

*your downtown shul*

# BETH SHALOM

שלום בית

Ottawa, ON

Volume 20, Number 2

Kislev 5762

December 2001



## CHANUKAH

**COMMUNITY CHANUKAH BALL TAKES PLACE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15 AT BETH SHALOM**

**CHANUKAH  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 10<sup>TH</sup> TO  
MONDAY, DECEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup> INCLUSIVE  
FIRST CANDLE SUNDAY EVE., DEC. 9<sup>TH</sup>**

*BETH SHALOM CHANUKAH PARTY  
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> AT 5 p.m.*

## Tu B'Shvat Dinner

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 27<sup>TH</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

## FAMILY PURIM PARTY

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>  
Megillah Reading at 6:35 p.m.  
Party at 7:30 p.m.**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Chanukah (first candle).....	Dec. 9
Chanukah Ball at Beth Shalom.....	Dec. 15
Beth Shalom Chanukah Party .....	Dec. 16
Chanukah (last day).....	Dec. 17
Fast of 10 <sup>th</sup> of Tevet .....	Dec. 25
Tu B'Shvat dinner .....	Jan. 27
Tu B'Shvat .....	Jan. 28
Fast of Esther .....	Feb. 25
Purim Party.....	Feb. 25 (at night)
Purim.....	Feb. 26
Pesach 1 <sup>st</sup> Seder .....	March 27
Pesach 2 <sup>nd</sup> Seder.....	March 28

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## *A Message from Our President*

On Yom Kippur, I informed you of good news regarding our improved financial situation. Essentially, our financial uncertainty is being eliminated, and we are on the path to being able to meet our obligations. Once again, a *Mazel Tov* to Ruth Freiman, Stanley Levine and Hy Soloway, whose efforts secured a tenant for the building next door. That tenant is Heartwood House, which encompasses a variety of not-for-profit and social service organizations quite similar to the Jewish agencies and charities that occupied the building up to a few years ago. We welcome our new neighbours and wish them success in their endeavours for many years to come.

The Heartwood House facility had its official opening on October 25<sup>th</sup>, and the enthusiasm and warmth of the group assembled there made those of us representing Beth Shalom feel good about what had taken place. The months of hard work by their dedicated team of volunteers have transformed a building considered by most of us to be expendable into a clean, cozy and colourful set of offices and classrooms. The renovations achieved by our new neighbours should be an inspiration to all of us as we begin to solidify our plans to upgrade and modernize the shul.

The first step in this process has involved repairing our roof, and eliminating the leaks and water damage that had become all too common in the past several years. Both buildings have new roofs now, and, although unexpected at this time, that is one major repair out of the way.

Another tenant has joined us -- the Ottawa Dance Zone, now occupying our former Social Hall and Assembly Hall. Along with our other tenants, they will be providing revenues to help sustain the operation of our building. As I have continued to say over the past year, we could not pursue our

modernization process until we found a tenant for the vacant JCC building. That has now been accomplished and we must now face the challenge of rebuilding our synagogue. One aspect of "rebuilding" involves raising capital funds and modernizing various parts of our shul.

This means that we must finalize plans and move forward by fixing and expanding the parking lot (including removal of the old swimming pool), modernizing our heating and air-conditioning systems, renovating our kitchen and washrooms, enhancing the auditorium, making the front entrance wheelchair-accessible, and making other improvements. All proposed improvements and associated costs will be determined by the Building Committee in cooperation with our architect. Our first priority must be the swimming pool and parking lot. We need the extra space and should fix the drainage. I announced on Yom Kippur that we would like to see that work completed this calendar year or early in the winter.

Many of our congregants have made five-year pledges to the Capital Campaign. Others have not yet committed, and I am hopeful that when we produce our plans, they will step forward and be partners in our modernization.

But all of that is physical rebuilding. There is a flipside side to the coin, and that is rebuilding our membership base. A modern building will not solve all our problems. On a typical Shabbat, we have 80 people here out of more than 500 members. We must do better than that. Our services are warm and inviting and we always have a nice kiddush afterward. Of course, on simchas we have larger attendance and fancier meals, but the service is the same whether there are 84 people here or 350. Please try to attend once in a while. Anyone who comes here regularly will tell you what a great feeling they get participating in our Shabbat services. And if you are coming here, invite

*(continued on p. 12 – President's Message)*

## Dreidel Decorations

Here is an easy decoration to create and display for the holiday. **This project is rated VERY EASY to do.**

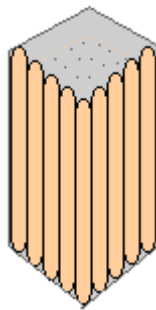
### What You Need:

- 10 Popsicle sticks,
- Tacky glue,
- Piece of cardboard,
- Scissors,
- Paint and paint brush, or markers.



### How To Make It:

1. Lay the Popsicle sticks out as illustrated on the cardboard.
2. Glue them down. Cut the cardboard into the shape shown.
3. Cut one Popsicle stick in half, use it to make the handle on the top of the top, as in the picture.
4. Paint two of the dreidel symbols onto the dreidel.
5. You're done!



## Magnetic Dreidels

This project is easy to complete in a short time. Vary the colours and make a variety for holding up pictures that you create.

### What You Need:

- Craft foam sheets in 2 colours,
- Sparkle paint or sparkle glue,
- Tacky glue,
- Pen,
- Scissors,
- Strong magnet.



### How To Make It:

1. Cut a piece of craft foam 2 ¼" wide x 2 ½" long.
2. Starting 1 ¾" down one side of the craft foam, cut diagonally towards the middle. Repeat for other side (see photo).
3. Cut a piece of the second color of craft foam into a ½" x 1 ¼" strip.
4. Glue this strip on top of dreidel.
5. Cut the symbol out of the second color of fun foam and glue to dreidel.
6. Make a thin line of sparkle paint around outside border, set in about 1/8".
7. Glue on a strong magnet to the back of the dreidel.
8. Make several to decorate your refrigerator and hold up all your creative drawings.

Please consult the Beth Shalom Calendar for the Schedule of Services and candle-lighting times.

**ATTENTION ALL POST BAR MITZVAH MEN AGES 14 TO 140.** We are interested in having you recite your Bar Mitzvah Haftorah or any other Haftorah you may choose – refresher courses available.

Please call Allan Baker at 230-9995.

## Salmon Latkes

From *The Gourmet Jewish Cook*, Copyright © 1988  
by Judy Zeidler

- 1 can (15.5 ounces) red or pink salmon, skin and bones removed, juices reserved
- 2 eggs
- 2/3 cup finely-chopped onion
- ½ cup bread crumbs, or matzo meal
- 1 tablespoon fresh, minced dill (optional)
- Salt
- Freshly-grated black pepper
- Vegetable oil

In a large bowl, combine the salmon with its juices, the eggs, onion, bread crumbs, and dill. Season to taste with salt and pepper and mix well. Set aside for 15 minutes. With wet hands, shape the mixture into latkes.

In a large heavy skillet, heat 1/8 inch of oil. Fry the latkes until golden brown on both sides. Drain on paper towels. Serve hot or cold. Makes about 2 dozen.

### LOBLAWS COUPONS

Would you like to help the Shul raise money without having to do anything? Then please consider buying Loblaws coupons. You can use them at any Independent and Loblaws store and you don't have to buy the coupon's worth of food.

Running out of food? Take your coupon to a store nearest you. Running out of money? Take the coupon, purchase the minimum and you'll receive the rest of the coupon's worth in cash. It's better than running to the bank.

And every time you buy a coupon from Congregation Beth Shalom, the Shul automatically receives a percentage of the sales. It's the easiest fundraiser going! Please support our Shul by supporting this endeavour and call Gloria at 613-789-3501 for more information.

## Chanukah Jelly Donuts

Copyright © 2000 by Cathy Rogers

- 1 package dry yeast
- 1½ cups warm water or milk
- 3½ to 4 cups bread flour
- ½ cup sugar
- 1 tsp. salt
- ½ cup jelly or strawberry jam
- ½ cup granulated sugar
- 2 cups canola oil

Dissolve yeast in 1½ cups warm water. Do not mix; allow to stand for 5 minutes. Mix in 1 cup flour, then sugar and salt. Mix in remaining flour until you have a smooth, non-sticky dough. Knead on lightly floured surface. Place in lightly oiled bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let rise until dough is doubled in warm, turned-off oven (about 2 hours).

Turn out dough onto floured surface. Cut dough into 12 round shapes. Shape with floured hand and place on lightly floured non-stick surface. Let rise 20 minutes. While dough is rising, heat oil in large pot to 375 degrees F.

When donuts double in size, drop them one at a time into the hot oil. Do not crowd pan. Cook donuts for 3 minutes per side. Turn and brown other side. Remove with slotted spoon; place on paper towel. Cool slightly. Using point of knife, make an insert in one side. Place jelly in pastry bag with pointed tip and fill donut. Roll in sugar and enjoy! Makes 12 donuts.\*

### YAHREZEIT PLATES

Members are reminded that reservations are being accepted for individual Bronze Yahrzeit Plates located at the memorial corridor of the Synagogue.

The tax-deductible charge for individual plates is \$200 (**until December 31, 2001 after which the cost will be \$250**), which includes the cost of inscription. Members interested in perpetuating the name of a deceased family member are asked to contact the Synagogue Office at 613-789-3501.



## Beth Shalom Hosts Bar-B-Q for Seniors

by Ian R. Sadinsky

On August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2001, Beth Shalom hosted over 100 people to what we hope will become an annual event - a Bar-B-Q for our many senior members.

Planning for the event started several months earlier when President **Tom Gussman** and Past-President **Ian Sadinsky** met with **Betty Ballon**, **Percy Addleman**, **Bessie Taller**, **Betty Rosenberg**, and others at Hillel Lodge. The residents wanted to keep in touch with Beth Shalom and the idea of a Bar-B-Q was born.

"Make sure there is *vursht*", said Betty.

And *vursht* there was, and hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken, salads, desserts – caterer extraordinaire **David Smith** outdid himself to produce a festive atmosphere for our long-time, devoted members.

Special thanks goes to co-ordinator, **Thelma Steinman**, who pulled together a team of volunteer drivers that included **Richard Addelman**, **Allan Baker**, **Stan Goldberg**, **Weretaw "David" Minywab**, **Aranyani Rosen**, and **Ruth Tal**. **Sheldon** and **Bev Dankner** provided helpful technical advice to the event planners. **Marilyn Adler**, the social worker at Hillel Lodge, was also instrumental in arranging for many of the administrative details.

Entertainment was provided by **Isaac Muzikansky**.

In the months ahead, we will be looking for opportunities to bring our members at Hillel Lodge, Central Park Lodge, and other seniors facilities back to Beth Shalom – their spiritual and communal home.\*

*If you have kosher tefillin at home that are not being used, and are in good shape, we are in need of them at the Shul. Please contact the Rabbi.*

## The Parsha Class by Shlomo (Julian) Harary

It all starts around 7:00 p.m. on any given Wednesday evening. **Murray Zloten** meticulously sets a Torah at each person's place and then sets up the refreshments. The Torahs, along with the cans of pop, cake, cookies, chips and popcorn, all seem to glisten in anticipation of the proceedings that are to follow. Then people start to file in and this happens week after week. What is most noticeable, in the moments before the class begins, is the friendly, jovial faces and smiles of the participants. 'Shalom Aleichem, how are you? Good to see you, vos machsta?' These are the audible words, which are coupled with the feelings of goodwill and joy. Thus, before even a word of Torah is spoken, one has the impression that something special is happening.

Hashem looks favourably when people, especially His people, are united and show signs of real *Ahavas Yisroel*. Perhaps this is what sets up the success of what then follows. **Yair Subar**, the Cantor of the Shul, arrives and like a match to a candle proceeds to ignite the festivities. Greeting everybody individually, welcoming and encouraging the speaker, putting the finishing touches on the tables, swirling around the room to make sure everyone has a seat, straightening his tie and clearing his throat, he grabs the podium and blurts out: "Ladies and Gentleman, thank you for coming. Tonight we are very happy to have the pleasure to welcome..." and with this introduction the lecturer for the night is announced.

There is a hush and people settle down and focus on words of Torah usually gleaned from the parsha of the week. In keeping with the structure of the class, the instructors are not all professional teachers but often are simply members of the class or guest speakers that hail from all over Ottawa. Both the regulars and the guests come from all walks of life and from all levels of Jewish knowledge. They have volunteered their time to prepare and have 'thrown caution to the wind' in courageously accepting to stand

before 20 to 30 people – in some cases for the first time! All of this for the sole purpose of assisting in the dissemination of Torah to an enthusiastic crowd who genuinely want to know more about what G-d is saying in his Holy Book.

**Are you interested in contributing an article?**

Welcome to Congregation Beth Shalom's Bulletin. We are working on ways of enhancing the publication so that it has something for everyone. We hope you like it. We invite you to share your ideas, comments, recipes, stories and suggestions (please call Gloria at 789-3501).

We would also like to thank our advertisers, who we greatly appreciate.

The Bulletin Committee

The "flavour of the week" is always unique and stays vibrant because each speaker has a different perspective on what s/he feels is important to impart at that particular point of time and in relation to the current weekly Torah portion. So in the recent past we've enjoyed Rabbis, businessmen, lawyers, civil servants, administrators, doctors, retirees, students and just about anyone Yair can convince, err... I mean accept the opportunity to lead the class.

The class proceeds with the participants quietly listening. With great interest they begin to digest the words of the instructor, as well as perhaps some potato chips and coke.

As time moves on, a quiet and serene atmosphere descends on the room as the participants appear to be enthralled by the pleasantness and beauty of the Creator's words.

Ideas and in-depth thoughts are expressed and people, perhaps for the first time, begin to really think about spiritual or even mystical thoughts. Questions usually follow the lesson and if the instructor does not always know the answer there is usually always someone, like **Cantor Kraus**, on hand to tackle the query or at least discuss the issue.

Thus the Wednesday Torah class has begun to succeed in reaching out to all the neshamas (souls) of those who choose to attend. In a pleasant and easy manner it provides for those thirsty to learn, or perhaps still just curious, in giving them the unique opportunity not only to learn but to really participate in an otherwise out-of-reach and difficult subject.

All would agree that this precious hour has come to serve as Beth Shalom's stepping-stone in its reach to discover the richness of the Torah.

In closing, I would be remiss if I did not give a hearty *Yasher Koach* to **Cantor Subar** for his tireless efforts in creating, encouraging, maintaining and boosting this very special Torah class. This brief article is dedicated to him as a token of our appreciation for all that he has done on behalf of the community and the shul. Thank you, Yair, and may you be blessed with 120 years, as well as health, prosperity and peace.

Future articles, G-d willing, will follow on the Tehillim Class and Perkei Avot Class.\*

**Endowment Fund**

To make a contribution, please call Gloria any weekday at 613-789-3501. We accept Visa and MasterCard. All donations are acknowledged with an official receipt for income tax purposes.

 **CONDOLENCES**

We express our deepest condolences to the families of:

Lillian Kathnelson, Cissie Greenberg, Ilsa Kipakowski, Lillian Podolsky, Sylvia Arron, Menasse Gewurz, Dr. Edward Shapiro, Samuel Slack, Herbert Wortman, Simon Czajezncky, Arthur Lazear, Joseph Hoffman, William Grossman, Morris Berliner.\*

## HOSPITALIZATION

If you or anyone in your family is admitted to one of the local area hospitals for any reason, please make a point of informing our Synagogue Office by calling 789-3501, so that our Clergy and Visiting Committee may visit at the earliest convenience. This is necessary, as it frequently occurs that the hospital does not keep proper records, and it can be quite a while until we find out that someone is in the hospital. Hence, if you would like a visit to take place, please inform our office at the earliest opportunity.

## Beth Shalom Gift Shop Has What You Need

Look no further; whether you are looking for a wedding, a Bar/Bat Mitzvah, or for a holiday gift, the gift shop is the place to go.

The gift shop has recently received some great new items so be sure to check it out. Some of the things you can find there include:

- Holiday items (Chanukah, Pesach, etc.)
- Judaica jewellery in silver and coloured stones
- Menorahs
- Shabbat items

and special features such as porcelain decorative boxes with hinges (one is a dreidel, another is a Shabbat table).

Most of the items are ordered from New York and California and catalogues are available. If you are looking for something specific and the shop does not carry it, talk to Cathy Levine and she can try to order it for you.

The gift shop is open by appointment only, (although Cathy is often at the shop Sunday mornings from 9:30 to 11:00 a.m.). Also, watch out for special pre-holiday openings.

So call Cathy Levine at 613-828-2904 and make an appointment today.\*

## Lighting Chanukah Candles

The first two blessings are said with the Shamash already lit, but immediately prior to lighting the Chanukah candles. Note: replace **shem** with *nai* and **keinu** with *heinu* when reciting the blessings.

**Blessing #1:** *Baruch ata Ado-shem Elo-keinu melech ha-olam, Asher kid-shanu bi-mitzvotav, Vi-tzee-vanu le-had-leek ner shel Chanukah.*

Blessed are You, the Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has sanctified us with His commandments, and commanded us to kindle the Chanukah light.

**Blessing #2:** *Baruch ata Ado-shem Elo-keinu melech ha-olam, She-asa nee-seem la-avoteinu, Baya-meem ha-haim ba-zman ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, the Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who made miracles for our Forefathers, in those days at this time.

**Blessing #3 - This blessing is said on the first night only:** *Baruch ata Ado-shem Elo-keinu melech ha-olam, Sheh-he-che-yanu ve-kee-yimanu ve-hee-gee-yanu la-zman ha-zeh.*

Blessed are You, the Lord our G-d, King of the Universe, Who has kept us alive, sustained us, and brought us to this season.

**After the first light has been kindled, say:**

Ha-nerot ha-lalu anach-nu mad-likin  
Al ha-nissim ve-al hanif-laot  
Al ha-tshu-ot ve-al ha-milchamot  
She-asita la'avo-teinu  
Ba-yamim ha-heim, ba-zman ha-zeh  
Al ye-dey kohan-echa hakedoshim.

Ve-chol shmonat ye-mey Chanukah  
Ha-nerot ha-lalu kodesh heim,  
Ve-ein lanu reshut le-heesh-tamesh ba-hem  
Ela leer-otam bilvad  
Kedai le-hodot u-le-hallel le-shimcha  
Al nisecha ve-al niflo-techa ve-al yeshua-techa.

We kindle these lights  
For the miracles and the wonders  
For the redemption and the battles  
Which You performed for our forefathers  
In those days at this season  
Through Your holy priests.

During all eight days of Chanukah  
These lights are sacred  
And we are not permitted to make ordinary

use of them  
But only to look at them  
To express thanks and praise to Your great  
Name  
For Your miracles, Your wonders, and Your  
salvations.

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### BAR MITZVAH

Mazel Tov to Yonatan Kamil, son of Ellie and Arie Kamil, who will be called to the Torah on Saturday, January 26, 2002.

### MARRIAGES

Mazel Tov to Annette Fran Faynwachs, daughter of Paul Faynwachs, on her marriage to Israel Eric Engel, son of Cynthia and Abe Engel.

Mazel Tov to Jill Gould, daughter of Enid and Jeff Gould, grand-daughter of Ann Taller and Rae Gould, on her marriage to Alex Levin, son of Alla and Igor Levin. ☆

### INEZ & JOSEPH ZELIKOVITZ TREE OF LIFE:

70<sup>th</sup> birthday wishes and sincere appreciation to LAWRENCE FREEDMAN, September 2, 2001 by Inez Zelikovitz.

In honour of the 35th Wedding Anniversary of SUNNY & JOHN TAVEL, October 9, 2001 by their special friends.

In appreciation to IAN SADINSKY, October 17, 2001 by Inez Zelikovitz.



*"I'm obsessed with winning. That's what this country's all about." - George Steinbrenner, New York Yankees owner*

**The aim of all competition is victory**, to vanquish one's rivals and to come out on top. In the Greek Olympic games, there were no silver or bronze medals. There was only first place. In competition, there are only two types of people: winners and losers.

We try to be good parents and tell our children: "It doesn't matter whether you win or lose, it's how you play the game." But they find out soon enough (usually from watching us) that's not the way the world works. **Winning does matter.** It matters in getting accepted to the right university. It matters in career advancement. It matters in getting the Super Bowl ring.

### PRECIOUS LIGHTS

The Chanukah menorah is a spiritual counterweight to the notion of success by beating someone else, and of results to the exclusion of effort. Judaism says that everyone can be a winner. Each individual is capable of being a unique and precious source of light.

Our ancient tradition records a fascinating exchange between G-d and the Jewish people:

*Jewish Nation: "G-d, You illuminate the whole world and then tell us to light the menorah?!"*

**G-d: "The little lights of your menorah are more precious to me than the lights of all the stars I have placed in the sky."**

The Jewish people wanted to know: How can our little candles possibly compete in a world blanketed by a billion stars?

G-d answers: To be a brilliant source of light, you don't have to be brighter than all the other stars. Don't evaluate the beauty and radiance of your inner light in terms of anything else but yourselves. **In the realm of spirituality, there is no competition.** There is room enough for a world full of winners – a world full of precious lights.

### FAMILY LIGHTS

Competition puts us in the habit of assessing value by comparing it to something else. In the realm of family dynamics, this can be most destructive. A husband who feels that his wife is always comparing the size of his paycheck with those of other men will become quite resentful. Similarly, a wife who feels that her husband is comparing her with other women will also be resentful. And worst of all,

children whose parents want them to be everything their friends' children are, will be deprived of the chance to develop a true sense of self-worth. Chanukah is the ideal time for families to **put aside comparisons**, and to focus instead on the inherent beauty in one another.

### **A FAMILY EXERCISE**

Try thinking of your family members as menorahs, and each night make it your business to notice and to light another flame.

Before Chanukah, buy a special notebook that will be known as your "**Family Lights Notebook**." Each night, before lighting the menorah, give everyone in the family one sheet of paper to write a response to one of the following statements:

1. You bring light into my life when you \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I love the way you \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Whenever I see you \_\_\_\_\_, it reminds me of how special you are.
4. You make our family special because you \_\_\_\_\_.

Each night of Chanukah, add these "pages of light" to each person's section in the family notebook. By the eighth night of Chanukah, the precious flames of your family will be burning bright.

From [www.aish.edu](http://www.aish.edu) - Adapted from "Chanukah - Eight Nights of Light, Eight Gifts for the Soul," by Rabbi Shimon Apisdorf.  
<http://www.leviathanpress.com>.

### *President's Message*

*(continued from page 2)*

friends to join you. They will surely enjoy the Beth Shalom experience. Beth Shalom offers a wonderful opportunity to participate in synagogue life and activities. Please, let us all make it a priority to introduce other Jewish people to the learning opportunities, stimulating programs and devoted Clergy here at Beth Shalom. Membership must be a high priority for all of us. Without efforts to draw more members, we cannot build for the future. An increased membership base, along with our recently improved revenues, will secure a strong and vibrant future for this congregation.

Unlike our American neighbours, we are fortunate here at Beth Shalom that our rebuilding is not out of grief, but out of joy as we celebrate the future. It is a future where we will come to services or come to learn in a newer, stronger Beth Shalom – a house of worship, a centre of Jewish learning and a place both to celebrate and remember. We need your financial support and your participation to make certain that Beth Shalom will be what you want it to be.

As Chanukah approaches, remember that it is about a *nes godol* – a great miracle and, perhaps more significantly, it is about rededicating the Temple. The day is now closer when we at Beth Shalom will be able to rededicate our own temple. Please join with us to make that happen.

To everyone, from Natalie, Alison, Paula and me...a happy and healthy Chanukah.

**Tom Gussman**  
President<sup>\*</sup>

# **Congregation Beth Shalom**

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Ba'al Koreh: Howard Dover  
Executive Secretary: Gloria Trainoff  
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Vice-President: Ruth Freiman  
Secretary: Jack Shapiro  
Treasurer: Sabina Wasserlauf  
Immediate Past-President: Ian Sadinsky

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