

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MARCH 2009



*What a Night!
Stone Church's
Valentine's
Extravaganza,
featuring Santa
Clara Swing*



A TABLE OF ELEMENTS

- a Lenten sermon series -

According to the *Encarta World English Dictionary*, the word, *element*, used in the proper context can mean any or all of the following:

- ☛ A separate part or group: a separate identifiable part of something.
- ☛ A small quantity: a small, but significant trace of a quality or feeling.
- ☛ A factor: a cause or factor leading to something else.

Of course, this word can also mean other things like a *chemically indivisible substance*, or maybe we've heard someone say, "When she's in the garden, she's in her *element*," or "No wonder my tea water is cold, a heating *element* on the stove burned out."

The use of the word, *element*, appears to have multiple applications in our common life. So, it should come as no element of surprise that this past



week when I read over the stories of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, certain elements jumped off the page: *bread,*

figs, silver, steel, linen, tears, sour wine, wood, water, and stone. I realize that such a list poses some difficulty for the student of chemistry, and yet, for a person of faith, these Lenten and Easter elements are tangible symbols and signposts that beckon one toward the empty tomb.

Thus, this spring, through sermons, children's messages, bulletin covers, and church school lessons, we will explore the part these elements play in shaping the story of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. If it helps, call them dramatic props used in a passion play. Call them common substances used for divine purposes. But whatever we call them, these are only some of the elements that set the stage for our journey through Lent.

See you on Sunday, Ken

For the complete Lenten and Easter schedule at Stone this year, see page 3.

ADULT STUDY LOOKS AT PSALMS, "SUNDAY DINNERS," ECONOMICS, GREENING

Stone Church provides a wonderful opportunity for learning with its Adult Study classes, held every Sunday in the Fireside Room, at 11 am.

There is no class on April 12, Easter Sunday. Contact Pat Magee, Adult Study Coordinator, if you have any questions.

February 22 - March 22: The Psalms as Christian Prayer

As a follow-up to Dr. Patrick Miller's lectures, *The Psalms as Christian Prayer*, we will read and study various types of Psalms, including some favorites and some unfamiliar ones. The Psalms create a kind of dialogue between the human creature and the God who made us and redeemed us. They give voice to our cries of woe and

our shouts of joy. They are poetry to be read aloud.

Class discussions will be led by Marge Palmer (February 22), Pat Magee (March 1 and 8), and David McCreath (March 15 and 22).

March 29 and April 5: Sunday Dinners around The Table

The Lord's Supper, The Eucharist, The Breaking of Bread, Holy Communion - all of these phrases attempt to describe what happens on the first Sunday of every month at Stone Church. Ken Henry will discuss the meaning of this sacrament in terms of our Reformed faith, as well as what Jesus might have meant when he said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

April 19: Economic Strategies for Communities

Kim Welsh, Chief Strategist for the City of San Jose, will share *Changing Forces, Changing City*, a review of the major forces of change (demographic, economic, environmental) shaping the long-term future of cities across the nation.

Discussion will center on what these long-term trends mean for Stone Church and the San Jose/Silicon Valley community.

April 26: The Greening of Stone Church ... and beyond

More information is forthcoming ... check next month's *The Stone News*.

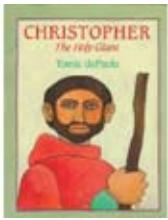
CHURCH LIBRARY: ALWAYS A GOOD READ, WHATEVER YOU ARE LOOKING FOR!

Are you ready for a tale or an enigma? Thinking about sacred or secular? Dreaming? Or coping?

Perhaps you'll find something interesting in our newest books!

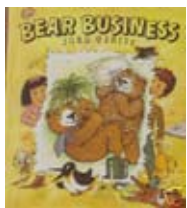
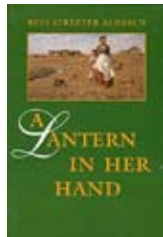
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New books for younger members:



Christopher the Holy Giant by Tomie dePaola (J 398.22 deP)

A Lantern in Her Hand by Bess Streeter Aldrich (YA Ald)



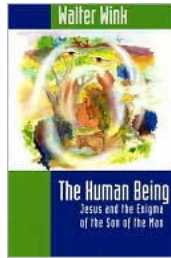
Bear Business by Jurg Obrist (1st Bks Obr)

Additions for adults:

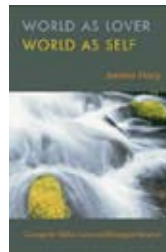
From Takeoff to Landing: Everything You Wanted to Know About Airplanes But Had No One to Ask by Ed Sternstein and Todd Gold (629 Ste)



The Human Being: Jesus and the Enigma of the Son of the Man by Walter Wink (233 Win), given by Pat Magee



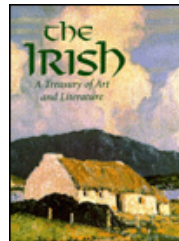
World as Lover, World as Self by Joanna Macy (294.3 Mac)



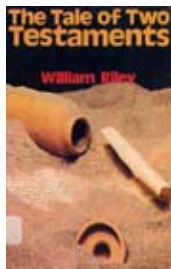
Confucius - The Secular as Sacred by Herbert Fingarette (299 Fin)



100 Years of Sacred Space, DVD from Presbyterian Camps & Conference Ministry



The Irish: A Treasury of Art & Literature edited by Leslie Carola (Tall 941.5 Car), given by Jay and Sue Evans



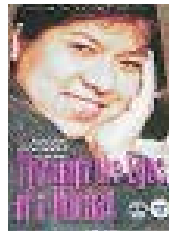
The Tale of Two Testaments by William Riley (220.6 Ril), given by Rebecca Kuiken

New to our special sections:

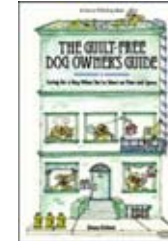
The Whistle-Blowers: Exposing Corruption in Government & Industry by Myron and Penina Glazer (Soc Iss 353 Gla)



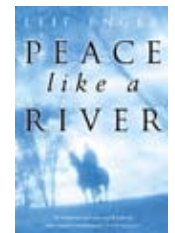
Through the Eyes of a Woman: Bible Studies on the Experience of Women ed. by Wendy Robins (Women 305.4 Rob), given by Rebecca Kuiken



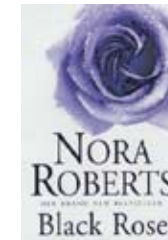
The Guilt-Free Dog Owner's Guide: Caring for a Dog When You're Short on Time and Space by Diana Delmar (Ecol 636 Del)



Peace Like a River by Leif Enger (F Eng)



Black Rose by Nora Roberts (Lg Print Rob)



Fighting Fair: A Non-Violent Strategy for Resolving Everyday Conflicts by Mark Juergensmeyer (Soc Iss 303.6 Jue)

LENT & EASTER AT STONE WILL FOCUS ON THEME, "A TABLE OF ELEMENTS"

Lent and Easter will center on the theme of *A Table of Elements* (see page 1) this year at Stone Church. Sermons, including children's sermons, will focus on the elements and scripture passages outlined below.

Stone's Maundy Thursday worship service will begin at 7 pm in the sanctuary. The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be served, a brief homily preached, the upper room story remembered, and silences observed.

On Good Friday, the sanctuary will be open for personal prayer from 8 am to 5 pm. (There will be no formal service.)

On Easter, there will be a Sunrise Service (time yet to be determined) and a 9:30 am worship service. - Ken Henry

Sunday

1st Sunday of Lent, March 1
 2nd Sunday of Lent, March 8
 3rd Sunday of Lent, March 15
 4th Sunday of Lent, March 22
 5th Sunday of Lent, March 29
 6th Sunday of Lent, April 5
 Maundy Thursday, April 9
 Good Friday, April 10
 Easter, April 12

Element

Unleavened Bread
 Figs
 Silver
 Iron and Linen
 Tears (Salt Water)
 Sour Wine and Wood
 Water for Washing
 A Torn Curtain
 Stone

Scripture

Mark 14:12-16
 Mark 11:12-24, 20-24, 28-30
 Matthew 26:14-16; 27:3-10
 Mark 14:43-52
 Mark 14:66-72
 Mark 15:33-39 (Palm Sunday)
 John 13:1-20
 Mark 15:38
 Mark 15:42-16:8



NEW BANNERS ADD LENTEN COLOR TO CHURCH

Beautiful new Lenten banners now grace the sides of the Stone Church sanctuary, thanks to the hard work of many Stone Church members. The banners consist of strips of purple or violet, the liturgical color used during Advent and Lent, symbolizing penitence and mourning.

Joyce Degan, Janice Goertz, Bea Gropuso, Claudia Hamm, Ruth White, and Jeanette Rapp provided the remnants with which the banners were created. Joyce, Bea and Jeanette, along with Sara Holtzapple, Dulcie Janzen, Sally Magee, Karen Scott, and Nancy Weiss, assembled them.

The "Lamb" banners, from previous years, have again been placed at the front of the sanctuary.

The Lamb on the left is reclining on the Book of the Seven Seals (Revelation 5:1), because He is the Wounded Lamb; however, the three-rayed nimbus denotes his deity. This is the Lamb we contemplate during the weeks of Lent.

The Lamb on the right is standing with the banner of victory. This is the Lamb we look forward to at Easter. No longer wounded, He stands, suggesting the victorious nature of His sacrifice. - Jeanette Rapp

LENT: A TIME FOR FAMILY LOVE

by Mary Jo Blazek,
 Children's Ministry Coordinator

The spiritual practice of fasting during Lent, according to John Calvin, means cleansing oneself of needless desires. This may be more meaningful to us as modern day Christians in the 21st century.

The question is, "What prevents me from accepting God's gifts?"

Does work rule your life? Do you find yourself shopping for things you do not need? How much food do we throw away daily? How much

time do you spend on your computer checking email or playing games? You could probably add a number of other questions appropriate to your own lives.

Whatever it may be, make a choice as a family to do without, and replace it with something more meaningful. An example may be no TV on Friday nights, instead inviting another family over for game night. Skip dessert on Saturdays and save the money it would have cost and give it to the hungry. This is a practice that



can strengthen the family and teach children the true value of love.

"There is no doubt that it is around the family and the home that all the greatest virtues are created, strengthened and maintained." - Winston Churchill



YOUTH MISSION TRIP FOR BUILDING HOUSES IN VISALIA PLANNED FOR JUNE 14 - 19

Calling all High School Youth! Imagine that it's June, and you're out of school or ready to go on vacation. Don't just hang around! Pack up your tent and duffel bag, stow away your tools, hat, and sunscreen, and head down to Stone Church to join a team of builders. Yes, that's right, a team of builders whose destination is the Central Valley to work with Self-Help Enterprises, building affordable housing near Visalia, CA. In today's economy, what better service opportunity could you find than to join a team of workers from Stone doing what we do best - helping others?

This year's trip is scheduled for June 14 - 19 and will give you a special opportunity to be an agent of change. "Yes We Can" make a differ-

ence in the lives of good people who lack safe and affordable housing. "Yes We Can" enjoy a great time, learn new skills, and experience camping, cooking, and living in community together for the benefit of others who so desperately need our special brand of help.

So, come join Stone's youth and youth leaders for a week of "Yes We Can" experiences. All we need is for you to have a willing heart and set of hands, and we'll teach you the building skills you will need.

This will be an experience that is sure to change your life. And don't forget your work gloves! Blessings and blisters be with you!

For more information, contact Kate Wheatley.

HEALTH MINISTRY HOSTS DISASTER PREP WORKSHOP

The Health Ministry Committee invites you to a free *Two-Hour Home and Family Disaster Preparedness Training* on Monday, March 30, from 7 to 9 pm in the Stone Church sanctuary. This training is being provided by the City of San José's Office of Emergency Services, and our Willow Glen neighbors will also be invited. Just imagine that in two hours you can learn about:

- Hazards that you should prepare for in San José
- Ways to reduce the risks of loss and injury before disaster strikes
- How to create a family disaster plan
- What you should include in your personal and family disaster supplies
- Opportunities to become even more involved and disaster-prepared

- Carrie Giorgianni, Chair, HM

HANDICAPPED PARKING AT STONE CHURCH

Due to the limited number of parking spaces at Stone, certain parking places have been designated as *handicapped only*. This restriction is applicable only on Sunday mornings. If you have a DMV-issued handicapped placard, you may use any of these spaces. If you do not have a DMV placard, but have accessibility issues, you may obtain a Stone Church handicapped placard, which will allow you to park in those handicapped spaces on Sunday mornings.

To get a Stone Church placard, please contact Lynn Stutz or the church office.

At its regular meeting on February 17, the Session dealt with several difficult issues.

The first concerned actions furthering Stone's justice ministries. A member of the congregation objected to an emphasis on *political* beliefs, rather than *religious* beliefs, particularly on Sunday morning.

SESSION BEAT

This is not a new discussion at Stone; over the history of this church there have been numerous instances when the push for social justice has caused discomfort among members. The Stone Works Committee anticipated controversy and scheduled a discussion after worship on the day it announced the Session's

opposition to Proposition 8. The end result of Session's discussion this time was to provide for a response to the objection and to plan more carefully how to raise controversial issues.

Another extensive discussion arose out of the Budget Review Committee's decision to cut some of the funding for the Taizé service. Worship chair Donald Foster conveyed to Session the Taizé Committee's decision to cut four extra services during Lent (regular services will continue on the first Tuesday of each month). Donald also conveyed the committee's suggestions for ways to make up the lost funding. These realities of budgeting were reiterated: offerings from Taizé services go to the general fund and do not

accrue to the Taizé budget line; designated giving for Taizé is discouraged because it might undercut unified budgeting. In face of concerns about Taizé funding, Session promised to review the budget and look for ways to support this worship service.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee initiated a discussion about fundraising. Again, the point was made by Session that too much fundraising for individual causes undercuts the general budget. And this is a spiritual issue - the church is not a social club; it is a faith community.

Session did authorize a *Bring Down the Mortgage* patio sale on July 11 and 12.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

Beware the Ides of March! Erin go brag! (That's for Saint Patrick's Day.)

Alas, there isn't much else to celebrate in March. Do remember that we are in the season of Lent.

PW in the Presbytery will meet on March 21 at San Martin Presbyterian Church, from 2 - 4 pm, for *Called by the Spirit ... to Bring Hope to Those at Risk*. The CIC Ministries Chaplain

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

at Elmwood Women's Prison will speak to us. If

you have never attended an event at San Martin, try to come to this one: the church is a treasure and is one of



the oldest churches in the Presbytery.

The 2009 Church-wide Gathering in Louisville is coming July 11 - 15. Regular registration is \$380 before May 15 and \$430 after the 15th. Included in registration are four breakfasts, three lunches and four dinners. Travel and lodging are separate. The deadline for applying for PW in the Presbytery scholarships is April 1; the contact person is Claudia Hamm. Stone Church PW also has a few scholarships; apply to Janice Goertz by April 8.

Sunday, March 8, is *Gifts of Women Sunday*; come see, hear and participate in what God has empowered us to be and to do.

We were able to donate \$25 to Della Smith's school due to your faithful savings of Lucky and Save Mart receipts. They are tentatively planning to repeat this program next year. We'll keep you informed when and if it happens. Just a reminder: we need the *entire* labels from Campbell products and just the *box tops* for education from General Mills products. The box for these is always on the library cart in the Social Hall on Sundays.

If you have not yet participated in the Apportionment part of the PW budget, please be reminded it is now \$10 per year.

Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate continue to be sold on the third Sunday of each month.

PW Schedule for March:

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, March 4, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, March 5, Alice Thorn's home

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, March 9, Joyce Summer's home



The Stone Church Presbyterian Women recently hosted a Scottish Tea (a nod to our other heritage — hence the kilt on the one male guest) and celebrated John Calvin's 500th birthday.

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, March 10, Taiwan Restaurant

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, March 15, Social Hall

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, March 16, Marcia Ludwig's home, reading *Waiting* by Ha Jin

Focus Group, 9:30 am, March 17, Liz Shandera's home (date change)

PWP Gathering, 2-4 pm, March 21, San Martin Presbyterian Church

Book Group I, 1 pm, March 23, Liz Shandera's home, reading *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows

Bible Study, 9:30 am, March 26, Church Library

Prayer Shawl Ministry, 4 pm, March 26, Fireside Room

- Catherine Amos

Stone's Men's Ministry includes mission worktrips, an interesting book group, and even flying trips with their own private pilots! For more detail about these events, contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

Men's Book Group

The Men's Book Group will meet on March 16, at 7:30 pm. The host will be Bill Lytle.

The book for discussion will be *The Soloist: A Lost Dream, An Unlikely Friendship, And The Redemptive Power of Music*, by Steve Lopez. All men of the church are welcome.

Men's Mission Team

The Men's Mission Team is making a worktrip, March 6 - 8, to Westminster Woods, the Presbyterian Camp for Northern California located about 110 miles from San Jose. Advanced construction skills will be provided by professionals on staff at the camp, so don't worry if your skills are limited. Rev. Dr. Ken Henry is coming along, and there will be a communion service and an interesting fellowship program as part of the weekend.

If you are thinking of going, especially if you are a first-timer with lots of questions, please contact Leland Wong.

- D. McCreath and L. Wong

STONE WORKS DONATION REPORT

Stone Works wants to thank you for your generosity. For Communion Sunday food donations, Fred Groppuso reported that, in January, we donated 14 bags of food, totaling 57.25 pounds. In February, we donated 23 bags, totaling 141.5 pounds. Fred faithfully collects and delivers this food to Sacred Heart every month.

Karen Scott, who with Joyce Degan volunteers every Tuesday at Sacred Heart, reported that December donations to Sacred Heart included 1 large and 5 small bags of clothes, 1 large and 3 small bags of toiletries, bedding, Christmas ornaments, two 2009 calendars, 4 pairs of shoes, and 5 boxes of 24-each toothpaste. January donations included 1 large and 17 medium bags of clothes, 3 bags of toiletries, 8 cans of Ensure, taped videos, a cheese board and knives set, place mats, paper/plastic bags, and a telephone/extensions. - Maureen Ryan

JOIN STONE CHURCH GROUP ON LINKEDIN: A RESOURCE FOR JOB-SEEKERS

Stone Church now has a *group* on the *LinkedIn* website, a networking site primarily designed for job seekers and for employers looking for workers.

If you are already a *LinkedIn* member, be sure to add Stone Church to your *groups* list. If you are not yet a member, and especially if you are looking for a job, consider joining this site and then joining the Stone group.

The Membership & Evangelism Committee, with Jocelyn Graham as administrator, started this group to

provide an additional resource for our church community and friends during these trying economic times.

Many Stone Church folks have used the site for years and have found it to be an excellent job searching tool, as well as free of spam and other web annoyances.

- Here is a simple way to get started:
- Go to www.linkedin.com.
 - Click *Join Today* in the upper navigation bar.
 - Fill in personal information; and

create your account.

- Create your profile; populate it with professional and personal information.

To join the Stone Church Group:

- After you've created your profile, click *Groups* from the left menu.
- Select the *Groups Directory* tab.
- In the *Search Groups* area, enter Stone Church.
- Click *Join this Group*.

If you have any questions, contact Jocelyn Graham.

A recent transplant to San Jose, I grew up in Corvallis, Oregon, a university town about 90 miles south of



MEET NEW MEMBER, SUSAN CURTIN

I attended Carleton College, a small liberal arts college in Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with a degree in Economics. I then lived in Minneapolis for

Portland. My family was active in the Methodist church, and I have fond memories of the youth group, youth retreats and summer camp.

I attended Carleton College, a small liberal arts college in Northfield, Minnesota, graduating with a degree in Economics. I then lived in Minneapolis for

a couple of years before yearning to return to the west coast and consequently moving to Portland.

In Portland, I was a member of First Church, the downtown Methodist church. I worked in sports marketing for a company that staged golf tournaments and then for an arm of the Portland Trailblazers that managed the Rose Garden arena. Along the way, I met Paul, and we were married. Maggie was born in 2000, and Grace followed two years later.

Event work was not very conducive to family life, so I quit to stay home with our girls, and I have been a stay-

at-home mom ever since.

Two years ago, Paul received a job offer from Apple that we could not refuse, so we left our friends and family and moved south for our own California adventure. We live in the Willow Glen/Cambrian area and have been attending Stone for a little over a year. I have been impressed with the congregation's sense of community and purpose. The girls enjoy church school activities, and I have enjoyed getting to know other families. I look forward to getting to know more members of the congregation - everyone has been so welcoming.

STEPHEN MINISTRY - CHRIST CARING FOR PEOPLE THROUGH PEOPLE

The room was alive with enthusiasm and curiosity as Marsha Wadley and I joined 190 Christians from all over the US (including Hawaii) and Canada in the ballroom of the Hilton Hotel in Portland, Oregon, on February 8.

We spent the next six days from early morning and often late into the evening studying the Stephen Ministry Leadership Training curriculum, praying, role playing, singing, eating and sharing experiences and ideas with one another.

It was a delightful, if somewhat exhausting, week that prepared us

to teach the Stephen Ministry modules to present and future individuals interested in becoming Stephen Ministers.

Thanks go to the Presbytery of San Jose for its generous Vision Grant, which is providing the Stephen Ministry Leadership Training course for four individuals from Stone Church. Thanks, also, go to the Stone Church Session and the congregation of Stone Church for its support, both prayerfully and financially.

If you're curious about what a Stephen Minister could do for you, or if you'd like to take the Stephen Ministry training course to become a Stephen Minister or to simply use the information in your own life, please contact Dale Bracey, Judith Mohr, Joan Peckham, Marsha Wadley or me.

We'd love to share what this Ministry means in our lives.

Peace, Jan Keifer

SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR TAIZE WORSHIP SERVICES

As a result of budget cuts, the Taizé Committee regrets that they will not be able to sustain the weekly Taizé services during the Lenten season. For the past ten years, this weekly Lenten discipline of deep silence, prayer, and simple chants has been important for a significant number of people from Stone Church and from the larger community. Our hope is that this cutback is a temporary situation, and that our church community will find the resources to restore the full schedule of services. In the meantime, we are continuing with our monthly Taizé schedule, with services held the first Tuesday of the month, 6:45 to 7:30 pm. If you have not yet experienced the beauty and peace of this service, we encourage you to mark your calendars, and give yourself this gift of silence and song, and the presence of the holy.

Taizé schedule: Tuesdays, March 3; April 7; May 5; June 2; July 7; August 4; September 1; October 6; November 3, December 1, 2009. The prelude music begins at 6:30, and the service starts at 6:45.

- Hilleguus Faber



Jan and Marsha, with the founder of Stephen Ministries, Dr. Kenneth Haug, in the background.



The Men's Mission Team Dinner



The Deacons' Winter Tea



FAMILY HIKE WITH KEN HENRY

Ken Henry will lead a family day hike to places currently unknown!

Join Ken and other families at the church on March 14, at 9:30 am, to carpool to a site yet to be determined.

Bring a bag lunch and wear comfortable clothing, especially good walking shoes.

The current estimated time to be back at the church is 2 pm.

STONE CHURCH SOUND SYSTEM WORKSHOP

Have you ever wanted to learn about the sanctuary sound system and didn't know whom to ask? Here is your opportunity! Join us in the sanctuary at 10 am on Saturday, March 7, as our sound system expert, Bob Johnson, answers our questions.

Eager to get started? Check this out for a little light reading: www.mackie.com/pdf/onyx1220_om.pdf

For questions, contact Caryl Westerberg.



One of the wonderful musicians in Santa Clara Swing, which performed at Stone Church on Valentine's Day (more pictures on page 1).

QUICK REMINDERS

PASTA DINNER, MARCH 13, FROM 6:30 TO 9 PM, SOCIAL HALL. CONTACT CATHY MARSHALL FOR MORE INFORMATION.

REFUGEE MINISTRY WELCOME BACKPACKS AND GIVING EASTER TREE, MARCH 22. CONTACT MAUREEN RYAN FOR MORE INFORMATION.



Jan Keifer and Ruth White (with Sally Magee in the background) at the monthly Presbyterian Women Fair Trade Sales in the Social Hall. For more PW activities, see page 5

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