

May 2, 2022



THE VILLAGER



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INSERTED IN THIS ISSUE OF THE VILLAGER**

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Thanks to Lori Hedman for submitting the cover photo of a sunrise seen from Narraganset Lane.

The Villager welcomes submissions for cover consideration. Photos must be emailed as high-resolution jpeg images to Villager Editor Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. Villager editorial submissions should be emailed as either text attachments or with text pasted into the body of an email. All Villager articles are edited to conform to the standards of The Associated Press Stylebook.



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A MESSAGE FROM THE OVCA PRESIDENT

APRIL 2022



Lee Shlafer

Good evening everyone. I hope you are enjoying the loveliness of springtime at Oronoque Village and that it is putting some extra pep in your step, joy in your heart and a wider smile on your face. We have a very full agenda this evening, so I am going to limit my remarks to the Declaration and By Law revisions.

Usually, when the OVCA board is voting on motions, it is for the purpose of enacting a change or new policy. Tonight, when dealing with the Declaration and By Laws, the votes will not result in the enactment of any revision, rather, the vote is the opportunity for each board member to declare if the change being presented is appropriate, clear and merits being presented to Unit Owners for their vote.

I would like to spend some time specifically on the revision to the Declaration. This revision involves two issues. Neither issue is overly complex, but they are different. The Declaration is an association's most important governing document. Wisely, Connecticut State Statute mandates that changing it requires two-thirds of the Unit Owners to vote in favor of the change. This is a significant undertaking and speaks to the importance of the revision under consideration. Tonight the board will discuss and determine whether this proposed revision is worthy of being brought to all members of the Oronoque Village community, specifically the Unit Owners, for their consideration and vote. That is the first issue.

The second issue is the content of the proposed revision. In simple terms, this revision establishes a fee, called a Capital Contribution Fee, to be paid to the Association by the purchaser when a condominium unit is sold. The funds from the fee are put into a reserve account to be used at some future time for common expenses. It is reasonable to ask, why propose such a fee, why make this change? The Connecticut State Statute, which covers various transfer fees, was written with a specific provision making it legal for condominiums to impose this type of charge. Why did they do that? It was done because it was recognized that condominiums have extremely limited means of raising revenue. The primary source of revenue in a condominium is, as we know, homeowner fees, be they common charges or — in our case — also Tax District payments. Beyond that, special assessments are the only other means of obtaining funds. Special assessments are normally used for expenses that are unexpected; they are a surprise and not usually regarded as a pleasant one. As condominiums age, needs increase. The Connecticut statute provided an alternative to placing the burden of keeping pace with rising costs and needs on the HOA fee alone.

Not every condominium in the country or the State of Connecticut has this type of fee, but it needs to be under-

stood that there are enormous differences from condominium to condominium in terms of size, what is the Association's responsibility and what is Unit Owner responsibility. There are differences in the amenities that are offered and in the amount of common property that needs to be maintained. These differences have a significant impact on the economic needs of each community, Farmington Woods, the second-largest condominium in Connecticut after Heritage Village has no capital contribution fee, but in 2017 they did find it necessary to pass a Special Assessment to deal with a serious problem with the condition of their buildings that amounted to an average of \$4,000 per unit. A recent joint meeting of the OVCA and OVTB boards to review the new budget did not suggest that we were in any way over funded in our reserves.

Now, a little history. In January 2004, the OVCA Board, with I believe commendable foresight, by a vote of 11 in favor and 3 opposed, passed a motion to institute a Capital Contribution Fee. The amount charged in 2004 was \$650 to \$850 per unit. A reading of the OVCA minutes throughout 2004 indicates that the fee was collected without issue. The Treasurer's report regularly stated that the collection of the fees was current, without delinquency. The fee was collected throughout 2004, 2005 and 2006. In 2006, an ad hoc committee was formed to consider the possible uses of the funds in the reserve created by the Capital Contribution Fee which the Board had renamed in 2005 as the Buyers Entry Fee. By March of 2007, 158 fees had been collected and the reserve amounted to \$129,776 with the interest it had earned. At that point, unfortunately, the collection of the fee was challenged by an attorney who maintained that it was in conflict with the Association's Declaration. The costs to pursue this matter were estimated to be significant and a decision was made to discontinue the fee. All of the funds collected were refunded to the Unit Owners who had paid them. Had this reserve been able to continue, at the rate the fee was being collected, allowing for no increases or interest, over the last 18 years, there would be roughly at a minimum \$780,000 in that reserve today.

Fast forward to 2021. I was involved in a roundtable discussion with Heritage Village and Oxford Green condominiums among others. In the course of the discussion, Heritage and Oxford mentioned the reserves they were accumulating from a capital contribution fee. Heritage Village had been collecting the fee for 14 years, increasing the amount over that time from \$1,400 to \$2,000 and Oxford Green, a newer condominium, had been collecting it since it opened. I was surprised, as it was my understanding since I moved to Oronoque Village that the fee was not legal. I contacted Cohen and Wolf, the Association's attorneys, and asked why if two local condominiums could collect the fee, OV could not. It was at that point that I learned about the requirement to

MAINTENANCE MATTERS: MULCH IS NOW AVAILABLE

By Mark Rhatigan, Director of Maintenance Operations

The Maintenance Department is accepting work orders for mulch. Bark mulch, colored brown, is the only mulch allowed in Oronoque Village and we do provide it at our cost to residents, when available, via work orders.

When you fill out the work order, please specify where you want the mulch to be dropped off when delivered. Checks made out to OVCA should be dropped off at NCB with the work orders.

important: Before you add and spread new mulch, last year's mulch should be removed.

Mulch prices are as follows:

First 1/2 yard: Free	Additional 4 yards: \$188
Additional 1/2 yard: \$23.50	Additional 4.5 yards: \$211.50
Additional 1 yard: \$47	Additional 5 yards: \$235
Additional 1.5 yard: \$70.50	Additional 5.5 yards: \$258.50
Additional 2 yards: \$94	Additional 6 yards: \$282
Additional 2.5 yards: \$117.50	Additional 6.5 yards: \$305.50
Additional 3 yards: \$141.00	Additional 7 yards: \$329
Additional 3.5 yards: \$164.50	

amend our Declaration to be able to do what the other condominiums were doing. With that knowledge, I asked the By Laws Committee to include an amendment to the Declaration in the revisions they were working on for the By Laws. The By Laws Committee asked Cohen and Wolf to draft the amendment and that is what is being presented this evening.

Eighteen years ago this Association took a forward-thinking step to plan for the future needs of this community with the adoption of the Capital Contribution Fee. It was implemented without acrimony and it was making a meaningful contribution to the well-being of this Village. We now have the important opportunity to follow in the footsteps of that successful program knowing that it is being done with the necessary legal oversight.

I think it is clear that I am an advocate of this revision, but I am just one vote in this community and more than likely, not a vote at all tonight. I have taken the time to speak about this proposed change because at a minimum I felt a fiduciary responsibility to allow the OVCA Board to be aware that this revenue-raising opportunity exists. As much as I may personally favor this idea, my overwhelming concern is that we handle this decision in the appropriate manner.

What makes any condominium work is that there is a process to do this. Tonight the OVCA Board will, through discussion, determine if this revision is worthy of being presented to Unit Owners for their vote. Should the Board decide not to bring the revision forward, that will complete the process. Should the board decide to bring the revision forward for a Unit Owner vote the process continues and the Unit Owners will have the proposed revision distributed to them and the opportunity to attend a Unit Owner meeting to comment and ask questions about this change. They will then speak via their vote and that will complete the process. What is important for all of us who reside in this Village is that we adhere to the process and accept the result.

During the new business portion of the meeting, a letter written to the Executive Director by the OVCA Board, in appreciation of his work on the Oronoque Country Club purchase, was read into the minutes. The letter was included in the President's Message that was sent by eblast and posted

on the home page of www.oroquoquevillage.com.

A motion was made by Treasurer Ken Colman to accept the 2022-2023 OVCA budget as recommended by the OVCA Finance Committee. The motion passed by a vote of 12 in favor and 2 opposed (1,3).

A motion was made by Bob Krakovich, chair of the Pool Committee, to return to the pool rules adopted for 2019. The motion passed unanimously.

The board discussed four new rules which will be distributed to residents for their review and comment. The Board will vote on these rules at the May OVCA meeting. The rules involve the length of dog leashes, enforcement of rules by clubs and organizations, use of propane heaters and pool hours.

A motion was made to amend the Declaration to allow the Association to collect a Capital Contribution Fee. The motion received a second and proceeded with discussion by the Board. The discussion focused on three issues. First, should the fee be a flat amount of \$2000.000 or should other options be considered such as the amount being a multiple of the Common Charge established for different classes of units. Second, clarifying the language to state that the fee is an obligation of the purchaser. Third, clarifying the language to state that funds generated by the fee will be placed in a reserve account. The board agreed that they wanted additional time to consider these options, therefore this subject and the other By Law revisions will be continued at the May OVCA meeting.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

WEEKENDERS PRESENTS JAZZ VOCALIST ON JUNE 18

Story by Carol Tepper
Photo by Marge Heffel

On June 18 at 6 p.m. at NCB, Weekenders will present Richard (Cookie) Thomas, a versatile jazz vocalist. Cookie is a treasure who began his career in Philadelphia in 1960 when, at 14 years old, he opened for BB King.

His voice is especially suited to well-known classic standards; he draws his inspiration from the likes of Nat King Cole, Frank Sinatra and

Johnny Hartman. He has performed in many clubs, casinos, jazz festivals and restaurants throughout the tri-state area and sings with the Royal Kings.

To enjoy this event and a delicious Italian dinner, make your checks out to Weekenders for \$25 per person and deposit them into the Weekenders box at the North Clubhouse.

If you have a table of friends (up to 8 people) who you prefer to sit with, please send all the names and checks in at the same time.



VILLAGER FOCUS GROUP IS SEEKING PARTICIPANTS

The Communications Committee will hold a focus group to understand more about what you value about The Villager and hear ideas for enhancements to support the needs of our community.

The focus group will take place in the North Clubhouse this month (date and time to be decided).

Reasons to participate:

- Be heard: share what you like about The Villager
- Give suggestions/opinions about what you'd like to see in The Villager
- Be in great company: talk with other residents
- Eat, drink and contribute: refreshments served

Interested? Contact Maddy Lapidés at mslapid@gmail.com / 203-927-8577.

KNITTING DONATIONS WANTED

The Stratford Senior Center Knitting Club is accepting donations of knitting supplies including double-worsted or bulky yarn, knitting needles and crochet hooks. The club is making items that will be donated to various organizations in the area. Knitting supplies can be dropped off at the Raymond E. Baldwin Senior Center, 1000 West Broad St., or 100 Maple Oak Drive in Stratford.

The club would also welcomes new and experienced knitters. For more information, call Nancy at 860-918-1425.

DOCENTS WANTED FOR HELICOPTER MUSEUM

The Helicopter Museum, located at the eastbound Stratford Train Station on Main Street, is in search of indi-

viduals to become docents for the 2022 season. Interested individuals should contact Dale McClanan at dale.mcclanan@yahoo.com or leave a message at 860-305-0063.

The museum was founded in 1983 to highlight Stratford's and Connecticut's contributions to helicopter aviation, utilizing pictorial displays, models, a S-76 cockpit and videos.

The museum is primarily self-directed; there are pictures, models and displays. Docents will play videos when requested and answer questions, as necessary.

The museum is open on Fridays, Saturdays and Sunday from Memorial Day to mid-October. For information, visit www.nationalhelicoptermuseum.org.

PIANIST SOUGHT

Eric and Dawn Spitz, of Agawam Drive, are planning to sing at senior residences, but need a good pianist who can read music. The couple performs Broadway songs as well as Gilbert and Sullivan tunes.

Interested parties should email note719@aol.com.

WATERCOLOR DEMO IN SHELTON

The Shelton Art League presents Shauna Shane, who will paint a watercolor scene at 1 p.m. on May 16 at the Shelton Community Center, 41 Church St. The league's general meeting starts at 11:45 a.m.

Shauna, a professional painter for over 40 years, has exhibited nationally and is a member of many regional art associations, leagues and societies. She paints landscapes, still life, animals and the figure in a variety of mediums including watercolor, oil and pastel.

Visit <http://www.sheltonartleague.org> for additional information.



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ANNUAL OV WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S IS JUNE 25

By Bill Tanski

Oronoque Village is, again, answering the call in the fight against Alzheimer's disease. On Saturday, June 25, we will host our annual "Walk to End Alzheimer's." This year, the OV Pickleball Club is sponsoring this event.

The event takes place at the South Clubhouse front parking lot. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with the walk taking place at 10 a.m. (Rain date is Sunday, June 26.)

Your participation strikes a blow towards treating this terrible disease!

Many, if not all of us, have loved ones and/or friends with this disease. The odds of getting Alzheimer's increases as we age. According to the Alzheimer's Association, 6.5 million Americans are living with this disease now. It's projected to increase to 13 million by 2050. The emotional and financial toll on families is incalculable, but, there's always hope. Medical science is working to create effective treatments to delay the progression of Alzheimer's. Research is being conducted now to prevent getting this disease and reduce our risk of developing it.

Who doesn't know someone struggling with Alzheimer's disease? Our fellow residents are especially vul-



nerable as 1 in 3 people over the age of 65 will be afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia. As 11 million in this country, including some of our residents, provide unpaid health care to a family member with this disease. More than 80 percent know little or are not familiar with mild cognitive impairment (MCI), which can be an early sign of Alzheimer's.

While there has been progress in the treatments of other diseases, patients with Alzheimer's have yet to get a breakthrough. As an example, from 2000-2019, heart disease fatalities declined 7.3 percent, but Alzheimer's deaths increased a whopping 145 percent. This disease kills more people than prostate cancer and breast cancer combined.

By participating in our Walk to End Alzheimer's, you'll be helping to reverse this trend. New treatments bring hope to victims and their families. It also helps fund clinical trials and further knowledge of brain health and disease prevention.

But this is a step-by-step process in a long journey. Won't you join us by participating in the OV Walk to End Alzheimer's? Let's work together to put an end to Alzheimer's.

OV

Note: Facts and figures in this article are taken from information provided by the Alzheimer's Association of CT

OV ARTS GUILD PRESENTS:

'CELEBRATING THE 200TH BIRTHDAY OF FREDRICK LAW OLMSTED'

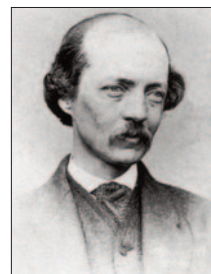
By Barbara Stewart

Many of you already know Wendy Swain, an Oronoque resident and OV sculpture teacher. "I think you would like sculpture," said Wendy's sister-in-law back in 1996 ... which led Wendy to the studio of Sara Aldouby in Trumbull, where she found her niche.

For several years, Wendy has led sculpture tours in New York City's Central Park. Many of us have enjoyed these tours, but some people are unable to participate due to the amount of walking involved. A problem-solver, Wendy created a PowerPoint program so that people could take a virtual walk in the park. Since then, Wendy has created many PowerPoint programs on various subjects, which she has shared with libraries, retirement institutes and senior centers as well as with OV residents.

Wendy's newest program celebrates the 200th birth-

day of Fredrick Law Olmsted, who was born in Hartford in 1822. Olmsted, you may recall, designed Central Park in addition to being a journalist, abolitionist, horticulturist and public administrator. He is considered to be the father of American landscape architecture.



Fredrick Law Olmsted

The OV Arts Guild (OVAG) is very pleased to sponsor this new program on Friday, May 20, at 4 p.m. in the SCB Lounge.

There will be time after the program for questions and to socialize while enjoying wine and appetizers. We hope you will join us for this interesting talk by Wendy.

Proof of vaccination is required to attend. OVAG members attend at no charge, guests pay \$8 at the door.

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FEATURE

EDITOR'S NOTE: *To ensure accuracy, information submitted to The Villager must be sent via email, to Carol King at cking@oronoquevillage.com. (Submissions must be typed, in upper and lower case.) The deadline to be included in the next issue of The Villager, on May 16, is May 3 at noon.*

BOCCE

Bocce is played on Thursdays, 10 a.m. to noon, at NCB.

CURRENT EVENTS

• The Current Events Discussion Group meets in SCB Card Room 1 at 10 a.m. on Wednesdays May 11 and 25, June 8 and 22 and July 6 and 20.

DOLLCRAFTERS

• Dollcrafters meets at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays in the NCB Library.

DROP-IN BRIDGE

• Drop-in Bridge takes place on Mondays from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the NCB Lounge. All levels of bridge players are encouraged to attend; no need to bring a partner. There is no fee to participate. For information, please contact Wendy Swain at 203-386-9125. Proof of vaccination required.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

• The Ladies Bible Study welcomes all resident women. Proof of vaccination is not required, but nonvaccinated ladies must wear masks. There are no fees to join. Purchasing study materials is optional. Meetings are on the second and fourth Fridays in the NCB Board Room from 10:30 a.m. to noon (excluding July and August.) Questions? Call Angie McKelvey (203-227-3222) or Tina Vermette (203-375-0291).

LINE DANCING

• Line dancing classes are held on Wednesdays at NCB. Beginner classes are held at 9:30 a.m., followed by a class for all lev-

els at 10 a.m. No masking is required for anyone who has received the booster or third shot. All others must wear masks.

LOW-IMPACT EXERCISE CLASS

• Low-impact exercise classes, taught by Renee Zinn, are held at 10:30 a.m. on Mondays and Fridays at NCB. Bring weights and water. Proof of vaccination is required. Those without proof of booster shots must wear masks.

PING PONG GROUP

• Players of all levels are invited to join this group on the second floor of the South Clubhouse Fridays at 9 a.m. and Mondays at 6 p.m. For information, email Wayne Cotter at wcotter999@gmail.com. Proof of vaccination required.

POOL SOCIAL GROUP

• Anyone who enjoys socializing in and around the pools during the summer is invited to attend a get-together from 4-6 p.m. at SCB on the second Monday of each month. Come with your favorite appetizer and or beverage (or nothing) for reunions and conversations. Call Sonya at 203-377-1515 for more information.

QUILTING GROUP

• Village quilters meet at the NCB Card Room on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 10 a.m. to noon.

TEA, TALK & CRAFTS

• Tea, Talk, and Crafts meets at 1 p.m. on Thursdays next to the kitchen at SCB. Annual dues are \$10. Questions? Call Irene Sanzone at 203-378-2010. Vaccinated members only. Please show proof.

WRITER'S GROUP

• The Oronoque Village Writer's Group (OVWG) is a group of writers who enjoy the challenges of writing and of sharing their work in a trusted environment. Members commit to attending workshops twice a month in a respectful, supportive and professional environment with hopes of expanding their writing and publishing horizons. Our members include published authors and hobbyists. Our works include essays, memoirs, poems, short stories, treatises, humorous tales, heart-wrenching histories. The group meets on alternate Thursdays at 2 p.m. in the Card Room at SCB. For information about joining, contact Mary von Ziegesar at MvonZ@optonline.net or call 203-767-9760. Proof of vaccination required.

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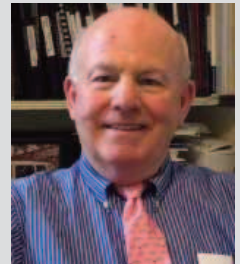
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FEATURE

SQUARE ONE READERS THEATRE TO PERFORM AT SCB ON JUNE 9

By Barbara Stewart

The OV Arts Guild (OVAG) is excited to welcome Square One Readers Theatre for its third appearance at Oronoque Village.

Square One Theatre Company is a local theater company, which was founded in 1990 and performs on the stage at the Stratford Academy. As is the case for most theater companies, Square One has not been able to perform for the last two seasons due to the pandemic.

Fortunately, this year the company is able resume its



summer Readers Theatre program at the Stratford Library. In this format, the actors perform a play using minimal sets and holding the script in-hand.

We are pleased that they will perform, just for us, during the OVAG quarterly meeting, which takes place on June 9 at 7 p.m. at SCB. The title of the play to be performed will be announced at a later date.

OVAG members attend this event at no charge; guests pay \$8 at the door. Proof of vaccination is required to attend.

Refreshments will be served after the performance.

OV

CALENDAR

Dates, times and locations of events are subject to change. To update a Calendar listing, please contact Linda Arvers at larvers@oronoquevillage.com. For the latest on OV news & events, go to www.oronoquevillage.com or OVTV. OVTV is Channel 591 for those with a cable box and Channel 121-591 for those without a box.

(RSF=Racquet Sports Facility)

MONDAY, MAY 2

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Meeting, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Tennis Club Happy Hour, NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – SAC Committee Mtg, NCB
- 5:30 p.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Bulls & Bears, SCB

TUESDAY, MAY 3

- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Men's Card Game, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Funseeker event, SCB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4

- 8:30 a.m. – Communications Meeting, B/R, NCB
- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing (beginners), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing (all levels), NCB

- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Book Club, NCB, Library

THURSDAY, MAY 5

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Village Quilters, NCB, C/R
- 10:00 a.m. – House Committee, NCB, B/R
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, SCB, A/C Rm
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 2:00 p.m. – Writer's Group, SCB, C/R

FRIDAY, MAY 6

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 5:00 p.m. – It's 5 O'clock Somewhere, NCB

SATURDAY, MAY 7

- 9:30 a.m. – Tennis Club Round Robin, RSF
- 11:00 a.m. – Tennis Club Brunch, RSF

SUNDAY, MAY 8: No events scheduled

MONDAY, MAY 9

- 10:30 a.m. – Jewelry Making, SCB, A/C Rm

MAY 21 IS SPRING CLEANUP DAY

Villagers will have multiple opportunities to get rid of unwanted goods from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 21. Dumpsters will be placed in the rear parking lot of SCB for the disposal of household items, including furniture, appliances and metal objects that are less than 8 feet in size. Members of the Maintenance staff will be on hand to assist residents.

There will be a dumpster for metal and another for bulk items. All metal items must be separated from other materials.

Bulk collection items include the following:

- Furniture
- Mattresses and box springs
- Carpeting
- Large metal items (8' maximum)
- Fencing

Shredding Truck at NCB

A shredding truck will be parked at NCB from 9 a.m. to

1 p.m. Villagers are encouraged to use this service to destroy outdated confidential documents, such as bank statements, credit card receipts, invoices, insurance forms and cancelled checks.

The following items are not allowed for disposal in the dumpsters provided on Cleanup Day. These items must be taken directly to the Town of Stratford Transfer Station:

- | | |
|--|---|
| Household trash | Demolition material (i.e. asphalt, shingles, sheet-rock, concrete, tile, brick or any other masonry debris) |
| Items that would normally fit into the trash container for weekly pickup, including cardboard. | Freon-containing appliances (i.e. refrigerators) |
| Leaves, branches, stumps | Electronics of any kind |
| Hazardous materials, paint | Tires, vehicles, oil tanks |
| Recyclable materials | |

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 1:00 p.m. – House & Garden Meeting, SCB
- 4:00 p.m. – Maintenance Committee, NCB, B/R
- 4:00 p.m. – Winter Pool Social Group, SCB
- 5:30 p.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-in Bridge, NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Jewelry Making Class, SCB, A/C Rm

TUESDAY, MAY 10

- 9:30 a.m. – Architectural Committee, NCB, B/R
- 10:00 a.m. – Dollcrafters, NCB, Library
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – General Meeting of Unit Owners, NCB

WEDNESDAY, MAY 11

- 9:30 a.m. – Line Dancing (beginners), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Line Dancing (all levels), NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Sculpture Class, SCB, A/C Rm
- 10:00 a.m. – Current Events, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 5:00 p.m. – Sebastian's Poker, NCB, C/R
- 6:00 p.m. – Gerry's Poker, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – OVCA Strategic Committee, NCB

THURSDAY, MAY 12

- 10:00 a.m. – Bocce, NCB
- 10:00 a.m. – Zumba, NCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Yoga, SCB
- 1:00 p.m. – Informal Artists Group, NCB,
- 1:00 p.m. – Tea, Talk & Crafts, SCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Unit Owners Rejection Vote, NCB
-

FRIDAY, MAY 13

- 9:00 a.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 10:30 a.m. – Ladies Bible Study, NCB, B/R
- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 7:00 p.m. – Movie Club: *West Side Story*, NCB

SATURDAY, MAY 14

- 4:30 p.m. – OV 50th Anniversary Gala, NCB

SUNDAY, MAY 15

- 4:30 p.m. – OV 50th Anniversary Gala, NCB

MONDAY, MAY 16

- 10:30 a.m. – Low-Impact Exercise (Bring Weights), NCB
- 6:00 p.m. – Ping Pong Club, SCB
- 5:30 p.m. – Tai Chi, SCB
- 6:30 p.m. – Drop-In Bridge, NCB

ARTIST OF THE MONTH: PATRICIA HADDEN

Story and photo by Carol King

Patricia Hadden has had a lifelong passion for art. During her formative years in Fairfield, her talents shone in her artistic undertakings and, every Saturday, she faithfully turned on the TV set to watch Jon Gnagy's "Learn to Draw." (Gnagy pioneered drawing on television in the United States from the early 1950s throughout the 1960s on his program.)

Though she had aspirations of attending art school and pursuing a career in the art world, her plans were waylaid, temporarily.

"When I was 13, my father had me speak with a friend who worked as a commercial artist," she recalls. "His friend was very discouraging and told me that it was not easy for women to make it in the art world. He suggested that I become a nurse, a secretary or a teacher."

Taking this advice to heed, she ultimately enrolled in Western Connecticut State College with the intent of earning a teaching degree. "However, while taking classes, I realized that I did not want to teach in a public school, so I decided to switch schools and changed majors."

Upon graduating from the Tobe-Coburn School of Fashion in New York City, she worked in the New York fashion industry.

She continued to dabble in art, taking art classes at Fairfield University and attending workshops offered by Silvermine School of Art. "Also, I was a longtime member of Connecticut Classic Arts Association, where I was the recipient of several awards for my paintings," Patricia notes.

In 1987, she decided to merge her teaching skills with her artistic talents and established the Patricia Hadden School of Art in Stratford, where she taught technique to students ages 7-13. With this endeavor, Patricia was able to fulfill her desired career as a working artist while providing an encouraging environment for boys and girls to take art classes.

"I also gave demonstrations in the Trumbull schools as well as tutored teens to create portfolios for entrance into art schools," she says. "One of those teens was my daughter, Melissa, who graduated from Savannah College Of Art. I am so pleased that she was able to live out my dream of going to art school."

She adds, "Among my great satisfactions is seeing how my students loved creating, not to mention the joy of knowing that some went into art-related careers. One mom proudly told me her son is now a successful tattoo artist!"

In 2006, after running the school for 27 years, Patricia retired and she and her husband, Gavin, moved to Kennebunk, Maine. "Kennebunk has a strong artistic culture and boasts great beauty with its dramatic coastline," she says. "I became a member of the Maine Women in the Arts and the juried Art Guild of The Kennebunks. I won awards in those guilds. While in Maine I also sold several painted coastal



Works by Artist of the Month Patricia Hadden are on view in the front and back hallways of NCB.

scenes and was hired for commissioned works."

In 2017, Gavin passed away. In 2020, Patricia decided to leave Maine and moved into Oronoque Village to be closer to her children and grandchildren. "I enjoy living in OV, especially when I learned there is an arts guild filled with lovely people who appreciate art. Also, I joined the Book Club and Bible Study Group, which are delightful.

"I am looking forward to attending the upcoming gala," she adds.

Patricia continues to create in her downstairs studio, focusing on landscapes, seascapes, still lifes and portraits. Recent additions to her portfolio include three paintings of OV's scenic grounds.

"My approach to art is very simple: I validate what I see by painting people, places and things that are important to me," she states. "So, my art is, really, my autobiography.

"I continue to struggle with the artistic process because creating a painting does not come easily to me," she continues. "I wish I could produce art more quickly."

She works in oils, pastels, color pencils and ink. "However, most of my current work is in acrylics because an art historian inspired me by saying 'If the French Impressionists had acrylics, they would have used them.'"

Patricia says she looks forward to joining more OV activities in the near future.

OV

SPRING PICKLEBALL PARTY

Story by Bill Tanski ~ Photo by Gery Cuccaro

On the evening of Saturday, April 9, OV's Pickleball Club held its delayed "Holiday Party" at NCB. But it was a double-themed event as we also celebrated the return of regular outdoor play after a long winter ... happy spring !

We had 70 attendees and, like many of our events, the emphasis is on sociality, informality and congeniality. The nature of our parties reflect the essence of our club; simply speaking, we're a fun bunch of people.

One thing, for sure, when you attend a Pickleball Club party, you won't go home hungry or thirsty. There's always plenty to get you fed, and plenty to get you ... well ... un-thirsty.

We also welcomed our newer members as we're adding more each year, paralleling the growth of pickleball throughout the country. In addition, we reacquainted ourselves with some players who wintered in southern climates. But, pickleballers are a hardy breed. A group in OV



Ken Hoyt, Bambi and Peter Clark, Gary and Gina Bucciero and Susan Servin at the spring pickleball party.

played outdoors all winter, making us a 12-month outdoor sport.

But, no matter the weather, our playing and fun co-mingle. When you drive or walk by the pickleball courts, sometimes the laughter is louder than the noise of the game.

If you're interested in learning more about the Pickleball Club, please contact our president, Regina Archazki, at rarchazki@hotmail.com or 203-915-0781.

See you on the courts !



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RESIDENT ESSAY

LESSONS FROM RWANDA

By Rena Schine

On January 10, 2009, I went to Rwanda to see Fossey's Virunga Mountain Gorillas before they and the "mist" disappeared. But to have looked only at those gentle giants and not to have seen all that is Rwanda would have been to miss the forest for the trees.

I knew before I left home what to expect from gorillas. All I wanted was to experience the thrill and honor of seeing them up close and free in their own space. So I set out on a Gorilla Tracking Safari. There are only some 700 mountain gorillas left and the National Park authorities take care to protect them from the dangers of tourism. Any visitor showing signs of illness will not be allowed to participate in the trekking.

After slogging for two hours up and up muddy pathways we wove our way through veils of heavy vines until suddenly, without knocking, we entered their verdant living space and found a gentle loving family with adults quietly chewing their vegetarian sandwiches, juveniles rough and tumbling in play, and females performing their morning grooming ablutions on their infants. All of them were so habituated to us two-legged visiting relatives that they simply ignored, or you might say tolerated, our gasps and intrusive picture-taking antics.

But I did not know what to expect of Rwanda — a country still recuperating from a horrible genocide just 15 years ago during which 1 million men, women and children were massacred within a period of 100 days as a result of a well-planned systematic effort by powerful Hutu politicians (the majority) to get rid of all Tutsis (the elite).

This movement actually began in 1932 when the Belgian colonists arbitrarily established racial distinctions between the Hutu and Tutsi groups by labeling those with 10 cows or more as Tutsi and those with fewer than 10 as Hutus thus falsely creating a hierarchy which divided people who had been living in peace for centuries. The sparks of ill will and jealousy were then fanned into massacres

which exploded into open genocide on April 6, 1994, after the presidents of Rwanda and Burundi were shot down in a plane while landing at Kigali Airport in Rwanda. As with all genocides, it became a brutal sadistic senseless mass killing of innocent victims with machetes, clubs, guns and rape (a weapon of mass destruction) to inflict as much pain as possible on their victims. No Tutsi was exempt and family members were forced to kill their own people while children watched. Where were we? Where was God...any god?

To my surprise, what I saw in Rwanda was verdant fertile land with rolling hills terraced and quilted with a variety of crops artistically laid out and impeccably cultivated looking like a bucolic Folk Art painting. Many of the workers tending the crops were prisoners distinctive in their pink, orange or blue prison garb. Typical of other African countries, everyone was busy walking here and there briskly and purposefully carrying all matter of goods on their head; pushing heavy loads of potatoes, cans of water or jugs of banana beer on straining bikes; or gossiping and laughing around the water well.

I learned that the president of Rwanda is trying to promote the best of civilized behavior by establishing a formal plan of rehabilitation and reconciliation. He understands that victims need to feel secure and perpetrators have to face the consequences, engage in open and honest dialogue about the past, and commit to different behavior. He has forbidden citizens from asking or characterizing each other as Hutu or Tutsi — this is no longer a way of classifying people. He is attempting to reestablish harmony between and among all people and has focused the collective energy of the citizens toward the greater cause of developing their country's cash crops, education system and health conditions. If they must struggle let it be against forces of nature and toward creating a better quality of life —building not destroying.

Rwandans have, to an amazing degree, been able to forgive albeit not forget each other's transgressions. Stories are told of persecutors finding their victims, apologizing, and joining forces to combat hardships.

Some people are insulted by the notion that humans and apes have similar genes, but after I learned about the ruthlessness and cruelty of those humans who masterminded and carried out the genocide, I have come to think that maybe it is the gorillas who should be insulted by the idea that "they" and "we" are made from the same stock.

There seems to be a fixed flaw in the DNA of humans that is impervious to the best efforts of religion, education, psychology; and all the preaching about empathy, conflict resolution, the greater good and do unto others.

Gorillas don't demonstrate that flaw. They are able to pursue the business of survival in relative peace unlike homo sapiens who keep reverting back to their basest instincts. This I learned in Rwanda.

OV



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RESIDENT POETRY

UNSCREWING THE SKY

By Richard Bittner

The peppermint stick was forever
Screwing itself into the sky and
I held tightly my father's hand.

The chair gleamed leather red and porcelain white,
Turning as I toe-heeled the footrest of iron lace before
Rushing up like a parabola in my father's grip and
Down on the wooden leatherette laid across
the chair's thick arms. Bottles
green and red and yellow stood along the mirrored wall
like rainbows in a lineup as
I watched closely my father's face behind
me. "Take it all off Carm," he commanded.

I walked to Carmen's
careful not to step on cracks,
skipping rocks off hot concrete,
jingling three quarters in my pocket.

The bands turned slower now, would
catch in spasms, hesitate, dynamic yet immobile,
before rushing on to other revolutions
while I sat razor straight, wrapped
In thinly striped sheets, a towel
safety pinned at my neck's back; and
Carmen pumped the chrome handle forcing
the scent of lilac water up through his pores
as my head inched higher.

"What you father say, kid?"
I stared, young and thin in the mirror,
my elbows straining for the armrests,
my sneakers dangling in the air.
"My father wants a crew cut."

The creases in my pants were sharp and clean,
the pleats neatly folded,
the cuffs pegged ankle tight.
My belt, thin as a rapier, buckled
on my hip, and the teeth of a
fat black comb grinned over
the lip of my back pocket.
In a window, a neon sign pulsed lavender and
Carmen turned the chair for me.
I eased in, tugging abruptly on my collar,
angled my head in the mirror, checking
the wave over my ear, the hairline
edging down my neck.
"Trim the sides and leave the front," I instructed.

I passed from Carmen's into a white hot sun;
the barber pole stood rigid. Motionless against the whole,
blue, distant sky.

BACK WHEN

By Patricia A. Rowe

Memories race through my mind
Of how thing used to be
When neighbors knew each other's names
Their doors weren't locked with keys
A slower pace that's for sure
Yet no one seemed to mind
We felt safe, so secure
No need to scream and shout
A time when family happiness
Was what it's all about
If I was granted just one wish
You know what it would be
To show the present way we live
The way it used to be



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WORK FROM THE OV WRITER'S GROUP

ANOTHER BEGINNING OF THE END

By Mary W. von Ziegesar

Her precious little face was pressed against the stopped train's window. Her blond pigtails peaked from underneath her cap and draped over her parka. Behind her, a woman stood, one arm holding an infant in a thick blanket, the other arm holding the little girl's shoulder. The little girl's mother and younger sister or brother? From the station-house, I followed the little girl's eyes looking out from within the train to those on the platform below trying to board.

Grandmothers, mothers, aunts, sisters, children continued to move slowly forward touching shoulders, and bags of belongings as they moved toward the open doors. The faces sometimes expressionless, slack with fear, exhaustion, the unknown ahead. The faces sometimes wet with tears. Muffled crying and subdued voices shared respectful exchanges. Babies were passed forward. The older and infirm were offered supporting shoulders and



arms. As crowds doubled and tripled, the quiet and the respect would be replaced with shoving for survival. For now, the little girl's eyes searched, slowly. What was she thinking? Where is my pa, my papa?

The train doors closed. Those waiting stepped back as requested, for now confident of a chance to board the next train. The little girl's face pressed harder against the pane, flattening her small nose. She turned her head to one side then to the other. Her mother leaned forward, closer to the window, pressed by others on the train; her eyes weren't searching, her eyes looked down at her daughter, her face, pained and wet with tears. What was she thinking? Will I ever see my husband again? Will I ever see my father, my brothers, my friends, my home?

As the train slowly moved away, the little girl's eyes dropped down to her tattered toy bear. She brought him to her face and cuddled him tightly. As the train pulled away, the little girl's eyes became the glassy stare of her tattered toy bear.

OV



FUNSEEKERS PRESENTS



Over

Tuesday, May 3
7 pm SCB • Doors Open At 6:15

Meet Devon Cass, Cher Impersonator. Devon's impersonation of Cher has been showcased on Entertainment Tonight, Kelly and Michael, Access Hollywood and Extra. He was on the cover of the millennium issue of *Rolling Stone* as Cher, and declared a makeup genius by *Glamour Magazine*. **Cher will be singing live, no lip-syncing!** This show is not one to be missed and will **sell out quickly!** Be amazed and have an exciting evening of song, celebrity and great fun!

Reservations required and payments will be accepted from April 16th until May 1st unless maximum capacity is reached earlier. Please put \$4.00 per person into FUNSEEKERS box in NCB lobby. Not a member for 2022? Join or rejoin for \$15 per person. Drop your dues check off in the Funseekers mailbox (Please include your name, phone number and email address.) Only OV resident Funseekers members and one non-resident guest per household may attend - guests are \$7.00 pp

Vaccination cards with booster must be presented at the door for entrance unless previously shown.

Questions? Call Lucy Clifford 203-644-7710

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Saturday May 21, 2022 9-11:30

Pick up orders- Saturday May 21 NCH 9-11:30
 (no day of pick-up sales) *May 14, 2022 last day to order*

Drop order form with payment in the House and Garden mailbox NCH. Please be sure to include your phone # & address



GERANIUMS 4 inch pot
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1 dozen is \$30

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Total \$ _____



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 \$14.00 Each

Total \$ _____

ORDER TOTAL

\$ _____



Orders not picked up by 11:30 will be left under the portico & are not the responsibility of H&G.

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 Call
 Merrilees at
 203 378-8753

Name _____

Phone _____

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**BINGO IS AT SCB AT 7 P.M.
ON THURSDAY, MAY 19**



presented by the
OV Men's Club — is held at SCB
on the third Thursday of each month
(excluding December).

**Note new start time:
Games now begin at 7 p.m.**

The cost is \$2.50 per card.

**Questions?
Call Sandy Lunt at 203-377-5833**



**The OV Book Club meets on the first Wednesday of
each month at 7 p.m. in the NCB Library.**

The book for May 4 is *Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell. Of all the stories that argue and speculate about Shakespeare's life ... here is a novel ... so gorgeously written that it transports you. The author fictionalizes the life of William Shakespeare's family at the time of his son Hamnet's death in 1596 and the writing of the play *Hamlet* around 1600.

How much do we really know about the inspiration for one of the most famous plays ever performed? When Shakespeare sat down to write *Hamlet*, his only son, Hamnet, was some 4 years dead. Hamnet Shakespeare only lived to the age of 11.

Hamnet captivates the difficulties associated with death and grief in a time where the world, outside of the home, was difficult to understand and comprehend.

There will not be a book discussion in June.

West Side Story follows the rivalry between the Sharks— a gang composed of young men from Puerto Rico, and the Jets— a gang of young white men, as they battle over territory in the Upper West Side of New York City.

Caught in the middle is the blooming romance between Maria and Tony, as they try to end the fighting so they may be able to be happy together.

Originally created by Jerome Robbins with music by Leonard Bernstein, a book by Arthur Laurents, and lyrics by Stephen Sondheim in 1957, the story operates as a 1950s reimagining of the classic Shakespearean tragedy *Romeo and Juliet*.

**The Movie Club Presents
West Side Story
Friday, May 13, 7 pm - NCB
Wednesday, May 18, 2 pm - SCB**



**\$1 admission includes popcorn -
proof of vaccine required**

Hadassah Invites One and All to Its Annual Spring Luncheon and Game Day at the South Clubhouse on Wednesday, May 18, at 11:30 a.m.

Individual box lunches will be served: please choose roast turkey, roast beef or tuna sandwich. Fruit and potato salads, coleslaw, chips, cookie and coffee or soda included.

Questions?
Call...
Barbara-203-378-7781
Carol - 203-375-2101



Please remit \$25
payment by May 11
to the Hadassah Box
at NCB.

If you wish to sit at a particular table, all names /checks / food choices for each table must be sent in at one time. Please list names with sandwich choice on this tear-off sheet and deposit with payments. Proof of vaccination is required to attend.



Celebrate Cinco de Mayo with the
Social Activities Committee

"It's 5 O'clock Somewhere"
Friday, May 6, At NCB

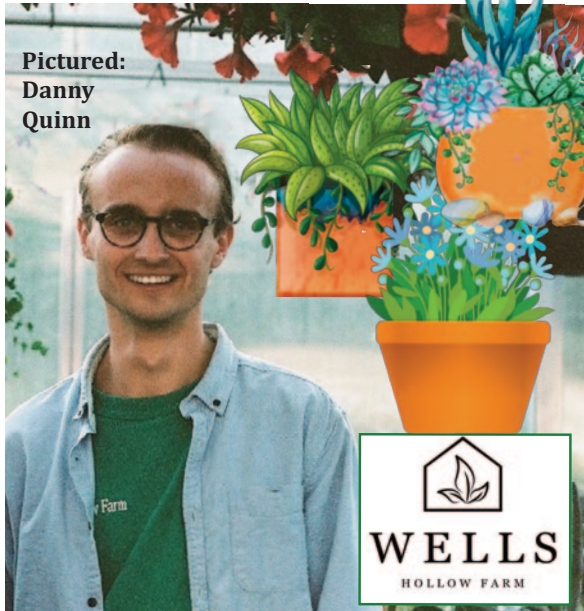
BYOB * Relax * Mingle

Bring an appetizer for yourself
or to share.

"It's 5 O'clock Somewhere"
takes place on the first
Friday of every month!



House & Garden Presents: **A TRIO OF CONTAINER PLANTINGS**



Pictured:
Danny
Quinn

Monday, May 9-2022
1:00 pm - SCB

Members: Free - Guests \$3

Danny Quinn, General Manager of Wells Hollow Farm in Shelton will create an exciting trio of container plantings to be raffled off after his presentation. Danny has been at Wells Hollow for over 12 years starting there when he was in high school and plants and garden knowledge have become his passion and his profession.

Don't miss this wonderful House & Garden event!

Raffle tickets are \$2 each or 3 for \$5

Coffee, Tea & Treats served following the program

Vaccination card required



Karaoke & Dance Party **May 27 at SCB at 6:30 p.m.**

Come join us for our first theme night: the 1960s.

Feel free to dress in '60s-type attire and come dance to your favorite '60s tunes...with a few other favorites thrown in too!

Karaoke will also be songs from that era.

Break out your hippy clothes, granny glasses and Nehru jackets!

Both Karaoke and Dance Party are now combined into one show each month!

Never a charge or dues to pay. *BYOB, food and snacks.*
Proof of vaccination is required to attend.

The next event will occur Friday, June 24.



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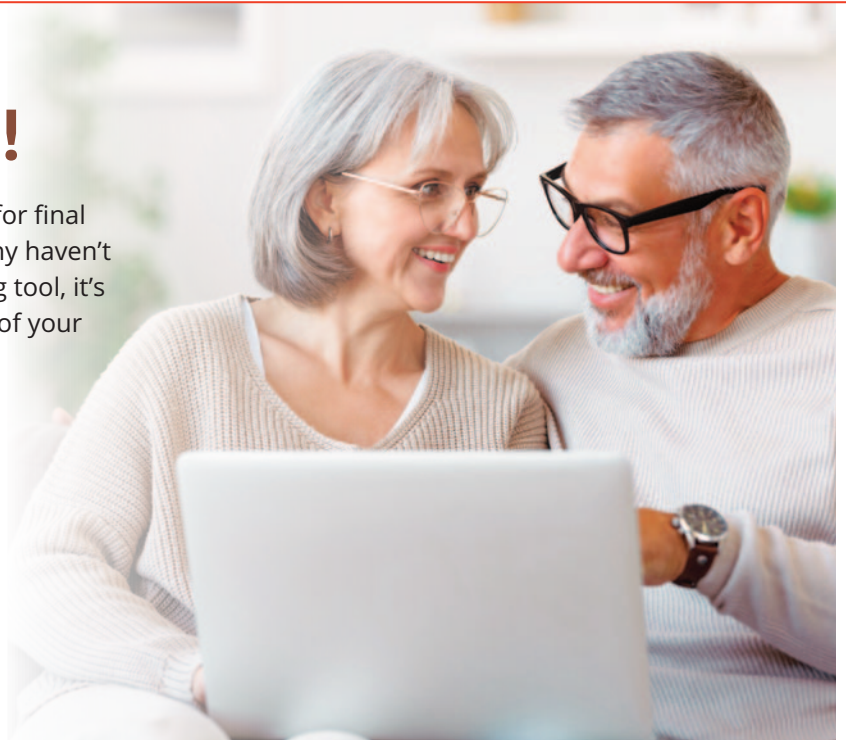
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