RE)!**

The Spiritual Exploration Team (SET) of Judi Flaherty, Corey Fitz-Marquez and Nina Wellford continues its search for a Spiritual Exploration Coordinator to help develop a program for children and youth at Old Ship. In the meantime, we will continue to offer a creative program led by volunteers and Rev. Carie. If any adult from the congregation would like to help, we do need assistants so that we always have two adults with the children. Some Sundays you will find us all together in the Meeting House; other times, the children will start there and then go to 14 Main. On October 25, Rev. Carie will offer a special Intergenerational service in the Meeting House on Awe and Wonder. We warmly welcome new families every Sunday!



Pastoral Care at Old Ship

We are all on the pastoral care team, but our “Pastoral Care Leadership Team” meets each month to share any concerns about parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or facing other significant challenges, and to coordinate responses. If you have a pastoral concern to share with our Team, please feel free to contact any member of the group listed below or via their new confidential email to pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org.



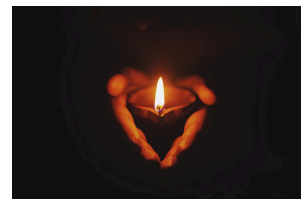
Debbie Squire-Lee
Elaine Gomez
Claire Petrie
Louise Smith
Rev. Carie Johnson

Ministerial Discretionary Fund

Have you encountered unanticipated medical bills? Are you experiencing financial strain from loss of employment or rising energy and food costs? Rev. Carie has modest ministerial discretionary funds to assist people in times of financial stress. Please reach out to her directly and/or encourage others to call to request assistance. During the Rev. Carie's absence please send a confidential email to pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org.

Among Us

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of longtime member William Clark who died on Sept 10 2026 after a recent stroke. He died peacefully with his former wife and friend Nancy Gunshanan by his side, Services for William will be held at a later date.



Permitting Has Begun!

October will be a big month for the new Parish House! The Parish House team is submitting applications now to Hingham's Historic Districts Commission and the Planning Board for permits, plus filing a final application to the Community Preservation Committee for funding. We will also be in touch with the Mass. Historic Commission. We are working closely with architect David Torrey and his team of site, mechanical and landscape engineers to refine the plans and fill in enough detail to meet the town's and state's requirements. Site visits are being scheduled. We will soon go in front of the various committees to make our case. It feels great to be on the move!



On **October 4** we will stay in the Meeting House after the service to share what we are presenting and answer any questions you have; please also feel free to speak with any of us at any time. Nina Wellford, Ron Pollara, Laura Harbottle, Elaine and Jack Gomez, Brian McPhillips, Eileen McIntyre

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

Starting this October, I will be offering a new musical meditation series which will happen twice a month. It's open to anyone and everyone searching for a moment of stillness, a place to breathe, or an opportunity to calm their nervous system.

On the first Wednesday of the month at noon, and the third Wednesday at 6:00 PM, I'll be in the Meeting House offering live immersive music specifically for meditation that incorporates both pre-written pieces and improvisation. Each month will take inspiration from a different poem. We're starting on Wednesday October 7th with a poem by the late great Wendell Berry, who recently passed away in August at the age of 92. At each meditation hour, you'll find a card at the entrance with that month's poem printed alongside a short note explaining how the hour will unfold. The poem is there to help focus your thoughts or quiet your mind, if you find that helpful.

Come for five minutes or the full hour. Come every time or just once. There's no formal program to follow and no expectation to stay the whole time. Silence is welcome, as is simply being present — this is a space you can drop into without pressure, on your own terms. So whether you're in need of a calming space or simply curious about this new series, I look forward to seeing you there. [Click here for a flyer.](#)

Musically,
Christopher



Sunday, September 20th Service is viewable on YouTube this week!

NEWS! We will be providing a link to the previous week's service for a 1-week time period so that anyone who missed the service can view it. The video will only be available for that one week. Please [click this link](#) for the Sunday, September 20, 2026 Service.



Transitional Ministry Team

The TMT had a productive and informative meeting with Hilary Allen and members of the TMT at the UU Church of Arlington. We shared anecdotes, challenges, and encouragement. Our team came away with a good sense of what may lay ahead for Old Ship. Yesterday, we had a working lunch session at 14 Main with our team. There will be more info to share and we are looking forward to another year of exploration with all of you!



Wisdom of the Poets

In remembrance of the recent death, at age 92, of beloved American poet, novelist, essayist, environmental activist, cultural critic, and farmer Wendell Berry, hear these words of wisdom:



"It may be that when we no longer know what to do, we have come to our real work, and when we no longer know which way to go, we have begun our real journey. The mind that is not baffled is not employed. The impeded stream is the one that sings."

And in our gray Hymnal, number 342 is Berry's poem, O Slowly, Slowly They Return, set to music- A beautiful praise of a timbered choir. Read all five verses/stanzas next time you're in church or [click here](#).

Responses always welcome - [Elizabeth Torrey](#)

Social Justice News

Our next meeting is Saturday, October 10, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82575307021?pwd=RbXAavEiSpUScskAu4WubYvugCl4MM.1>. (Passcode is 066044, if needed). Everyone is welcomed to be a member of the SJC! Just come to the meeting.



Special Event at Old Ship: Learning about Tuttleville on Sunday, October 18, at noon in the Meeting House:

Following the Civil War, African American families thrived in certain areas of Massachusetts, including Tuttleville in Hingham. The Tuttleville neighborhood, located at the corner of Ward and High Streets, became a cultural and social hub for Hingham's Black community, with families like the Tuttle and Simpson playing key roles in its history. We are honored to have two Tuttleville descendants, Joyce Barber and her daughter, Veronica Hodges, with us after church on Sunday, October 18. They will share the history of this area of Hingham so that we can learn more about our Hingham history. This promises to be a very interesting program for our community!

Special Outreach Offering for October: UU the Vote Solidarity Fund:

The UU the Vote Project has launched a special solidarity fund related to voting. The fund is seeking donations from individuals and congregations, and we have decided this would be an appropriate recipient of our outreach offering for October, especially in an election year.

The UUA website announced this new fund with these words. "Our faith calls us to act. Democracy needs us to show up. Unitarian Universalists have always understood that the right to vote is sacred, that every person's voice carries inherent worth and dignity. In 2026, that conviction is being tested. The difference between a democracy that holds and one that doesn't won't just be who shows up to vote. It will be whether the organizations doing the work on the ground have what they need to operate. That's what the UU the Vote

Solidarity Fund is for. We are building resistance on the ground and democratic infrastructure, registering voters, supporting civic participation, connecting communities to the ballot, and funding the partners who make it possible. None of it happens without sustained support. . . [With your donation] You're living our values out loud. You're helping build the partnerships, the technology, and the staying power that protecting democracy actually requires. You're answering the call our tradition has always placed on us. The time for watching is over. The time for building is now."

Donations can be made as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House on October 4, or at anytime throughout the month through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: Solidarity Fund. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

Social Justice Drop in Book Group on Sunday, October 18, at 7 p.m. on Zoom:

This month we will be discussing *Antiracism as a Daily Practice: Refuse Shame, Change White Communities, and Help Create a Just World* by Jennifer Harvey. This book explores how we can engage in practices in our daily lives that work to eradicate racism and create a more just world. Dr. Harvey "shows how vital it is for white people to engage in and with our families, through our social networks, in our neighborhoods, and at our jobs to make antiracism a daily living commitment. We have real power in our relationships with other white people—and not enough of us have used it."

The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87270975159?pwd=Lhb7zJzRw86k2jT9hy5LiO8iUzO8IG.1>. The passcode is 219708, if needed.

Hingham Food Pantry:

This month, we send our condolences and love to all those who work at the food pantry as they continue the work without Susan Kiernan, Executive Director and Founder of the Hingham Food Pantry. Susan passed away in September and her death is a huge loss for both the food pantry and Hingham. You can read her obituary at [OBITUARY: Susan Kiernan - Hingham Anchor](#). Susan graciously came to Old Ship most years to thank us for our support of the food pantry and to share stories of how our contributions helped feed our neighbors. This month, we especially ask you to donate food on Sunday morning as a tribute to Susan's life and mission. Currently, the food pantry is in need of the following items: **crackers, boxes of granola bars, flavored rice and pasta side dishes, and jars of pasta sauce**. Please note that all donations need to be non-perishable, unopened and unexpired.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee News: *What Happens When One's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is Revoked?*

What would happen if one day, without warning, any average person in the United States was not legally allowed to work? Over a million people have reckoned with this reality under the second Trump administration, including many Haitians in the Boston area. Loss of income is just one of many extreme stressors when someone's Temporary Protected Status (TPS) is revoked. UUSC organizes our members to take action through our Resistance Network. We also collaborate with the UU Solidarity Initiative. Sign up to be notified of the latest opportunities to speak out against the termination of TPS at [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee | Sign In](#)

In the past year, the Trump Administration has terminated TPS for over a million people. In their haste, they've violated multiple laws, repeatedly landing

themselves in judicial battles. The Supreme Court has ruled in favor of the administration's ability to enact these egregious terminations. But what really happens to you when your TPS is revoked? You may learn more about TPS here: [What Happens When Your Temporary Protected Status \(TPS\) is Revoked? – UUSC](#)

Green Sanctuary

SAVE THE DATE: A strong roof is necessary for installation of solar panels and HVAC via heat pumps. Three Warrant Articles for the Special Town Meeting on October 29 th focus on replacing roofs at Plymouth River Elementary, South Elementary, and the High School. The Climate Action Planning Commission, which has not yet made a recommendation on future solar / HVAC installations, offers three forums about replacing these roofs: in-person at the High School, room 103, on October 7, 7-8:30 and via zoom on October 15 and 21 (zoom links appear below the SAVE THE DATE box on the first page of this site:

<https://www.hinghamschools.org/page/school-building-committee>
<https://www.hingham-ma.gov/719/Current-Warrant-Articles>



Sunday Flower Donor

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? November 22 & 29 are available. You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact Sharon Prehn (prehn@verizon.net or 617-947-0697).



Trans Parent and Caregiver Support Group Thursday, October 15th at 6:30 P.M. 14 Main Street, Hingham

Gather with others who share your experience of being a transgender parent or caregiver. Come join us as we tell our stories in a safe and supportive environment. This group will continue to meet on the third Thursday of each month. Please contact Bob Caravana at bobcaravana@gmail.com.



Welcome Newcomers! Join Us for a Monthly Newcomers Coffee Sunday, October 18, 2026



Are you new to our congregation and are wondering what we are all about? Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism, Old Ship Church or are looking for a warm place to connect? We invite you to join us for our Monthly Newcomers Coffee Hour! It's a relaxed and friendly

space where you can meet fellow newcomers, chat with long-time members, and learn more about the life and spirit of our community. Grab a cup of coffee or tea and come as you are – we look forward to welcoming you! The Newcomer Coffee Hour is held following the service on the third Sunday of each month.. Please join us on Sunday, October 18th at our church office and meeting space located at 14 Main Street, entrance on South Street. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Elaine Cusker](#), [Diane Elliott](#), [Teri Lillis](#) or our [Minister, Rev. Carie Johnsen](#)



Life Learning
at Old Ship
2025 – 2026



Life Learning Offerings

Our Life Learning Committee is in the process of completing the schedule of classes and groups for 2026-2027.

The Gathering

The Gathering will meet **every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the 14 Main Street Parlor. All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliott](#).

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning of each month at **8:30 a.m.** in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. We will not meet during June, July or August. Our next gathering will meet on **Sunday, October 25th** Contact [Eric Espinosa](#) or [Rubin Marquez](#) for information and a Zoom link.

Bodhisattva Study Group - Every **Sunday morning, 8:30 AM.** Zoom only. Twenty minutes of sitting meditation followed by discussion of a Buddhist or related text, facilitated by members of the group. For questions and Zoom link, email [Lisa Sawyer](#).

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, October 6th at 7:00 p.m.** We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor. Email [Eric Cornetta](#) with any questions about Ceilidh.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, October 8th

4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom Second and fourth Thursday afternoons

The Sacred Text meditation group has begun our study of the Muslim holy book, The Qur'an. As we make the transition we would like to invite other members of the congregation to join us

This group is part of Old Ship's Life Learning program. No one in the group is a Muslim or seeking to become one, but we want to appreciate one of the world's largest denominations, and explore a text claimed to be the literal word of God. We typically do a brief reading, then meditate for 10 minutes and then discuss the portion of the text we have selected.

If you would like more information about this please contact Rich Elliott at richelliott56@gmail.com or [781-812-8897](tel:781-812-8897)

Hello Everyone -
Merrie Market this year will be held at the Hingham
Community Center on Saturday, December 12th.
Set up will be the day before, Friday, December 11th.

As in the past, last year's market was a lot of work, a lot of fun, and very successful. I do not think there needs to be any major changes to that formula. I'm hoping that all of the very generous volunteers will be back again to participate in all the many ways you did. Additionally, anyone who would like to get involved for the first time please join in with all of us.



Donations for the treasures and jewelry tables can be boxed and dropped off at 14 Main Street. Please check in with Lisa Beck to make sure someone will be there to let you in. If anyone is interested in specifically helping with organizing the *silent auction* you can contact me for information.

Going forward I encourage and welcome any suggestions or ideas you may have in all aspects of Merrie Market.

Happy fall & I look forward to seeing you soon,

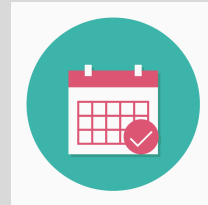
[Dave Petrie](#)
781-400-9434

The Old Ship Calendar

The Old Ship Church calendar is available on our website by clicking [here](#).

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please email [Lisa](#) in the office.

Additionally, if you contact information has changed, please email [Lisa](#) so she can update the Old Ship database.



Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday, September 29th, 1:00 pm, Zoom
 - **Memorial Garden Committee Meeting** - Wednesday, September 30th, 11:30 am, 14 Main Conference Room
 - **Board Meeting** - Wednesday, October 14, 5:30 p.m. . 14 Main/Zoom
- Agenda will be sent out the week before [Click here for Zoom Link](#)



**Happy Fall from your
friends at
Old Ship Church!**

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