

March/April 2014



SAVE THE DATE
Guild of Volunteers'
Annual Luncheon
June 3
Bedford Village Inn
Details to come

IN THIS ISSUE

Exec. Vice Chair	1
Spotlight	1
Exec. Chair	3
Museum Docents	4
Z-House Docents	5
Book Shelf	6
Museum Seen	7
A Conversation With	8

Executive Vice Chair Report

Looking for Good Volunteers

It's hard to believe 2014 began two months ago and now is the time to start looking ahead to the Guild of Volunteers' next fiscal year from July 1, 2014, to June 30, 2015. The Guild executive committee is the interface between volunteers and the Currier. Each executive committee member is expected to participate at monthly meetings, facilitate communications between

volunteers and the museum, and perform duties specific to their positions. The following two-year positions are open on the Guild's executive committee starting July 1: Vice Chair, Secretary, Communication Chair, Zimmerman House Docent Chair, Library Chair, and Special Projects/Ambassador Chair. Please refer to the [Guild Handbook](#) for

continued on p.6



Spotlight: Roberta Lavey and the Alzheimer's Café



Although January's outside temperature was 21 degrees, there was plenty of warmth inside the Currier's Alzheimer's Café. The tropical-themed occasion featured brightly colored hibiscus flowers, leis, raspberry-lime fizz

punch, paper umbrellas and coconut-laced cookies. "No one wants to talk about the polar vortex today," said Senior Educator Jane Seney, who moderated the 2 p.m. event, "so we'll go down to Mexico in our minds." She flashed a 1938 painting, [Self-Portrait with a Monkey](#) by Frida Kahlo, who portrayed herself

among tropical plants.

Twelve guests were at the monthly program that brings art to people with dementia and their caregivers. Jane went through three other paintings – [Self-Portrait on the Borderline between Mexico and the United States](#) and [The Bus](#) by Kahlo, and [One Summer Afternoon](#) by Carmen Lomas Garza – and with each painting, she asked the now-ubiquitous question: "What do you think is happening in this picture?"

continued on p. 2

Spotlight . . . continued from p. 1

There were lots of theories, and the voice level and laughter grew as time passed. The Bus, which showed six passengers sitting on a long seat, sparked a comment from one visitor: "I see me in this picture," said Pauline, who had a purple flower tucked behind one ear. "I'm the cute one at the end of the bench."



Three years ago, Roberta Lavey talked with Jane about offering programs for people with disabilities. "Roberta was integral to the development of the Alzheimer's Café at the Currier," said Jane, who

gave Roberta the book, [Meet Me: Making Art Accessible to People with Dementia](#), outlining the program developed by the Museum of Modern Art in New York City. "She worked closely with me to first develop tours for that audience and then explore other kinds of programs."

Roberta and Jane went to Massachusetts's de Cordova Sculpture Park and Museum to observe an Alzheimer's tour. Later, on the advice of Interpretation and Audience Engagement Director Leah Fox, they went to the Children's Museum in Dover for a workshop on how to set up a dementia program, and decided Dover's program was an excellent model to adopt. The first Currier café began September 2013.

Roberta, who lives in Dunbarton with husband Matthew, has always been employed in the disabilities field. She worked at the

YWCA of Philadelphia; The Moore Center in Manchester; the N.H. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation; and N.H. State Hospital, retiring as its director of psychiatric rehabilitation services. Roberta attended the January café meet-up, along with newly graduated docents Megan McIntyre, Emily Archer and Sean McGovern, and longtime docents Dot Farley, Carolyn Hollman and Jane Bentas, among others.

Donald and his wife Marge chatted about Garza's painting showing a woman in a bedroom. Donald wondered aloud why electrical wires weren't hanging from the lamp or radio. "And, how do they open and close those windows? There are no latches," he said. Marge told everyone he was a former building contractor. "He notices things like that," she said, laughing.

After the Garza picture,

Jane brought things back to the Currier and showed a tropical painting by Frederic Edwin Church, [The Heart of the Andes](#). The painting caused a sensation in 1859 when it was unveiled at New York's Metropolitan Museum.

The two-hour program always ends with participants viewing an artwork in the galleries, and in January the painting was Church's 1856 [South American Landscape](#).

Roberta feels "honored to be part of the Currier." She also feels "fortunate to have observed and trained with some very talented people" in her disabilities profession of more than 20 years. The 2008 museum graduate used these skills when she helped develop the Alzheimer program. In fact, Jane said, the "Alzheimer's Café at the Currier exists because of Roberta."

- Pauline Bogaert



Executive Chair Report

Get Ready for an Active Spring

Spring is always a busy time at the museum. The Zimmerman House re-opens in April for its 25th year. We have students visiting the Currier nearly every day. Newly graduated museum docents are now fully involved doing tours, and the new class of Z-House docents is training now.

The Guild is involved in the annual task of seeking interested and qualified volunteers for open Guild chairs, which serve for two years. I appreciate the work Guild chairs do throughout the year. The camaraderie

and respect that develops among the executive committee is good to see.

During this fourth quarter, attention is focused on preparation for June's Annual Meeting and Luncheon. All active volunteers with 50 hours of service in the past year are free luncheon guests of the museum. Volunteers with fewer than 50 hours may attend as paying guests.

All hours entered by April 30 will count toward the free luncheon. Please make sure all hours for 2013-2014 have

been entered in Vogistics.

From time to time, the Guild updates guidelines on allowable hours. In answer to recent questions, and to help our newest volunteers, there will be a full review of what is and is not countable in the near future.

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Guild of Volunteers 2013 - 2014 Executive Committee

Executive Chair:
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Executive Vice Chair:
Dennie Dyer
Treasurer:
Angela Hoke
Secretary:
Richard Russell

Committee Chairs Guild Communications:

Judy McKenna &
Pauline Bogaert

Guild Meetings and Programs:

Nancy Johnson

Guild Membership:

Nancy Baker

Museum Docents:

Roberta Lavey

Zimmerman House

Docents:

Victoria Duffy

Museum Shop:

Sandra Chandonnet

Archivist/Historian:

Marilyn Davison

Library:

Charlotte DeBell

Wedding Bells Will Ring

Jeremy Oneail proposed to Jane Seney at Disney World on January 16 when they were on vacation in Florida. Their wedding is May 17 and the ceremony will take place at the Currier Museum of Art.



2013 National Docent Symposium

I spent Oct. 14 to 21, 2013, participating in and attending the 2013 National Docent Symposium with 450 attendees at the Intercontinental Hotel in San Francisco. The week began with a full day of council meetings and last minute reporting from the San Francisco team. Next was selecting new council members from 17 strong candidates for seven open positions. Our New England region will now be represented by Azi Djazani of the Museum of Fine Arts.

Highlights of this year's NDS included a reception at the

Asian Museum; a trip to the [Filoli Mansion and Gardens](#); and a private viewing of GAP store founders [Doris and Donald Fisher's art collection](#) temporarily displayed in a warehouse beneath the Bay Bridge as the sun set and a full moon rose behind the bridge. It was magical!

Each symposium session was chock-full of information. I focused on contemporary art topics and led a roundtable workshop sharing ideas on how to engage visitors. I also presented Fran Hall's research "Mindset Matters,"

based on the work of Carol Dweck. The presentation generated a lively discussion indicating that delegates were very interested in the topic.

In 2015 the National Docent Symposium will be held in Cincinnati, Ohio, from Sept. 17 to 20. It promises to be another great opportunity to share and learn as docents.

- Kimberlee Tyndall
NDSC Regional
Representative for New
England

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Museum Docent Report

Docents Explore Witkin Exhibit

The docent meeting on Jan. 14 prepared us for the new installation *Exploring the Currier Inside Out: Andrew Witkin, Among Others*. After a brief classroom discussion we were divided into groups led by Jane Seney, Leah Fox, Lynn Thomson and Nina Bozicnik. This is an exhibit that gets us to look at art differently, to look more closely and to expect the unexpected. Andrew spent two and a half years exploring the Currier archives to find ways to encourage the viewer to interpret what they are seeing. We found out it's okay for us to feel uncertain about what we are looking at. There is not just one answer and it is hoped what the artist has undertaken will encourage us to look and learn more.

A reminder: Inclement weather extension is 193, Jane Seney's extension is 149 and Alexis Nelson's extension is 113.

The docent Steering Committee also met on Jan. 14. New members Carolin Sanchez, Emily Archer and Sean McGovern were introduced to committee members. The group discussed the March 10 field trip to Mass MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art) in North Adams,

Mass., and reviewed the Museum Docent training for spring 2014.

A discussion was held regarding tours requested by schools or groups wanting specialty tours not listed on the Currier website. It was requested that Alexis convey as much information as possible to the docents who volunteer to do these tours.

The group also discussed tours given on Family Saturdays. Lynn Thomson continues to work on and refine this program. It was reported the new starting location for public tours in the lobby has been a success; the number of visitors attending has increased.

As many of you know, Alan Slotkin has resigned as docent chair. I'm going to attempt to fill his able shoes. Please feel free to contact me with any of your questions or concerns and I will make every effort to find an answer.

Roberta Lavey
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March/April Museum Docent Trainings

March 25
Introduction to
*Romare Bearden:
A Black Odyssey*

April 1
Romare Bearden
walkthrough

April 15
Transitions in tours,
offering new
experiences

April 29
Debrief *Romare
Bearden:
A Black Odyssey*
Challenges and
Successes



Docent walk-through

"Exploring the Currier Inside Out: Andrew Witkin, Among Others"

Zimmerman House Docent Report

Season Ends with Kudos

Trip Advisor® Members Rave about the Z-House

We made a special trip to Manchester just to tour this lovely home. Even if you are unfamiliar with Frank Lloyd Wright's architecture and philosophy, a tour of this home is well worth your time. – Phoenix, AZ

This is an amazing house and the docents are outstanding. When I have guests from out of town this is a must. - Hooksett, NH

...this Usonian home is a must see. The docents from the Currier Museum of Art were very knowledgeable and gave an interesting and leisurely tour. - Buffalo, NY

Really enjoyed the tour over the 4th of July weekend. The docents are knowledgeable and seem dedicated to the preservation of the home. A great discussion ensued about the Zimmermans' desire to live in a piece of art and their dedication to the museum [Currier]. – Charlottesville, VA

Excellent tour with great guides! – Pawtucket, RI

The 24th year of Zimmerman House tours wrapped up on January 5 with a celebration in the Currier's blue classroom. Nineteen docents gathered to reminisce about their experiences and laud colleagues for outstanding work.

"I've never given a tour I haven't enjoyed and learned from," said Carolyn Hollman. She noted that audiences vary, and tours are most successful when house and van docents share roles.

Julia Di Stefano said she enjoys the "back and forth" with fellow docents, adding "we're all a compatible group."

Appreciation for docents who jump in to help out in a moment of distress and for those who get people talking was expressed repeatedly. Working in tandem can make giving a cohesive tour challenging, but when we "get synched up and respectful of each other," as Sandy Townsend said, it can be exhilarating,

After a lively discussion about qualities that make a good partner, thoughts turned to new docents who will join our ranks this spring. Timeless advice, such as "be willing to say 'I don't know'" and "only talk about what is right in front of you" was proffered for their benefit — as well as our own.

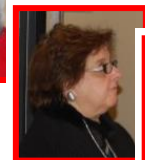
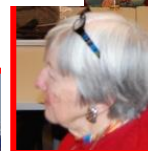
New docent classes began Feb. 20 and will continue ten weeks, Thursdays from 9:30 until noon. For the first time, current docents will serve as mentors, answering questions and concerns during training and participating in graduation tours.

The long-awaited air conditioning is being installed over the winter hiatus. Funding was gathered from many sources to make this possible before another hot summer takes its toll on the historic fabric of the house. Johnson Controls is overseeing the project, and generously provided a steep discount as well as donating the condenser.

Preparations will include photo-documenting objects before packing and moving them out of the way, and covering floors and woodwork for protection. Thanks to infrastructure put in place during the Currier's 1988-90 restoration, no disruption of existing materials is anticipated. Great care is being taken to preserve the original appearance of the house, right down to retaining the electrical box cover even though the inside panel will be replaced.

By April, everything will be restored. The temperature will be regulated between 70 and 80 degrees to minimize shocking contrasts between indoors and out. But don't bother checking the thermostat; the iconic "Honeywell Round" is just an artful dummy. A wireless device hidden in the workspace will actually control the system.

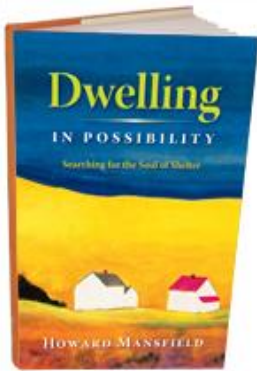
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End of Season
Zimmerman House Party

Book Shelf

Dwelling in Possibility: Searching for the Soul of Shelter



In the book *Dwelling in Possibility: Searching for the Soul of Shelter*, New Hampshire native Howard Mansfield discusses essential qualities that make a dwelling a home. It is a fascinating chronicle that gives the reader a new appreciation for the home as art. The author offers a philosophical perspective on how welcoming and comfortable a home may or may not be as he recounts stories of his former job as a census taker.

Analyzing what he often sees when first invited into a home, Mansfield concludes that “clutter is an obsession in our era.”

He relates how housing tastes evolved during the early 20th century, noting “The compact bungalow had fewer rooms, halls, stairs and finishes. Bungalows were natural, organic, and simple. Simplicity was in fashion.”

Naturally, my thoughts turned to the elegant simplicity of the Zimmerman House – its 4x4 grid, its organic warmth, the differences between light and dark, and windows opening up to nature. The Currier’s acquisition of the Z-House and the Zimmermans’ love for their home are discussed in the chapter

called “Finding Heaven in the Most Hated House on the Block.”

In contrast, the author explores disruption of the sanctity of homes by natural disasters and wars. He describes the devastation of New Orleans during and after Hurricane Katrina, the scores of volunteers who helped rebuild, and the homeowners’ gratitude for the restoration of their dwellings.

The title is taken from Emily Dickinson, whose poem “I dwell in Possibility” beautifully summarizes this book’s intent.

- Marilyn Watson

Volunteers . . . continued from p. 1
descriptions of these positions.

I encourage anyone interested in these positions to talk with the current chairs listed in this document, and let me know if you are interested.

Remember: Volunteers do not just do

the work – they make it work.

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Special Projects/Ambassadors

Family Saturday, *Story Time in the Galleries*, and *Currier After Hours* remain regular programs. Special Projects and Ambassador members are needed for. Many thanks go out to everyone who has helped with various programs in recent months. Thanks especially to Sandra Minnick for her efforts in typing several hundred email addresses collected at the Noon Year’s Eve Party into a usable document.

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Regional Museum Exhibitions of Interest

[D’Amour Museum of Fine Arts](#)

Springfield, Mass.
“Intent to Deceive: Fakes and Forgeries in the Art World”
Jan. 22 – Apr. 27

[Guggenheim Museum](#)

New York City
“A Long Awaited Tribute: Frank Lloyd Wright’s Usonian House and Pavilion”
Ongoing

[MASS MoCA](#)

North Adams, Mass.
“Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective”
Ongoing

[Museum of Fine Arts, Boston](#)

“Boston Loves Impressionism”
Feb. 14 – May 26

[Museum of Modern Art](#)

New York City
“Frank Lloyd Wright and the City: Density vs. Dispersal”
Feb. 1 – June 1

[Peabody Essex Museum](#)

Salem, Mass.
“Golden Light: Selections from the Van Otterloo Collection”
Through May 30

Museum Seen

Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

From the moment I first saw the [Pergamon Altar](#) in a classical history course in college, I knew that someday I would travel to Berlin not just to see it, but also the [Ishtar Gate](#), the bust of [Nefertiti](#) - well, I could go on and on.

Berlin, in fact, is a city so filled with museums that it is difficult to know where to begin to explore its treasures. Thankfully, the city offers its visitors a three-day museum pass, a wonderful bargain at 24 Euros, although three days is hardly enough time to scratch the surface of what is available just on [Museum Island](#), where the Pergamon Altar is located. Most Berlin museums allow photography without flash of most of their collections (alas, not Nefertiti). Despite my love

of antiquity, I found myself drawn to the [Gemäldegalerie](#) (Painting Gallery) in Berlin's [Kulturforum](#), an area developed for the arts in the 1950's and 1960's - particularly the Berlin Philharmonic - at the edge of West Berlin, when most of the city's art was behind the Berlin Wall. Completed in 1998, the museum was built to house what is arguably Europe's finest collection of European art stretching from the 13th to the 18th century in the 45 rooms of its main gallery, where some 1,000 works are displayed against pale walls bathed in light. Wonderful altarpieces entice you into rooms hung with masterworks by van Eyck, Bruegel, Dürer, Vermeer, Cranach, Holbein, Titian, and Caravaggio. The central,



octagonal room (Gallery 10) devoted to Rembrandt's work alone is worth the visit, since its 16 works clearly show the master's range of subject matter and techniques. From perfect Dutch genre paintings to Canaletto's amazing nocturnal views of Venice to portraits by Gainsborough, Reynolds, and Raeburn, the Gemäldegalerie offers the visitor a staggering array of masterpieces amassed first by royal patrons and then by the German public. It is a collection not to be missed.

- Alan R. Slotkin



Art Center News

Master Class! with Bruce McColl Watercolor and Pastel Painting: Pushing Toward Abstraction



Art Center Director
Bruce McColl

Join artist and Art Center Director, Bruce McColl, and discover the virtues of painterly watercolor and pastel painting while working from the inspiration of a large floral still-life. Rooted in the traditions of modernism, and inspired by American painters such as A.B. Carles, John Marin and Hans Hofmann, Bruce will challenge students to broaden their perspective on the tradition of pastel and watercolor painting using expressive color and dynamic methods of composition. Students will work energetically with these pure and rich media while pushing their skills to new painterly heights. This course is

recommended for students with some experience in either pastel or watercolor painting. Lunch is available for purchase in the Currier's Winter Garden Café. Materials are provided for this class. (Students may bring in art supplies.) Saturday, March 22, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. \$150, Maximum 12 students Teen & Adult. Location: Currier Museum of Art, yellow classroom.

A Conversation with . . . Theo Martey

Theophilus "Theo" Nii Martey is a dancer, drummer and enjoys playing soccer. This talented artist is also a songwriter, choreographer, and recording artist who teaches dance and drumming in an artist-in-residence program. The Currier part-time security guard lives in Manchester, but is originally from Accra, Ghana, which is in West Africa. He is a master of West African drumming and dance, a heritage with many subtle variations in rhythmic patterns, dance styles, and colorful costumes - all specific to the wide diversity of tribal groups from the region. Theo is director and leader of the Akwaaba Ensemble, a seven-member group performing traditional Ghanaian music and dance. They perform all over the United States, Europe and Africa.



My favorite pieces of art are...? *Still Life with Chocolates* by James Aponovich and *Woman Seated in a Chair* by Pablo Picasso.

The art I like best is...? I like realistic visual art like *Adolphe Monet in the Garden of Le Coteau at Sainte Adresse* by Claude Monet. I also like performing art, being a dancer and I really appreciate unique performances.

If I weren't a performing artist I would be...? A professional soccer player. I love to travel, and being an

artist and soccer player allow me to enjoy seeing new places.

My least favorite type of art is...? I do not like abstract art, but I try to appreciate all artistic work.

The last museum I visited was...? The Brooklyn Children's Museum. I took my son, nephew and niece over the Christmas holiday. We had quite an adventure. We took two subways and had a long walk in the rain to get there, but everyone was happy when we arrived.

The best museum I've ever visited was...? The Getty Museum in Los Angeles. The museum buildings and setting were pretty and the exhibits were interesting.

I'm most proud of...? Being the leader of the Akwaaba Ensemble. In my community, I'm proud to be an active uncle to my nieces and nephews, a supportive husband (according to my wife), and a proud father.

My most memorable moment was when...? When I first learned to drum. I was six. Drumming was fascinating to me.

If I could have anything in the world, I'd get...? I would spend more time in Ghana with all my family together.

A quote I live by is...? It's a quote by Martin Luther King Jr: "If you can't fly then run, if you can't run then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but whatever you do you have to keep moving forward."

From the Library Corner

The Currier Library and Archives are in the spotlight with the exhibition *Exploring the Currier Inside Out*. As a part of this exhibition, the library corridor has been outfitted with display cases. Within these cases, artist Andrew Witkin has selected various archival and collection materials to display. These items engage the viewer with various narratives of the museum's history and

invite us to look closer. As a volunteer, I assisted the artist in the research and selection of these items. Some highlights include an exploration of one of the museum's first purchases, a set of plaster casts. The cases document these items' changing role, from a prominent display in the galleries to the approachable figures you see in the Currier Art

Center today. These display cases will remain in the library corridor after the Inside Out show closes and will feature a changing selection of archival objects.

Please stop by and have a look.

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Museum Shop Report

Bargains Abound in the Shop

There is now a prominent new display case in the museum's lobby across from the Guest Services Desk to highlight the shop's monthly specials. So, check this case often for good buys. Other good deals can be found on the sale table in the shop. It is filled with bargains, which can be up to 40 percent off.

The Currier Art Center Faculty Exhibition is ongoing through April 1 in the Lower Lobby and the featured artwork is available for purchase through the shop. [*Slovakia: Fall in the Heart of Europe*](#) by Marek Bennett, a New-Hampshire based artist, is also available for collectors of his artwork and will spark the interest of

newcomers to his art.

You have asked, and we have listened. The company 1001 Museums has reproduced three more pieces from the Currier Collection. Edmund Tarbell's *Summer Breeze* and *Mercie Cutting Flowers*, and Laura Alma-Tadema's *Knock at the Door* will join other Currier reproductions. Two sizes are available.

Rubia, an organization promoting women's empowerment through education and income generation from the sale of their heritage handwork, has merchandise in the shop from hand-embroidered pillows to drawstring purses. We will also continue to feature the

popular mud cloth bags and other needle work made by African female artisans. Come in and browse this spectacular handicraft and buy to help out these groups of women.

Jane Bentas, a long-time Guild member, is a new shop volunteer. Please come in and welcome her to our shop family.

A 10 percent member special on umbrellas will be featured in March. Please continue to browse and support our shop. We love to hear the cash register ring.

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New Lobby Display and Spring Umbrellas

Staff News

The Department of Interpretation and Audience Engagement has hired Megan McIntyre as a department assistant. You may have seen Megan around the museum as she was part of the new docent class. As department assistant, she will help with school tours and support day-to-day activities. Megan received a bachelor's degree in Art History and American Studies from Smith College and recently graduated from Harvard University Extension with a master's degree in Museum Studies.

Danielle Gosselin has been hired as the new Currier Museum Art Center office administrator.

Danielle is a former art center student and New Hampshire Art Allstate alumnus, who recently finished her master's in teaching from Maine College of Art. She is a graduate of both Massachusetts College of Art and Design and Manchester Central High School, and is one of our new talented Guild members.

Alana Johanson has accepted the position of bookkeeper/information technology assistant. Alana joined the museum six years ago as our part-time accounting clerk. In addition to working in the business and human resources offices, Alana has worked

in many departments throughout the museum including: curatorial, public relations and marketing, Art Center and the director's office. Please join us in congratulating Alana on her new position.

The following have joined the security team: Joey Jiminez, Cody Huot, Emil "Bill" Boire, Cormac Doherty, and Daniel Griffin.

The Currier is currently hiring for the following part-time positions: guest service representative, accounting clerk and human resources assistant. Full details are available on the Currier website or interested parties can contact Karen Graham directly at

kgraham@currier.org.

Assistant Curator Nina Bozicnik has accepted the position of assistant curator at the Henry Art Gallery at the University of Washington in Seattle. Nina has been a valuable, effective and creative member of the Currier staff for four years and we will miss her and her thoughtful and collaborative perspective.

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