

# Unitarian Universalist Society: East

Member of the Clara Barton District of the Unitarian Universalist Association



**Unitarian Universalist Society: East** is a welcoming, open-minded, spiritual community seeking truth and meaning in its many forms. We share responsibility for building a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world.

Editor's Note: due to COVID-19 precautions, UUS:E has closed the Meetinghouse for all activities. Only staff members will enter the building until further notice.

Check our website and watch for email eblast notices for updates. <http://uuse.org>

Follow us on Twitter @uuseast. Check out #uuseast.  
Find us on Facebook at /UUSEast.



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## Sunday Services Schedule

March Ministry Theme: Commitment

In March we continue to hold one virtual worship service every Sunday morning at 10:00 AM. For the time being our Sunday services will be held using Zoom. Our Zoom login and call-in information will be shared through the congregational eblast. If you are not subscribed to the congregational eblast, please send a message to [e-news@uuse.org](mailto:e-news@uuse.org) or contact Annie Gentile in the UUS:E office to arrange another method of receiving relevant information.

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### March 7: "We Have No Secret Knowledge!"

As we kick off our 2021 Annual Appeal, Rev. Josh reflects on the spiritual gifts we receive from Unitarian Universalism...and the ones we don't.

**Coordinator:** Rev. Josh Pawelek

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### March 14: "Worship with the Unitarian Universalist Association."

The UUA is offering a denomination-wide stewardship service featuring Revs Chris Long, Mariela Pérez-Simons, Vail Weller and President Susan Frederick-Gray. We will watch from UUS:E's regular Sunday service Zoom room, followed by Joys and Concerns and Breakout Rooms.

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### March 21: "Doing the Right Thing."

We are often told to "Just do the right thing," but that is seldom easy. Malcolm Barlow, long time UUS:E member and local attorney, explores the questions, "What is the right thing? How do we know? How do we decide what to do? How are our UU Principles involved?"

**Coordinators:** David Klotz and Martha Larson

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### March 28: "Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence, MA."

This morning we join USNF for an inspiring service led by the Rev. Janet Bush. This service will focus on the Jewish celebration of Passover and the leadership of Moses. Their congregation will join UUS:E on Sunday, May 2.

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### April 4: "Break Forth Into Joy."

Join us for our all-congregational Easter Music service. As the nation slowly comes back from the coronavirus pandemic, we absolutely need a spring-inspired celebration this year!

**Coordinators:** Mary Bopp, Gina Campellone and Rev. Josh Pawelek

**P.S.** You are invited to submit recorded music. Music about Easter, springtime and spring season holidays or anything that makes you feel springy would be great! If interested, contact Mary Bopp.

## 2020 – 2021 Ministry Themes

<https://www.soulmatterssharingcircle.com/themes.html>

September	Renewal
October	Deep Listening
November	Healing
December	Stillness
January	Imagination
February	Beloved Community
March	Commitment
April	Becoming
May	Story
June	Play

## Community Outreach Ministry

Charitable Giving for March 2021

As always, thank you for your generosity.

"We do not gather our gifts only for ourselves, but to share with the larger community."

Continuing our practice of sharing our gifts with the community beyond our walls, fifty percent of our Sunday plate collections for the month of March will be split between Communitas and Hartford Deportation Defense.

Please contact Louisa Graver at [lgraver163@gmail.com](mailto:lgraver163@gmail.com), David Lacoss, or Nancy Madar at [nancymadar@hotmail.com](mailto:nancymadar@hotmail.com).

Checks made out to UUS:E will be treated as follows. If the memo line:

- ✓ is blank or "pledge" is written, all will go toward your pledge.
- ✓ has "COM" or the name of the charity is on the memo line, all will go to the charity.
- ✓ has "1/2 pledge, 1/2 COM," it will be divided equally.

April: CT Alliance to End Sexual Violence

## The Minister's Column: Hallelujah!

Dear Ones,

Our ministry theme for March is commitment, a very appropriate theme for the month in which we conduct our Annual Appeal. Due to the pandemic, we'll be conducting the appeal differently this year. Everyone will receive a small packet in the mail with the annual appeal materials. As always, we ask you to consider the value UUS:E holds in your life and your family's life. In particular, what has it meant to you to be connected to UUS:E over the past year of pandemic and civil unrest? You are always welcome to share your answer to that question with me directly at [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org) or 860-652-8961. Even if you've felt more disconnected during our move to online church, I am always interested to hear from you.

And as always, we ask that you return your pledge form in as timely a manner as possible so the Stewardship Committee can do its work on behalf of the congregation.

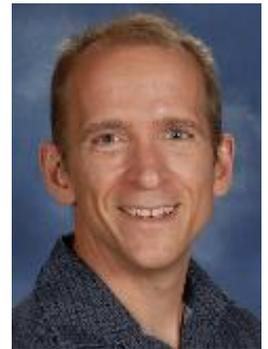
The Policy Board's goals for this year's appeal are modest. One goal is to insure that we pay our staff in accordance with the UUA's guidance for our geographic area. A second, stretch goal is to hire, once again, a part-time Membership Coordinator (once we've returned to in-person church). While our first attempt with this staff position did not work out, we still feel strongly that a Membership Coordinator can help UUS:E continue to grow—in numbers, in spiritual depth, in participation, in connection. If you have any questions about these goals, please feel free to contact me or any UUS:E board member (listed in the directory.)

It is typical for me to preach an Annual Appeal sermon on the first Sunday in March. This year I will play around with the idea that our faith doesn't claim to have secret knowledge. We don't claim to possess some spiritual truth the rest of society doesn't know. We don't believe we are favored by God because we confess a certain set of beliefs. We aren't conspiracy-minded people. Instead, we strive to know and address the world as it is. In an era where fake news, "alternative facts," opinion masquerading as reporting, and multiple conspiracies abound, a religion that strives to know and address the world as it is holds very high value in my life. I hope and trust it holds such value in your life.

This year, the UUA has created a Stewardship service which we will experience as a congregation on Sunday morning, March 14. I am very excited for this as one of the service leaders, the Rev. Chris Long, is a dear friend and former mentee of mine. Another service leader, the Rev. Mariela Pérez-Simons, is a former student of mine. Both are fantastic ministers. I can't wait for all of you to experience their worship ministry.

Once again, please feel free to reach out to me if you want to talk about the value UUS:E holds in your life. Thank you for your continued commitment to UUS:E and your generosity toward this year's annual appeal. We can't do what we do without you!!

With love,  
—Rev. Josh



## Enter, rejoice, and come in!

A Religious Education message from Gina

Dear Friends,

It's hard to believe nearly a year has passed since we last met in person at UUS:E. On the one hand, it seems the days have crept by excruciatingly slowly, moving forward at a snail's pace. Yet, on the other hand, an entire year seems to have raced by in the blink of an eye. It defies logic.

Nevertheless, here we are, 12 months into the pandemic. And it's not over yet, but at least there is now light at the end of the tunnel. I wonder what that light looks like to you—particularly in regard to UUS:E.

While nobody knows exactly when we will be able to meet again in person, we do know that sooner or later that day will come. Of course, the transition back to gathering in person won't be instantaneous. It will unfold gradually, in increments. Things won't return to normal immediately. In fact, things might **never** return to normal. And perhaps that's for the best. This period of transition provides us with an opportunity to rethink, reimagine, and redefine what it means to be a truly inclusive, welcoming, actively anti-racist, multigenerational, beloved community. We are all called to be spiritual architects, building a new way together.

I'm curious to know what you see when you envision a post-pandemic "new normal" for our church community. What changes would you like to make? What would you like to remain the same? Are there specific traditions or practices that you wouldn't dream of letting go? Are there some you might be ready to release? Do you have thoughts or wishes about how we offer worship services, how we structure religious education programming, or how we welcome and engage everyone in the life of the congregation? If so, I want to hear from you! Everyone's voice matters—children, elders, and all those in between. If you have an idea, I'd love to hear about it. Please email your ideas to me at [REdirector@uuse.org](mailto:REdirector@uuse.org). **As an incentive, everyone who emails me will have their name entered into a drawing for a Barnes & Noble gift card!**

You are welcome to share your ideas with me any time, all year long. However, if you'd like to be

entered into the drawing, be sure to email me by March 20.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

With love and hope,  
Gina



## Movie Night

Save The Dates!

The Religious Education program will offer two virtual movie nights for kids this month.

- Elementary (Pre-K – Grade 5) Friday, March 5, 6:30 PM
- Junior Youth (Grades 6 – 8) Friday, March 12, 7:00 PM



Specific movies will be selected soon. Keep an eye out for details in Gina's Weekly RE Updates and on the RE Families Facebook page.

Also in the works is a virtual "Pet Party", open to kids & parents from UUS:E, Unitarian Society of Hartford, and the Universalist Church of West Hartford. Show off your pet, share funny pictures and stories about your pet, maybe even receive a pet superlative award! This event is still in the planning stages, but the organizer hopes to hold it on a Friday evening or a Saturday morning in late March. Details will be forthcoming!

## Annual Appeal

We hope everyone is safe and well and that by now some of you have received the vaccine. Our Annual Appeal takes place during March and you soon will receive an important mailing from the Stewardship Committee. (Note: if you have not received it within a week, please call or email the church office). While events supporting the Annual Appeal must be different this year, (there will be no potlucks, no in-person meetings) we must be successful in providing the funds we need to sustain our many ministries and programs.

Our Annual Appeal theme this year is **Giving Heals the Soul**. Rev. Josh will kick off the Annual Appeal with a Sunday service on March 7. Each member and friend will receive a letter with information on our accomplishments of the year past and our aspirations for the next fiscal year (July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022) as well as a Giving Guide to help you think about the amount of your pledge. Our approach this year is to ask each member and friend to fill out the enclosed pledge form and electronic funds transfer (EFT) form, if you chose to use it, and return them to the church office. The Annual Appeal ends April 1 and those who have not responded by March 15 will be contacted by a steward. We hope this safe approach will generate the spirit of generosity that has made UUS:E the vibrant, spiritual home for many of us.

After receiving your mailing, if you have any questions, please call one of us on the Stewardship Committee. We are all stewards of Unitarian Universalist Society: East and as a congregation, we are responsible, not only to maintain, but to grow, strengthen, and enhance all that UUS:E represents. We hope you will agree that **Giving Heals the Soul**.

The Stewardship Committee: Adam Bender, Chair, Phil Sawyer, Louisa Graver, Larry Lunden and Stan McMillen

## UU Connect with You

Members of the Pastoral Friends Committee would like to invite you to join us on March 12 (Friday) at 4 PM for a Zoom gathering just to chat. This is for any members or friends who would like to have a chance to visit. There is no specific topic; we just wanted to reach out. We're doing this once a month on different days and at different times. Please join us.

## WhaleCoast Alaska

Summer 2021



Have you ever wanted to visit Alaska? If so, **WhaleCoast Alaska 2021** is for you! Four Alaska UU congregations invite you to experience our unique environmental and spiritual tour program this summer, when it will be safe to travel again. See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs, with friendly homestays and awe-inspiring tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, sea lions. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. WhaleCoast Alaska is an inspirational way to visit our beautiful state. Complete info: <http://whalecoastak.org/>. This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

Contact Roy Maynard or Vivian Carlson for information about their Whale Coast Alaska trip in 2019.

## Stop & Shop Cards

Stop & Shop cards can still be purchased despite the pandemic. Anyone who is interested in buying a card can contact Annie, our office administrator. Cards come in \$50, \$100 and \$250 amounts. The money raised from this effort goes into the general fund. And they make great holiday gifts! If you need any help with this or more information, contact Sandy Johnson at 860-888-9673.

## Romanza



### A Thrilling Virtual Concert of Latin American Music!

Fundraiser for the MACC Community Kitchen and Senior Meals Program

On March 20 at 7 PM, UUS:E will host husband and wife duo, Handler & Levesque, as they present music from Spain & Latin America for guitar, mandolin and cuatro. Hear everything from a lilting Latin American Vals and Flamenco from Mexico to a sizzling tango from Argentina and much more!

"Flowing fluently yet tightly together, the interactive Handler/Levesque collaboration swings and shimmers with gusto and romance. The duo's musical passion over the years just keeps getting warmer and brighter, while its artistic commitment and scope get even wider and deeper."

—Owen McNally, music critic, Hartford Courant

Judy Handler and Mark Levesque have performed over 2,000 concerts together throughout the United States & Europe.

Judy is Co-Founder of the Connecticut Guitar Society. Judy and Mark are founding members of the New American Mandolin Ensemble which formed in 2013.

Suggested Donation: \$10.00

To donate and receive ticket with Zoom link go to:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/romanza-concert-with-handler-levesque-tickets-141453385885>

For any questions about the concert or Eventbrite email [music@uuse.org](mailto:music@uuse.org).

## UUS:E Choir is Back!

Missing choir? Never tried it but always wanted to? Join our UUS:E music director, Mary Bopp, pianist, Dorothy Bognar, and singer, Jeannine Westbrook every Wednesday night at 7:15 for virtual choir rehearsals. Through the wonders of Zoom you can join from the comfort of your home.

For more information contact Mary Bopp at [music@uuse.org](mailto:music@uuse.org).

## Homemade Springtime Music

Are you ready for some springtime?? Musicians and music lovers are invited to contribute holiday music videos. These will be presented at the Easter music service on April 4 and other spring services. Music about springtime and spring season holidays or anything that makes you feel springy would be great! It can be an instrumental or vocal solo or ensemble—anything goes! If interested contact Mary Bopp at [music@uuse.org](mailto:music@uuse.org).

## Virtual Teach-In

### Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA)

Thursday evening March 4 at 7:00 PM

Friday afternoon, March 5 at Noon

Watch the regular UUS:E eblasts for login information

or contact the UUS:E office at 860-646-5151.



Members of UUS:E's GHIAA core team and GHIAA staff will provide education and updates on three important campaigns:

Learn about **Welfare Liens** and why GHIAA is working to abolish them.

Learn about the **Clean Slate** campaign for criminal justice reform.

Learn about the campaign to **Declare Racism a Public Health Crisis** in Connecticut.

Learn how you can get involved.

## Green Sanctuary News

If you are reading this before February 25, you have a chance to view a wonderful seminar with great panelists: **An Ecological Civilization: The Path We Are On**. Moving us from an uncivilized society based on selfish wealth accumulation to one that is community-oriented and life-affirming. There is much to see on the site:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yes-presents-an-ecological-civilization-the-path-were-on-tickets-140417282873> Check it out even if you miss the Feb. 25 date.

Check out this website

<https://joebiden.com/climate-plan/> to see what our new President's plan is: **The Biden Plan for a Clean Energy Revolution and Environmental Justice**. It covers an amazing array of policies and plans to incentivize clean energy deployment, energy efficiency, and reduction of greenhouse gases in almost every sector of the economy and will reinstate federal protections and direct all agencies to engage in community-driven approaches to develop solutions for environmental injustices affecting vulnerable communities.

One thing it does not say much about is how the costs will be funded. That's where efforts to pass the bill we all voted for at our UUS:E annual mtg in 2019 come in. HR 763, the Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/763> will be reintroduced soon, and CCL CT volunteers are working to get towns and cities and eventually the state legislature to pass climate emergency resolutions that include federal support for that bill. Stay tuned on this.

A major three-day event occurred on January 19, 21, and 25. It was the 2021 annual

**Environmental Summit** hosted by the Connecticut League of Conservation Voters: <https://www.conservationeducation.org/environmental-summit.html>

Of course, it was all virtual this year, but it still drew hundreds of people from every area of environmental concerns across the state. Some of the highlights included: the major problem CT needs to solve around waste reduction, especially due to the limits to recycling success and the fast-approaching end of the trash-to-energy incinerators; the many legislative priorities for the

Environment Committee, for CT DEEP and for Gov Lamont; restricting PFAS and other "forever" chemicals in food packaging and materials and in fire-fighting foam; and the Transportation and Climate Initiative. There are many other areas and actions. Each bill that comes forward needs support from the public at different stages. Please review the materials available on-line at the above website for details and consider where you might take action.

In the meantime, stay well, stay safe, get outside whenever you can, and stay warm with lots of layers :-). Weather permitting I love to walk in the late afternoon just before and after the sun sets. The light on the snow and trees is so beautiful! Take time to savor the nature we still have around us!

**Fun Food Fact:** Janet thinks it is fun to find and try great recipes for one-pot Instant-Pot plant-based meals, which saves energy, mess, and occasionally time.

Here's an idea for tonight's meal!



## Books, Classes, and Discussions

Adult Religious Education



### Book Lovers

The Book Lovers meets second Tuesdays at 3:30 on Zoom. Ask Martha Larson ([marlar@wordshard.com](mailto:marlar@wordshard.com)) for the Zoom sign in.

- March 9: **The Greater Journey: Americans in Paris**, by David McCullough
- April 13: **The Art Forger** by B.A. Shapiro
- May 11: **The Other Einstein** by Marie Benedict
- June 8: **The Victory Garden** by Rhys Bowen
- July 13: **Henry's Sisters** by Cathy Lamb

### Buddhist Group



The Buddhist Group meets via Zoom at 7 PM Tuesday, March 2, for meditation and discussion of the March ministry theme, **Commitment**. All are welcome; no meditation experience necessary. Contact Nancy Thompson at [nancythompson123@yahoo.com](mailto:nancythompson123@yahoo.com) for the Zoom info.

## General Assembly

Registration for Virtual General Assembly (GA) 2021, June 23 – 27, is now open. Simply go to [uua.org](http://uua.org) and follow the prompts for GA registration.

Only registered attendees will have advanced notice of special events and highlights like the Ware Lecture. Attendees will also enjoy using a new GA app which promises to make navigating GA easier. Members who have attended GA's in the past have always come away enriched having shared in the gathering of our larger community: stimulating lectures and sessions, beautiful music and empowered to translate faith to action.

### CT Public Options Teach In

Thursday, March 18 at 7 PM and

Friday, March 19 at 1 PM

With Comptroller Kevin Lembo

Join us for a discussion on health care and how a CT Public Options bill will provide access to affordable, quality health care choices in our state!

To join: email [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org) or [micahbaxter@yahoo.com](mailto:micahbaxter@yahoo.com)



CT Public Options Teach In



- **When:** Thursday, March 18th at 7 pm & Friday, March 19th at 1 pm

- **With:** Comptroller Kevin Lembo

- **How to join:** email [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org) or [micahbaxter@yahoo.com](mailto:micahbaxter@yahoo.com) to register



Join us for a discussion on healthcare and how a CT Public Options bill will provide access to affordable, quality health care choices in our state!

## Mind Your Ts and Qs

A Brief Introduction to Radical Welcome of Trans, Non-Binary, GenderQueer, and Gender Non-Conforming people with CB Beal

March 13, 10:00 AM to Noon



CB will bring an interactive workshop experience to UUS:E members and friends on Saturday, March 13 from 10:00 AM to Noon. This workshop is for anyone who wants to learn more about gender diversity and support people whose

gender is not what our society has taught us to typically expect. Participants should be willing to explore the ways our individual experience of gender isn't the only experience of gender. We will bring respectful curiosity and willingness to bear witness to people's experiences to help us better be the Beloved Community—an open community of justice, equity and love, for all.

This is an online introductory workshop - there will be self-reflection and sharing in the chat in response to specific prompts, and some small group discussion. Please be sure you bring something you can use to write notes for yourself.

This workshop is open to youth (grade 8+) and adults (18 – 98)

Watch our regular UUS:E eblasts for login information or contact the UUS:E office at 860-646-5151.

**CB Beal, M.Div.** (they, them, theirs) specializes in the facilitation of learning experiences that involve issues of marginalization, oppression, and privilege; to help participants hold the complexities of our lives in perspective and co-create a safe[r] brave[r] space where people are challenged to learn and grow.

They are a nationally known presenter and consultant for congregations, schools, social service agencies. Their focus is the intersections of Preemptive Radical Inclusion, safer communities/congregations, supporting gender creative and trans/non-binary children and youth in youth-serving organizations, and sexuality/consent education. They are an Our Whole Lives Trainer and Trainer of Trainers and teach sexuality and

consent education classes to elementary and middle school students around Massachusetts. Previous to doing their work at Justice and Peace Consulting full time, they were the Director of Religious Education at the Unitarian Society of Northampton and Florence for 16 years after holding several different educational and training positions in adjacent fields. CB received a Master of Divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York in 1991 and is the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2019 Angus H. MacLean Award for Excellence in Religious Education.

CB is a white, non-binary/genderqueer, mostly able-bodied fat person of sturdy farmer stock.

## Book Recommendations

During a recent UU Connect, we started talking about books and our love of reading. We came up with the idea of a Book Recommendations from UUS:E members column for the newsletter. Book Recommendations may be sent to Marcie Brown at: [marcie1661@gmail.com](mailto:marcie1661@gmail.com). Please include details as those below. In case you want to know more, each title is linked to its page in goodreads.

<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>	<b>Genre</b>	<b>Pages</b>	<b>Available at:</b>
<a href="#"><u>How to be an Antiracist</u></a>	Ibram X. Kendi	Autobiography	238	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood</u></a>	Trevor Noah	Biography	282	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>The Tattooist of Auschwitz</u></a>	Heather Morris	Fiction	262	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>Tinkers</u></a>	Paul Harding	Fiction	191	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>The Painted Veil</u></a>	W. Somerset Maugham	Fiction	246	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>Where the Crawdads Sing</u></a>	Delia Owens	Fiction	368	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>WW I book series (3): No Graves as Yet; Shoulder the Sky; Angels in the Gloom</u></a>	Anne Perry	Historical Fiction	In order: 363, 325, 337	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>People of the Book</u></a>	Geraldine Brooks	Historical Fiction	372	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>The Inheritance of Loss</u></a>	Kiran Desai	Indian American fiction	357	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>Becoming</u></a>	Michelle Obama	Memoir	448	Libraries, Kindle
<a href="#"><u>Internment</u></a>	Samira Ahmed	Young Adult Fiction	373	Libraries, Kindle

**UUS:E GENERAL INFORMATION**

**UUS:E Office Schedule:** Monday – Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

**Meetinghouse Office:** 860-646-5151

**Office Administrator:** Annie Gentile email: [uuseoffice@uuse.org](mailto:uuseoffice@uuse.org)

**Minister:** Rev. Joshua Pawelek 860-652-8961, [minister@uuse.org](mailto:minister@uuse.org)

**OFFICE HOURS:** Tuesday 10 AM to 7 PM and Thursday 10 AM to 4 PM

**President:** Rob Stolzman, 907-268-1871, [robandtammylee@yahoo.com](mailto:robandtammylee@yahoo.com)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Gina Campellone, 860-875-8468, [redirector@uuse.org](mailto:redirector@uuse.org)

**Newsletter Editor:** Paul Cocuzzo, 978-270-2056, [newsletter@uuse.org](mailto:newsletter@uuse.org)

**Website Coordinator:** Carol Marion 860-643-8765, [uuse.web@uuse.org](mailto:uuse.web@uuse.org)

**World Wide Web address:** <http://uuse.org>

Newsletter Deadline:  
The 20<sup>th</sup> of Each Month

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