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### COMMUNITY CELEBRATES NATIONAL NIGHT OUT Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood community came out in large numbers to meet and mingle with their police, fire, and EMS responders during the 2023 National Night Out event held at LaGrande Park on August 1st.

Founded in 1984 in suburban Philadelphia as a local town watch "night out against crime," the National Night Out, held on the first Tuesday of August, is now a nationwide community outreach by police and first responders designed to strengthen the bonds with the people they serve. To that end, the Fanwood Police Department, Fire Department and Rescue Squad hosted a celebration of free fun, food and contests. Highlights included the annual Dunk-A-Cop dunk tank featuring perennial good sport Sgt. Dan Piccola; a whipped cream eating contest assisted by rescue squad members; K9 demonstration by Sgt. Anthony Gialanella of the County Sheriff's Department with his bomb-sniffing dog Leo; face painting; tours of fire and rescue apparatus including blood pressure screenings; giveaways by officers from the Department of Corrections; bounce house and giant slide; free hot dogs, pizza, popcorn and beverages.

Families of all sizes packed the park, one of the largest crowds in the event's history according to observers. Local officials attending included Borough Council members Jeff Banks, Gina Berry and Erin McElroy Barker and Police Director Mike Bramhall along with volunteers from the fire department and rescue squad and many police officers who assisted with events, giveaways and food.

Photos by Tom Kranz



(above) Sgt. Dan Piccola in the dunk tank



with Leo



(above) Cieslak family of Fanwood tours Ladder 2



(above) Amelia, 8, of Scotch Plains gets her face painted



(above) Rescue Squad including many new members

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### **SP-F FUTURES TEAM WINS 7U CHAMPIONSHIP**

In their 1st year of travel baseball, the Scotch Plains Fanwood 7u Futures played an incredible summer season with the New Providence Green League. They finished the season with 8 wins and 2 losses. They won playoff games against Watchung Hills Gray 7u and Branchburg Bulldogs 7u to advance to the championship game. In the Championship game, they outscored

In their 1st year of travel baseball, the Scotch ains Fanwood 7u Futures played an incredible mmer season with the New Providence Green NPGL 7u Champions.

> The whole team trained incredibly hard and worked together this season. Everyone contributed in a big way to winning the championship game and a successful season.

Courtesy photo



(above) Coaches: Matt Taylor, Joe Accardi, Joe Llano, JR Luccarelli, and Bryan Schneider. Players: JT Accardi- # 5, Henry Apfelbaum - # 21, Mason Cerchio- # 9, Jaiden Llano- # 99, Asher Luccarelli - # 25, Stephen McKee - # 13, Finn Pantano - # 7, Jayden Pence - # 15, Miles Rodriguez - # 11, Myles Schneider - # 3, Sterling Simo - # 1, and Luke Taylor - # 23.

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### **BAG A GREAT DESIGNER HANDBAG & MORE**

Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League Thrift Shop

non-profit Thrift Shop operated by the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Service League (FSPSL), located at 1741 East Second Street in Scotch Plains, will re-open for business on Tuesday, September 5.

The opening marks the start of FSPSL's muchanticipated annual designer handbag event. This is the best time of the year to find gently-used handbags from Michael Kors, Kate Spade, Coach, Cole Haan and other famous brands, along with wallets for men and women and a variety of evening bags for all types of special events.

Upon the shop's reopening customers will also find the store shelves stocked with fall



(above) FSPSL's much-anticipated annual designer handbag event will begin Tuesday, September 5. Due to donors and customer sales, \$60,000 in grants to local organizations and student scholarships were made in 2023 and many goods found a second, useful life rather than landing in a landfill.

After a two-week end-of-summer closing, the merchandise, including clothing and autumnthemed décor. In the Linen Department, a wide variety of vintage aprons will be available, from everyday practical to holiday fancy. Besides quilts, bedding, throw pillows, table cloths, napkins and curtains, beautiful winter fabrics like ultrasuede and woolens will be priced at approximately \$1 a yard. Material is precut and ready for sale.

> Store hours are Tuesday through Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Drop by the store early in the month for the best selection of handbags and to shop a wide selection of constantly replenished clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, linens, household goods, toys, games, books, CDs and DVDs. Children are always welcome provided they are accompanied by an adult.

> The all-volunteer Service League thanks all patrons and contributors of goods for their ongoing support of the Thrift Shop. All store proceeds outside of operating expenses are plowed back to the community. Due to our donors and customer sales, \$60,000 in grants to local organizations and student scholarships were made in 2023 and many goods found a second, useful life rather than landing in a landfill.

> Help us keep up the good work! Call for more information about store donations and volunteer opportunities during Thrift Shop business hours: 908-322-5420.









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## **BUSY AUTUMN SEASON AHEAD FOR DAR**

Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) resume monthly meetings on Sept. 12 with a busy fall agenda.

Upcoming events include the State Meeting, collecting pet food as a DAR Day of Service project, honoring veterans at an assisted living facility, collecting holiday gifts for hospitalized veterans and participating in Wreaths Across America.

Chapter members will report on summer activities, including greeting new citizens, DAR Continental Congress in Washington, D.C., and a workshop to preserve historic cemeteries. Members are also working on a state project to create an index of N.J. Revolutionary War veterans by county.

Do you have an ancestor who served in the American Revolution, or donated goods, services or paid a supply tax? We can help you with your research and DAR application.

DAR is a service organization open to women 18 and older who can prove descent from a

Following a summer hiatus, members of patriot of the American Revolution. Elizabeth Snyder-Continental Chapter is based in Green Brook and serves areas in Somerset, Middlesex and Union counties. Contact ESCchapterDAR@gmail.com or learn more at DAR.org.



(above) DAR members attended a summer workshop on how to preserve historic cemeteries at the Presbyterian Church in Morristown, N.J.

Courtesy photo

### **COMMUNITY CALENDAR AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

The 60th edition of the Fanwood-Scotch Plains Community Date Calendar for September 2023 through September 2024 will be hot off the press and available for purchase as of September 1st. Sales of the Community Date Calendar are a major source of scholarship funds for the F-SP College Club. This year the College Club awarded \$25,500 to 12 local young women and the current scholarship recipients are featured on the cover of the calendar.

This community service project, produced by 17 members of the College Club includes information for more than 70 clubs and organizations in Fanwood and Scotch Plains in addition to a wealth of information about school, church and municipal government activities. The calendar also includes a 2025 calendar preview.

Due to the generosity and support of local

advertisers listed in the calendar, the \$10 donation for each calendar sold will go directly into the College Club's scholarship fund.

The College Club Community Date Calendars are available for purchase at Norman's Hallmark, Scotchwood Florist, Mountain Deli, Shear Magic, Apple Blossom Flower Shop and the Scotch Plains Library, as well as from College Club members.

The College Club is hopeful that community members who have supported the sales of the community date calendars in the past will continue to do so and will contribute to the success of this major fundraiser.

Anyone interested in taking one of the few open advertising spaces in the 2024-25 College Club Community Date Calendar, please call 908-917-5979.





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### **OPEN HOUSE – SEPT 3**

The Osborn Cannonball House Museum will be open for visitors on Sunday, September 3rd, 2023 from 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. Come visit our Colonial-era museum where you'll hear the story of the Osborn Family, who were instrumental to the early development of Scotch Plains. See our exhibits of colonial era living and a 19th century parlor.

The Museum is located at 1840 Front Street, Scotch Plains, NJ. Admission to the museum is free but donations are always welcome.

For more information email Info@HistoricalSocietySPFNJ.org or call 908-322-6700 Extension 230.



### **ITALIAN FESTIVAL** SEPT. 1ST – 4TH

The Scotch Plains-Fanwood Chapter of UNICO, in collaboration with St. Bartholomew's Church and St. Bartholomew's Academy, is thrilled to announce the highly anticipated return of the 49th Annual Italian Festival. This vibrant celebration of community, culture, and culinary delights is set to take place from September 1st to September 4th, 2023, at the St. Bartholomew the Apostle Roman Catholic Church located at 2032 Westfield Ave in Scotch Plains.

This year's festival schedule and featured musical acts are as follows:

#### Friday, Sept. 1, 4:30pm-10:30pm.

• 7pm: Wolf Creek - Performing country, southern, & classic rock.

#### Saturday, Sept. 2, 4:30pm-10:30pm.

- 5pm: Italian Mass at St. Bartholomew Church.
- 6pm: Mike Aromando and the Metropolitan Italian Strolling Band - Performing traditional Italian Music.
- 7pm: The Jersey Jukebox Performing hits from the 50's to the 80's.

#### Sunday, Sept. 3, 4:30pm-10:30pm.

• 7pm: The Broadcasters - Performing classic rock.

#### Monday, Sept 4, 3pm-8pm.

- 5pm: Jimmy and the Parrots Performing Jimmy Buffet's greatest hits.
- 8pm: Super 50/50 raffle drawing.

Scotch Plains-Fanwood UNICO, St. Bartholomew's Church, and St. Bartholomew's Academy invite everyone to join in the celebration of the 49th Annual Italian Festival. Let us come together, embrace the rich heritage of Italy, raise funds for the community, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

### **ITALIAN HERITAGE ESSAY CONTEST**

#### SPF UNICO

UNICO is excited to announce an upcoming contest opportunity for local students in grades 5-8. The Columbus Day Italian Heritage Essay Contest is a chance for young participants to connect with their roots and explore their family history.

Open to Scotch Plains and Fanwood students of Italian descent, this contest is divided into two age groups: Grades 5 & 6 and Grades 7 & 8. Participants should focus the essays on their ancestors' immigration journey from Italy to America, their family history, and what their Italian heritage means to them.

The essay submissions should be between 1 to 3 pages, double-spaced, and emailed to spfunico@gmail.com by October 6. Entries will be evaluated based on their content, creativity, and connection to the theme. One winner will be chosen from each age group and awarded a \$100 prize.

The essay winners will be announced on The Scotch Plains Fanwood chapter of October 14 at 10 a.m. during the annual Columbus Day Italian Heritage Event located at the Scotch Plains Town Hall Village Green, or inside Town Hall in case of inclement weather. Refreshments will be served following the ceremony. Contest participants need not be present at the Heritage Event but are encouraged to attend.

> The Columbus Day Italian Heritage Essay Contest provides an excellent outlet for Scotch Plains and Fanwood students to explore their heritage, express their gratitude for their Italian roots, and take part in a community event that recognizes their cultural identity.

> UNICO is the largest Italian-American service organization in the USA, and the SPF chapter is celebrating its 50th year. To learn more about becoming a UNICO member or obtain additional information on UNICO events, please visit their official website at unicospf.org or email them at spfunico@gmail.com.

### **5K PIZZA RUN & FAMILY FUN RUN - OCT 15**

Registration is now open for the Fanwood 5K Pizza Run & 1-Mile Family Fun Run, which will be held on Sunday, October 15th, 2023. The Fun Run will begin at 11 a.m. and the 5K will begin at 11:30 a.m. After crossing the finish line, all registered runners can enjoy free pizza, courtesy of Fanwood's own Fabio's Bistro Italian Restaurant and Nick's Pizza & Deli, and other refreshments. And this year the event features a new USATF Certified route that begins and ends in front of Fanwood Borough Hall at 75 North Martine Avenue.

For more information about the run and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org. Runners who register by October 2nd are guaranteed a race t-shirt. Online registration closes October 13th, 2023, at 11:59 p.m. Inperson registration will be available on the day of the race.

This event is sponsored by the Fanwood Recreation Commission, a group of dedicated volunteers who strive to improve and expand recreational opportunities within the Fanwood community. All race proceeds go to benefit Fanwood Recreation events, parks and facilities.







### CAR DONATIONS HELP VETERANS

Submitted by Michael Boll, Director New Jersey Veterans Network

The New Jersey Veterans Network (NJVN) has received countless donations and other awesome support from Renna Media News readers. We are extremely fortunate to have so many readers that love helping our veterans live a better way of life. To date articles in Renna Media publications have resulted in 4 car donations. Veteran "Sarge" is the most recent recipient of a car donation after the donor read an article in a March publication. We are blessed to have such a generous following, donations like this will help our veterans get to work, and their medical appointments.

#### **ABOUT NEW JERSEY VETERANS NETWORK**

We are a group of veterans and volunteers dedicated to helping our veterans and their families live better lives. Our mission is to identify veterans and connect them with resources and programs designed to meet their unique set of needs. Help us save Vets! We are always looking for volunteers, with various skills, to join the team. If you are a veteran or family member that's in need of assistance; or are interested in volunteering, would like us to speak at your event, or contribute to our mission, call 973-332-1556 or email mdbollio@optonline.net. To learn more visit njvn.org.

## **RECREATION FALL PROGRAMS**

For more information about programs and to register, please go to fanwoodrecreation.org.

Fanwood Recreation

Registration is now open for a variety of Fall programs for kids, including Hip Hop Dance, SAT Boot Camp, Young Rembrandt's Elementary Drawing, Fashion Design: The Wrap Hoodie, Junior Tennis Lessons, Musical Theater Class,

Soccer, Multi Sports, Basketball, Track & Field and more!

For adults, Fanwood Recreation offers Pickleball Lessons and Bridge.

For Seniors, Fanwood Recreation offers Zumba Gold, Gentle Yoga and Aerobics.

### **COLLEGE CLUB SEEKS COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

The College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains is beginning its 91st year of community service with two events that can benefit participants as well as help the College Club raise funds to continue its mission of empowering young women through education by awarding scholarships annually. This past year the club awarded \$25,500 to 12 local young women. To date, the College Club has awarded approximately \$780,000 in scholarships to 582 young women.

On September 23rd the College Club will hold a Giant Yard Sale from 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., at 29 Fieldcrest Drive in Scotch Plains. All are invited to enjoy outdoor shopping for an extensive variety of reasonably priced items. Furniture, dishes, glassware, clothing, jewelry, household items, toys and baby items are some of the items that will be available to purchase. The rain date is September 24th.

The College Club can help you declutter your closets by participating in the College Club's Used Clothing Drive which will be held on

September 30th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. at 59 Russell Rd., Fanwood.

Items that can be donated include wearable clothing, belts, handbags, backpacks, and hats. Shoes can be donated but need to be in separate bags. Soft household items such as linens, blankets, pillows, towels, comforters, and curtains will be accepted as well as stuffed animals and small toys.

All items should be placed in tied plastic trash bags. Additional information can be obtained by calling Cathy at 908-322-1362.

The 60th edition of the College Club Community Date Calendar will be available to purchase at both events as well as raffle tickets. All proceeds from both activities as well as calendar sales and raffle tickets will go directly into the club's scholarship fund.

Anyone interested in learning more about the College Club of Fanwood-Scotch Plains will have an opportunity to talk with club members who will be present at both events.



(above) Diane R. recently donated a car to the NJVN. She handed the keys over to "Sarge".







### **PERFORMANCE SERIES OPENS SEPT. 9TH**

#### Borough of Fanwood

The Fanwood Performance Series opens its fall concert season on Saturday, Sept. 9, with a double bill of singer-songwriters.

Shawna Caspi is a singer, a poet, a fingerstyle guitar player and a painter. Her songs resonate with stories that are relatable, but told in new and unexpected ways. Based in Toronto, Caspi performs across Canada and in the U.S. Since her previous Fanwood Performance Series appearance in 2016, she has released her fourth and fifth albums. The latest, "Hurricane Coming," was nominated for a Canadian Folk Music Award for Contemporary Album of the Year and an Ontario Folk Music Award for Album of the Year.

Meaghan Farrell recently performed on The



(above) Shawna Caspi

Rock Boat cruise and at the 30A Songwriters Festival in Florida, and is at work on a new album, "Motherland." The Harrisburg native, now based in New York and Nashville, expresses through her music the full range of her emotions: from heartbreak to healing, from injustice to empowerment, from anxiety to confidence.

Showtime is 7 p.m. at the community building in Forest Road Park, 200 Forest Road in Fanwood. (The series' usual venue, the Carriage House next to Borough Hall, is undergoing restoration.) The suggested donation for admission is \$15, or \$10 for students and seniors, cash at the door. Reservations can be made by fanwoodperformance@gmail.com. emailing Light refreshments are available at intermission.



(above) Meaghan Farrell Courtesy photos



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(above) Mike Conte, presents Barbara Kopel a check.



(above) SMAC co-founder David Baumwoll poses with other founding members Tracy Salmon Svetcov and Barie Salmon Miller and UC SMAC Advisor Mike Conte at Movers, Shakers, Change Makers.

### **MOVERS, SHAKERS, CHANGE MAKERS**

#### SMAC, Inc.

The Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC), Inc., founded in 2001 by Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School students, raised over \$4,000 for the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation at its first-ever signature event, entitled "Movers, Shakers, Change Makers." Held on May 13th, the event was conceptualized and executed by SMAC's student leaders from its network of eleven high schools and colleges in New Jersey and New York.

With "movement" at its core, current students from across the SMAC network were swept up by the fun, physical activities that kept them moving throughout the evening of May 13. The fundraiser's activities featured a DJ dance party, facilitated fitness experiences, friendly games and competitions, and chance for student leaders to meet and mingle. Professional facilitators from Union County businesses included Joint Motion Physical Therapy, Little Flower Yoga, Brassy Buddha Yoga, the Family Martial Arts Center, and Martial Arts America. Members of SMAC's Board of Directors and representatives from the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation were also in attendance to support the cause and its student organizers.

The organization chosen to be this year's beneficiary was the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation (ECF), a New Jersey based nonprofit dedicated to supporting families experiencing a pediatric cancer diagnosis. The organization, celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2023, has a long legacy of welcoming SMAC students as volunteers. The funds raised have been directed to ECF's Emergency Financial Assistance Program, an initiative aimed to support families confronting extraordinary hardships, including eviction and utility shut offs.

SMAC, the Emmanuel Cancer Foundation, and "Movers, Shakers, Change Makers" garnered the attention of local businesses who showed an outpouring of support. "The generosity we saw from private business owners was humbling," said SMAC's Executive Coordinator Danielle Delavaux. "Our student organizers set a lofty goal for their fundraiser, one that could only be achieved with the help of the community. Businesses in and around the Scotch Plains area rose to the challenge by contributing muchneeded funds and in-kind donations that made the evening – and larger effort – a great success."

For more information about the event and ways to get involved in SMAC, please visit supportsmac.org/events, or contact SMAC Executive Coordinator Danielle Delavaux at danielle@supportsmac.org.

Student Movement Against Cancer (SMAC), Inc. is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the next generation of cancer fighters. Created in 2001, SMAC began when a small group of friends at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School banded together to help their friend, Rob Mattar, as he battled cancer.



(above) Student volunteers from six high schools throughout NJ take a quick break from helping to set up for Movers, Shakers, Change Makers on May 13 at Union Catholic High School.

### TREE STEWARD DEAN TALCOTT PASSES AWAY

distinguished himself as a Master Tree Steward, Master Gardener and avid environmentalist, has died after a 16-month-long battle with cancer. He was 74. He passed away at home with Linda, his wife of 32 years, at his side.

Dean's passion for the outdoors and especially trees took him to classrooms around Union County as part of the county's Master Tree Steward Program. He visited many 4th grade classrooms to speak about photosynthesis, tree growth and local historic trees.

In Fanwood, he was a volunteer who wore many hats. He was a long-time member of the town's Shade Tree Commission and a guiding force of the Environmental Commission. For several years, he was curator of the Fanwood Nature Center, an 8-acre habitat that backs up against his home. He documented all of Fanwood's older trees by age and location.

The information is posted on the Fanwood website's Trees of Fanwood page, fanwoodnj.org/departments/shade-treecommission/trees-of-fanwood/.

"He was one of the finest Fanwoodians I've even known," said Mayor Colleen Mahr. "He loved his town, his trees, his bike rides around town. I will miss him dearly."

"In has been an honor and pleasure to know him," said Councilwoman Kathy Mitchell, a friend for more than 30 years. "His love of Fanwood on Saturday, September 9th, 2023.

Dean Talcott, a 48-year Fanwood resident who Fanwood, his caring of the earth, his knowledge of trees, maple syruping, poetry and his willingness to share his talents with others, his passing is not only a loss for his family but for our town."

> His last project was to have the area around Fanwood Borough Hall designated an arboretum because of the richness of tree history therein. That project is currently in the hands of the Shade Tree Commission.

> Dean was a professional engineer for Union County for 30 years designing, supervising, building and inspecting bridges. He built the original wooden footbridges in the Nature Center which were just recently replaced.

> He was a member of the St. Bartholomew's Old Timers Softball League for 28 years, a captain for 17 years and began the publicity for the league. After retiring, he began writing poetry and compiled many of his works into a selfpublished volume dedicated to "Linda, my wife, for tolerating my lunacy." In August, 2022, he wrote of his years teaching:

> I hope they recall the miracle of a tree, I do and believe and feel that there must be angels around me.

> In addition to his wife Linda, Dean Talcott is survived by his brother David, his wife Jeanne and their three adult children. A memorial service will be held at the Memorial Funeral Home in



(above) Dean making maple syrup from sap harvested in his backyard, February, 2023

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### WHAT ARE YOU SEEKING?

A free spirituality seminar is being offered by much as to be understood. Dialogue is expected Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains, NJ. Meetings are weekly, and most are on Zoom.

Some of the most interesting and meaningful discussions occur when we talk about subjects that really matter to us. What is important to you? What fills you with joy? What do you seek in life? What do you believe? Alpha was created as an opportunity to examine important topics that ask us to reevaluate what we believe and why.

The four in-person meetings begin with a meal, followed by a short video on various Christian topics, small group discussions and conclude with some summary comments. The other meetings are conducted on Zoom. There are twelve meetings in total. While it seems as though only people with faith are the target audience, all are welcome whether a believer, an atheist, or an agnostic. Come and bring a friend.

Listening is critical to this format. It is as important to understand other points of view as to be respectful not confrontational. No one is forced to talk if they simply choose to listen.

The comments of those who have done the Alpha Program offer the best reasons to "Try Alpha":

"I needed a spiritual tune up and I got it." "It was a safe place to discuss deep topics of faith." "I found a new energy and peace about my faith." "It gave me a sense of hope." "I found my faith again."

The next Alpha Program will begin on Monday, September 18, 2023 with a dinner at 7 p.m. in the Nazareth Center at Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) Church, 1571 S. Martine Avenue, Scotch Plains. Since most meetings will be on Zoom it will require access to a device for the Zoom meetings. Links and directions for Zoom will be provided to those who register. Participation is capped at 30 people. Sign up by visiting the IHM website: ihmparish.net. If you have any questions about Alpha, email: office@ihmparish.net or call: 908-889-2100.



(above) Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Scotch Plains to host a free spirituality seminar. Registration is required, please visit *ihmparish.net/alpha. If you have any questions* about Alpha, email: office@ihmparish.net or call: 908-889-2100.



- Know where your web traffic is coming from and why.
- ELIMINATE / AVOID COSTLY SCHEMES
- Evaluate the return you are getting from your online marketing costs.
- INCREASE ONLINE MARKETING RESULTS
- Recommendations include ways to increase traffic to your website NO OBLIGATION
- This service is recommended even if you have an existing
- web management contract. Use it to tune up your marketing plan.

Call for a consultation if you do not have a website or if need a new one. Call Walter at 201-478-7408 email: wwwinnj@gmail.com

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