

Garden State Region News - October 10, 2025



Garden State Region
WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM



STAND
WITH
ISRAEL

Chag Sukkot Sameach!



STAND UP
TO JEWISH
HATE

WL Week

Visit GSR Website

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**Click on the Calendar icon for 2025-2026 GSR Calendar
(Revised 9-4-25)**

All times listed are Eastern Time



MESSAGE FROM SHEILA KAUFMAN, GSR PRESIDENT

"Chag Sukkot Sameach"

Dear Affiliate,

Shalom!

Could this be it? Will the hostages finally be released and the Hamas-Israeli War come to an end this weekend? I sure hope so. I will keep my fingers crossed that it does happen. It has been way too long.

We got our sukkah up on Sunday and finished the lights Monday night before dinner. Our sukkah is not one of those pre-fab ones, but homegrown! Last weekend we stopped for cornstalks which were still green but weathered beautifully for their debut. The sides are sheets and I have a new fall tablecloth. My architect colleagues are quite impressed and I

will say it is quite comfy. With my work schedule, the weather, and visiting others, we will see how much we can entertain. We did miss seeing the Harvest Super Moon on Monday and the shooting stars on Wednesday, having dinner with the family was really all we needed. Oh, and the dog loves it because she gets to roam around the backyard while we eat!

As you saw last week, registration for the Garden State Region Torah Fund Event is now open. We look forward to seeing you at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell on Sunday, November 16. Doors open at 12:30 pm with the Chinese lunch and program beginning at 1 pm. Please register, the information is below. We are honored to have JTS student Maya Krouse as our guest speaker and we will have a tribute for the late Ruth Aach z"l, who passed away last year.



Chag Sukkot Sameach and Shabbat Shalom,

Sheila

Sheila Kaufman

President, Garden State Region WLCJ

gsrpresident24@wlcj.org

"Networking to engage, enrich and empower Conservative Jewish women"

2024-2026 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

President - [Sheila Kaufman](#)

VP, Programming - [Susan Winter](#)

VP, Sisterhood/Affiliate Support - [Cheryl Sessler](#)

VP, Torah Fund - [Sindy Manas](#)

Secretary, Communications - [Ilene Rothman](#)

Secretary, Corresponding - [Susan Sferas](#)

Secretary, Financial - [Lisa Katz](#)

Secretary, Recording - [Carol Kotch](#)

Treasurer - [Donna Franklin](#)

Parliamentarian - [Dorothy Cohen](#)

Immediate Past President - [Lynette Seader](#)

Advisor to the Board - [Meryl Balaban](#)

Advisor to the Board - [Heddy Belman](#)



Torah Fund supports programs and scholarships at the five Conservative/Masorti global institutes of higher education.



Message from SINDY MANAS, GSR TORAH FUND VP

"Oseh Shalom (Maker of Peace)"

We welcome the ceasefire agreement that will bring home all the remaining hostages from Gaza in the coming days. We are hopefully optimistic but cautious until this is done.

You should have received your Torah Fund pins. Please let me know if you are missing any or if you need more. Thank you for your patience and your continued support of Torah Fund.

This year's Torah Fund theme is **Oseh Shalom (Maker of Peace)**. May peace come very soon to the State of Israel and all over the world.

The Creating Spaces Campaign raised \$200,000 for two special projects. The first project received \$100,000 for the Women's League Study Space at JTS. The JTS Study Space was dedicated yesterday at the WLCJ Board meeting. The second project received \$100,000 for the Gender Bias Curriculum at Ziegler. The dedication for this will be at a future date.

Our Fall Torah Fund Event will be on Sunday, November 16, 2025, at Congregation Agudath Israel in Caldwell. Our speaker is Maya Krouse. Maya is a first-year rabbinical student at JTS and she will discuss her Journey to JTS. We will also have a tribute for Ruth Aach z"l. Tribute monies received in her memory will be donated to Torah Fund. Registration is now open.



Am Yisrael Chai!

Shabbat Shalom,

Sindy Manas
Torah Fund VP Garden State Region
Smanas750e@gmail.com
(908) 208-8230

Announcing Our 2025-2026 Campaign Theme:

Oseh Shalom

עֲשֵׂה שָׁלוֹם

Maker of Peace

We strive to make a significant impact through scholarships and programs that benefit students at The Jewish Theological Seminary, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, Schechter Institutes, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano, and The Abraham J. Heschel Seminary.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we help committed Jewish students become the rabbis, cantors, educators, synagogue administrators, social workers, scholars, researchers and lay leaders of tomorrow.

When you support Torah Fund, you help educate students in New York, Los Angeles, Israel, Latin America and Europe—and you align with those who value learning, knowledge and providing the future generation with relevant skills to fortify the Jewish people.

Visit www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund

Oseh Shalom Bimromav, "may the One who makes peace in the heavens, make peace for us and all the people of Israel," appears at the end of Kaddish and in other prayers, and is also a song. We help foster Jewish unity by our support of the five global Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education.



PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY TO TORAH FUND!

TORAH FUND GIVING LEVELS

Golden Supporter: \$8,100

Keter Kavod \$5,000

Scholarship Patron \$2,500

Patron \$1,200

Associate Patron \$600

Guardian \$300

Benefactor \$180

FOR OUR U.S. SUPPORTERS

go to inspired.jtsa.edu/torahfund

Or send your check to the Torah Fund office.

FOR OUR CANADIAN SUPPORTERS

go to torahfunddecards.jtsa.edu/canadian

Make a donation of any amount with the minimum purchase of one ecard.

Or send a check to The Jewish Theological Society, 100 Elder Street, North York,

Ontario, M3H 5G7.

The dedicated philanthropy of the Women's League for Conservative Judaism, Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs in the worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher Jewish learning.

TORAH FUND

3080 Broadway, New York, NY 10027

(212) 678-8876

www.jtsa.edu/torah-fund • torahfund@jtsa.edu

We have beautiful new ecards! Think of Torah Fund for any greeting.

We're expanding our collection with two new designs by Israeli artist Bracha Lavee—a thank-you card and a mazal tov card.

Show you care by sending a Torah Fund ecard for any occasion. For only \$5 per recipient you can send an attractive ecard—and you can even schedule it for a specific time!

Revenue from ecard purchases benefits the Torah Fund general campaign, and our affiliates receive credit for purchases. Make your selection today at
torahfundecards.jtsa.edu

For our Canadian supporters, go to
torahfundecards.jtsa.edu/canadian

And for our Canadian donors:
 Make your gift to Torah Fund online via our ecards!
 For a minimum C\$5 ecard purchase, you can add a contribution of any amount to Torah Fund.

It's easy! Select the card design you'd like to send and follow the user-friendly prompts to complete your transaction.



Torah Fund supports scholarships and programs at the five worldwide Conservative/Masorti institutes of higher education:

Jewish Theological Seminary in New York, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies in Los Angeles, Schechter Institutes in Jerusalem, Seminario Rabinico Latinoamericano in Buenos Aires, and The Abraham J. Heschel Seminary.

Thanks to our donors, we ensure quality education and diverse opportunities for students to become future Jewish leaders serving the broader Jewish community.

Our Jewish future is in your hands!
 Visit torahfundecards.jtsa.edu
 and send an ecard today.

[Click HERE](#) to send a Torah Fund E-Card
[Click HERE](#) to donate to this year's 2025-26 Torah Fund Campaign
[Click HERE](#) to donate to the Torah Fund Legacy Society
[Click HERE](#) for the Torah Fund Chadashot Newsletter

Torah Fund pins will be distributed in September.
 Any questions please e-mail Sindy Manas at smanas750e@gmail.com.



Oseh Shalom
Maker of Peace



Fall Torah Fund Event And 2024-25 GSR Torah Fund Achievement Awards

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Check in begins: 12:30 pm

Program/Lunch: 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm

Congregation Agudath Israel, 20 Academy Road, Caldwell

Presents

Maya Krouse

My Journey to JTS

Maya is a first-year Rabbinical student at JTS.

She feels called to pursue a career in the Rabbinate because of a love of Judaism and particular interest in interreligious dialog. In recognizing the power that people of faith have in strengthening each other, she hopes to strengthen Jewish communities by engaging them with communities outside of Judaism. She has a lifelong passion for the Spanish language and more recently Hebrew. Maya hopes that both languages will allow her to engage with a diverse range of Jewish communities. Before attending JTS, Maya was teaching English to elementary school students in Spain. She holds a BA from Occidental College where she studied Politics and Spanish.

Tribute to

Ruth Aach z'l

March 5, 1925 – October 11, 2024

Ruth was a past member at Temple Emanu-El, Closter; WLCJ Torah Fund Cabinet member and board member; and a major Torah Fund donor.

Chinese Buffet Luncheon & Raffles

Cost & Registration

\$40/\$41.20 Early Bird Registration by Oct. 26

\$50/\$51.50 Regular Registration and no later than Nov. 5

Donations in memory of Ruth Aach z'l are greatly appreciated and will go to Torah Fund. Tributes will be posted in the program.

➤ [Register Online HERE - You must register, there will be no walk-ins.](#)

➤ Send Checks: payable to Garden State Region WLCJ
Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Include Name(s), contact information and Sisterhood/Town, dietary needs, and Tribute message.

➤ Credit Card: (VISA or MasterCard only) accepted with a 3% increase shown in blue.

Questions: Sindy Manas, GSR TF VP, smanas750e@gmail.com

REGISTER

If you are using a credit card for payment, please be sure to include the service charge in your payment. Only VISA and MasterCard credit cards are accepted. We will follow-up with you if the service charge is not included.

Questions: Sindy Manas, GSR TF VP, smanas750e@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

- Sun. May 3, 2026 - GSR Spring Conference

SISTERHOOD AFFILIATE PROGRAMS

Do you have any programs that you would like others to know about? **Let us know.**
Please send your programs that you would like posted to both [Ilene Rothman](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#).

**B'nai Shalom and
Beth Shalom Sisterhoods**
Present a Joint Wellness Program for the New Year
**Coping with the Challenges in Life
with Margie Miller**

Past International President, Women's League for Conservative Judaism



**Thursday, October 23rd at 7:00pm
at B'nai Shalom, West Orange**

Margie was an instructor/facilitator at the WLCJ leadership Institute this summer. She is an inspiring leader and speaker, personable and funny. She has a degree in Sociology and Psychology and has served in leadership positions for several Jewish organizations. After her husband was killed at the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001, she was a family bereavement specialist for South Nassau's "WTC Family Center" for 7 years. Margie coordinated family outreach and programming for the bereaved and first responders' families.

Free for Sisterhood members, \$5 for all others

**RSVP by Sunday, Oct. 19th to
bswo.shulcloud.com or sisterhood@bnaishalom.net**

If registering by email, you may pay at the door, if needed.

B'nai Shalom supports full inclusion
and participation of individuals
having all abilities in both religious
and communal life.



B'nai Shalom

MORRIS AND MIRIAM HAMMER CAMPUS

300 Pleasant Valley Way
West Orange, NJ 07052
(973) 731-0160 • www.bnaishalom.net

RSVP



BREAST HEALTH AWARENESS..... AND THE REST OF OUR LADY PARTS

Dr. Ryan Matthew Kahn

**WLCJ FLORIDA REGION & SHARSHERET
INVITE YOU TO JOIN US ON ZOOM**

**TUESDAY, OCT 28, 2025
AT 7 PM**

Dr. Ryan Matthew Kahn, M.D., MHS, FACOG, is a gynecologic oncologist at Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute. Dr. Kahn incorporates clinical genetics in his practice to improve care and prevention strategies for patients and families carrying BRCA and other hereditary breast and ovarian cancer gene variants.

Panelists:

- Deborah Litwak, Outreach Manager, Sharsheret SE Region
- Bree Tomar, who carries the BRCA2 gene and chose to have prophylactic surgery in her 30's
- Amy Newell, an Ovarian Cancer survivor

**RSVP - JILL.TOMAR@GMAIL.COM
TO RECEIVE ZOOM LINK**



SHARSHERET
The Jewish Breast & Ovarian Cancer Community



Miami Cancer Institute
BAPTIST HEALTH SOUTH FLORIDA



RSVP

PROGRAMS FROM WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The **WLCJ Nominating Committee** has begun its work for the 2026-2029 International Executive Committee. Please contact Debbi Kaner Goldich, Nominating Chair, if you are interested in serving as an officer. Candidates for President should submit a resume and a Vision Statement by October 31 to DGOLDICH@wlcj.org.

Debbi Kaner Goldich
WLCJ Nominating Committee Chair
610-324-7940

WL CONVENTION 2026

SAVE THE DATE

**Sunday, July 12 -
Wednesday, July 15, 2026
Alexandria, VA**

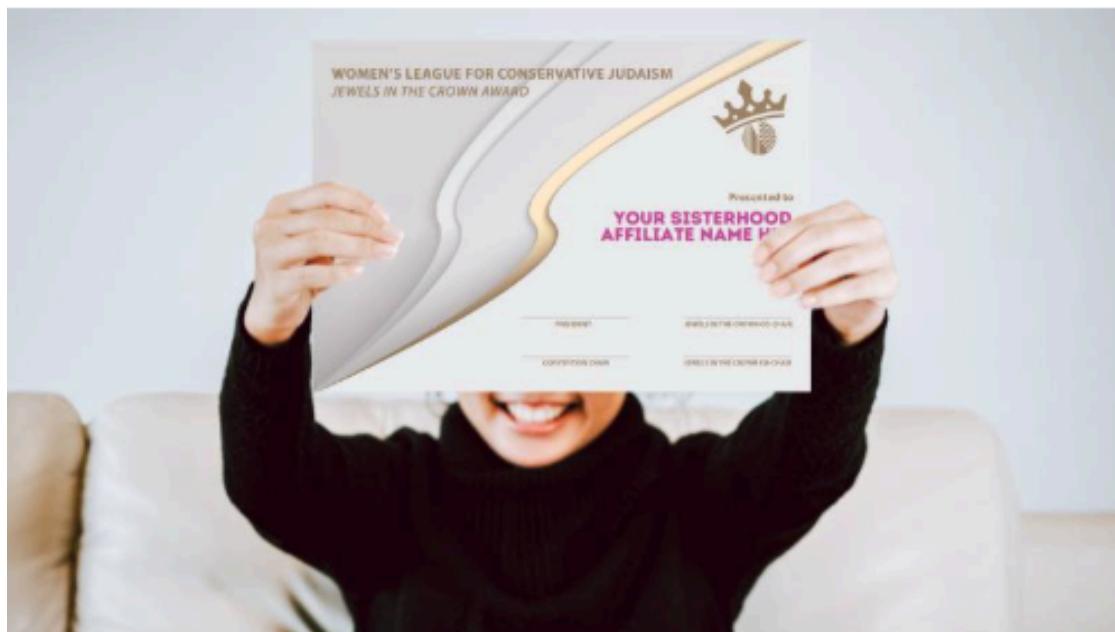


WOMEN'S LEAGUE FOR CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

**Engage, Enrich, Empower
Forging A Stronger Tomorrow**

WEBSITE COMING SOON

JEWELS IN THE CROWN 2026 APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN!



We are excited to announce that the next Jewels in the Crown Award ceremony will take place during our upcoming **WL Convention** in **Alexandria, VA in July 2026!**

This signature award recognizes and celebrates Sisterhood Affiliates for their outstanding accomplishments in education, cultural programming, social action, and WL engagement.

[Read more](#)

WEEKLY WORDS OF TORAH



The WWOT, the Weekly Words of Torah, each week through the end of June 2026, will connect to the **2025-2026 / 5786** Torah Fund general campaign, *Oseh Shalom* – Maker of Peace. To read more Weekly Words of Torah, [click here](#).

Parashat Ha-azinu | October 4, 2025

This penultimate *parashah* of the Torah is Moses' final song to the nation. In it, he offers praise to God for all that God has done for the nation and exhorts the people once again to remain faithful to God.

The central theme of Moses' prayer is connected to ears and hearing. Moses begins by calling both the heavens and the earth to give ear to his words [Deuteronomy 32:1]. The word *ha-azinu* literally asks that the heavens make themselves into ears (*oznaiim*) after he is gone, to listen in as witnesses to all we do and experience. Speaking to the earth, Moses uses the word *tishma*—hear. The heavens and the earth, brought into being at the very beginning of God's creation, will stand as eternal witnesses to the covenant forged between God and Israel . . .

[Continue Reading](#)

MATHILDE'S MASTER CLASS YEAR THREE



2025-2026

2nd Tuesdays of each month

7:30 pm ET / 4:30 pm PT

Dates: Oct 21 · Nov 11 · Dec 9 · Jan 13 · Feb 10 · Mar 10 · Apr 14 · May 12 · Jun 9



Meet this year's faculty:



Join us as we continue our three-year educational journey with Mathilde's Master Class, open to **WLCJ members**. This year our theme is **Women's Voices in Ritual**. Our amazing group of instructors will be exploring how we can incorporate our voices in liturgy, life cycle events, (how to create) rituals and conclude with a discussion on how we as individuals can find our own Jewish voices.

- Taught by outstanding women scholars
- Sessions recorded (live attendance encouraged)
- Hebrew reading helpful, not required
- **Annual fee: \$36**

[Register](#)



EMAIL

Fran Hildebrandt
fhildebrandt@wlcj.org

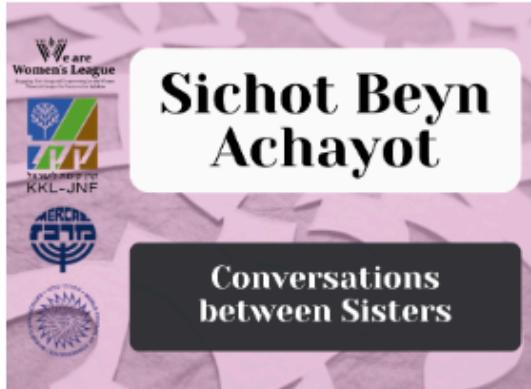
WLCJ International Vice President and
Kehilah/Education Chair

SICHOT BEYN ACHAYOT - SESSION TWO



ONLINE

3-Part Series



עשה שלום, עוזר לנו להשכנן שלום בינם לבין אחרים, *Sichot beyn Achayot* means "conversations between sisters." This program is designed to foster a deeper mutual understanding between the Masorti women in Israel and those in other countries around the globe. It is designed to address the question, "How are we the same, and how are we different?" The theme of this year's program is:

עשה שלום, Maker of Peace

The three sessions will each concentrate on one specific aspect of the contemporary quest for peace both personal and universal and will include presentations from speakers in both North America and Israel.



QUESTIONS

Rabbi Margie Cella
mcella@wlcj.org
WLCJ Educator

Session Two

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Making Peace With Others

19:00 Israel Time | 12:00 PM ET |

11:00 AM CT | 10:00 AM MT | 9:00

AM PT

עשה שלום, עוזר לנו להשכנן שלום בינם לבין אחרים

Oseh shalom, azor lanu lehashkin shalom beyneynu l'veyn acherim

Maker of Peace, help us to make peace between ourselves and others

God commands us to love the stranger as ourselves. How do we learn to acknowledge and accommodate the needs of others without ignoring our own? How can we support those whose lives have been shattered by war? And what would our world look like if we could strive for the peace of others as much as our own?

Speakers

Rabbi Amy Eilberg, Co-Chair of the Racial Justice Subcommittee of the Conservative Movement's Social Justice Commission Conflict Mediation

Topic: [Conflict Mediation Through a Jewish Lens](#)

Linda Avitan, MSW, Board Member Women of the Wall

Topic: [History and Development of the Women of the Wall](#)

Tamar Heimowitz-Richter, Co-founder and Chair, GFIDF-The Partners of Unmarried Fallen Soldiers of the IDF

Topic: [GFIDF - How it Supports the Women \(and Men\) whose Partners were Lost in Battle](#)

Rabbi Dorothy Richman

Topic: [Blessing Practice](#)

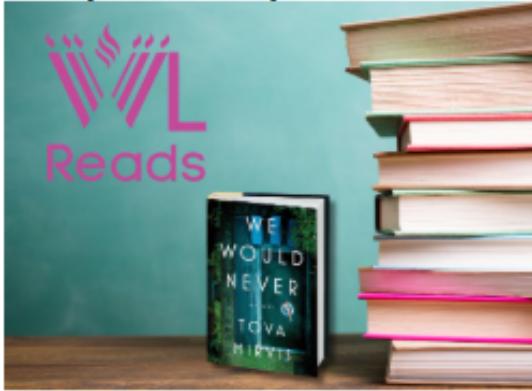
[Register](#)

WL READS



ONLINE

Sunday, November 23, 2025
7:00 pm ET / 4:00 pm PT



Tova Mirvis is the author of the memoir *The Book of Separation* as well as three novels, *Visible City*, *The Outside World* and *The Ladies Auxiliary*, which was a national bestseller. Her essays have appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Boston Globe Magazine and Real Simple, and her fiction has been broadcast on NPR..

Inspired by a true story, **We Would Never** is a gripping mystery, an intimate family drama, and a provocative exploration of loyalty, betrayal, and the blurred line between protecting and forsaking the ones we love most.

Read along with your sisters and join WL Reads for a discussion with Tova Mirvis on **Sunday, November 23rd at 7:00 pm** Eastern Time. Even if you haven't had the opportunity to read the book by then, join us anyway. It will undoubtedly engage your attention.

[Register](#)



EMAIL

Karen Block
WL Reads Chair
kblock@wlcj.org

PREVIOUSLY PROMOTED - REVISIT THE DETAILS

Still need to register?

Click the image to explore each program series on Zoom. We'd love to have you join us!

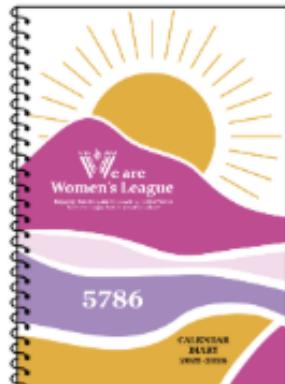
Wednesday, November 5
7:00 - 8:30 pm ET



Wednesday, October 22
7:30 pm ET



WLCJ 5786 CALENDAR DIARIES



ORDER TODAY

Calendar Diaries are available.
Order yours today!

Pocket Size = \$12.00
Planner Size = \$26.00

Let us know if you have any simchas, well wishes, and sorrows to pass on to [Sheila Kaufman](#).

Birthday Wishes

Wishing a very very special birthday to Sebley Hausler, GSR Sisterhood Support Team (Temple Beth O'r / Beth Torah, Clark)

Make a Donation to the Garden State Region to:

- Honor someone special
- Wish a Mazel Tov to a Bar/Bat Mitzvah family
- Send get well wishes
- Send condolences

Our **Scholarship Fund** helps to send women to WLCJ Convention and Leadership Institute where they learn necessary skills to share with our sisterhoods.

The **Sunshine Fund** supports members of the GSR Board in their time of need.

The **Evelyn Auerbach Education Fund** to sponsor an annual GSR Region educational event.

To make donations, contact Donna Franklin GSR Treasurer, at gsrtreasurer@wlcj.org and include which fund(s) to make the donation to.

Or mail your check payable to "GSR-WLCJ" to
Donna Franklin, 7 Liddy Place, West Caldwell, NJ 07006
Donations can also be made via Credit Card.

Donate to GSR using Credit Card

SHARE YOUR SISTERHOOD HAPPENINGS WITH US!

Look for all the info both here and on our Website & Facebook pages.



Follow the Garden State Region!

If you would like to contribute a flyer or picture to upload please forward to [Ilene Rothman](#) and [Sheila Kaufman](#).

Click [here](#) to connect with the Garden State Region Facebook page.

Click [here](#) to visit the Garden State Region website.

Make sure to click both **Like** and **Follow**. It's another great way to learn about everything happening in our Region.



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Ilene Rothman
GSR Secretary Communications / Newsletter Editor
gsrccommunications@wlcj.org

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