



MOVING FORWARD, LOOKING BACK

MEMBER NEWS AND INFORMATION FROM THE MUSEUM OF DISABILITY HISTORY

FALL 2013: VOLUME 8



Museum of
disABILITY History
A PROJECT OF PEOPLE INC.

Message from the Director



Hope you are all well and had an enjoyable summer! It doesn't seem possible that I have been the director of the Museum of disABILITY History for over three months! Needless to say, the summer flew by and now, as days grow shorter, the other "s" word has been in the forecast of late.

Pace at the Museum of disABILITY History is hectic as our Museum Team works very hard to continue the educational excellence that has been the hallmark of this organization since its

founding in 1998, and more recently, since it opened at its current location on Main Street in Buffalo, three years ago.

We have held several great events that allowed many of you to visit, some for the first time, and others renewing your acquaintance with the Museum. A few of the notable recent events included:

- "Person First Forum" with our friend, Rich Marino and his helper dog, Tobey. This was one our first offerings in this new series that provides an audience for self-advocates with disabilities to tell their personal stories.
- "Membership Phone-a-Thon" with 50 new members to date, bringing our current membership to over 100 people and businesses. Thank you to everyone for your support!
- "Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series" with Char Szabo-Perricelli. Char very ably kicked-off this new speaker's series with images taken at the J.N. Adams Developmental Center. We are looking forward to working with Char on a future publication of her work. Some of her beautiful photography is still available for sale in our Museum Store.
- "9th Annual Film Festival and Speaker Series" with two showings of the movie, "Inclusion," at the Dipson Amherst Theater and four self-advocate speakers who presented a program at the Museum between the movie screenings. We offered a reprise showing of "Inclusion" in the Museum's training room on November 8.

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Of Grave Importance

By Dave Mack-Hardiman, Associate Vice President

More than one million Americans are buried in institutional cemeteries. Many of these lonely resting places are no longer used and have fallen into disrepair or neglect. Row upon row of numbered gravestones or cast iron symbols of institutional depersonalization. Some families have searched for decades for names or any shred of information about their ancestors who are buried under weeds and tangled vines.



The Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc. have been actively involved in cemetery restoration for the past seven years. Volunteers have scrubbed one hundred years of

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- "Columbus Day is Kids' Day" was enjoyed by 50 "explorers" who spent part of their holiday enjoying a full day of activities including a Kids on the Block performance, Quest Scavenger Hunt and recreation of Seguin's Therapy Obstacle Course.
- "Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series" featured author Michael Wehmeyer, Ph.D., who presented material from his research for the book, "Good Blood, Bad Blood." This thought provoking book debunks much of the eugenics material that was published by H.H. Goodard that led to the forced serialization of over 50,000 individuals in this country in the twentieth century, as well as unimaginable genocide in other countries.
- "Dislexsia: The Movie:" On October 29, the Museum teamed up with University at Buffalo Center for Exceptional Children to offer one of the first national screenings of the award winning new documentary by Harvey Hubbell about the challenges and misunderstanding of dyslexia.
- "Monument for the Forgotten" is the latest exhibition undertaken by the Museum of disABILITY History. It depicts in unmistakable imagery, the forgotten stories of the lives of thousands of individuals, who lived and died, many nameless, in institutional cemeteries around Western New York. The focal centerpiece of the exhibit is a ten foot tall mosaic created by Faces of Buffalo using over 2,000 computer images of

institutional graves and the scrolling of names of individuals who have been identified from these sites. Exhibition continues in the main Museum gallery throughout 2013.

- Self-advocate Susan LoTempio was the moderator for a discussion for "Person First Forum: Gettin' Around in WNY" on November 16. This event highlighted transportation issues facing people with disabilities.

In addition to hosting our own events, the Museum is pleased to partner with many other organizations in and around Western New York that help to increase outreach beyond our own walls. A few of those organizations and opportunities whose programs we recently assisted include:

- Amherst Chamber of Commerce
- Buffalo and Erie County Public Library
- Buffalo Niagara Partnership
- Buffalo Public Schools
- Buffalo State College Equity and Campus Diversity Office
- Daemen College
- Developmental Disabilities Alliance of WNY (DDAWNY)
- Disability, Education and Advocacy Network of WNY (DEAN)
- Erie County Office for the Disabled
- Erie County – "Thank-A-Vet"
- First Book WNY
- LCTV-Lockport
- Niagara University
- SODEXO

- SUNY/Buffalo Center for Disability Studies (CDS)
- SUNY/Buffalo Council for Exceptional Children
- Veterans Administration Hospital
- Villa Maria College
- WNED

In addition to many local contacts, our reach has been expanded around the nation through the rental of our Traveling Exhibits. Many colleges and businesses find these resources to be a great value in their own educational exhibits and programs.

I hope you enjoy this edition of "Moving Forward, Looking Back." Please do me a favor, and mark your calendars and plan to attend the "Holiday Party at the Museum," on Thursday, December 5 from 4 p.m.-6 p.m. with entertainment provided by the musical group, "Universal Mind." This group of very talented musicians has triumphed in spite of their developmental disabilities and has played to the great pleasure at dozens of locations around the area. What holiday party would be complete without a great assortment of tasty treats and of course, holiday cookies? This great event is free and open to the public, so invite your friends, too! Hope to see you there!

Stay warm,

Doug Farley

Doug Farley, *Museum Director*

Celebrate the holidays with
Universal Mind

Thursday, December 5, 2013
4 p.m.- 6p.m.
3826 Main Street, Buffalo

To RSVP, call 716.629.3626

Please see the included flyer for more details.

Sponsored by Aspire of Western New York, UNIVERSAL MIND is comprised of musicians who are all "differently-abled." Formed in 2007, the group performs some of the greatest rock hits from the 50s, 60s, 70s, and 80s as well as their own dynamic material.



**Enjoy a holiday
basket raffle!
Lots of lucky
winners!**

**FREE
Event!**

**Gift Wrap
Station**



Now Available: 2014 Abandoned Asylums of New England Calendar

The Abandoned Asylums of New England 2014 calendar features the work of photographer John Gray. The calendar is now available in our Museum Store and online: store.museumofdisability.org. The calendar makes a great holiday gift for architecture and photography enthusiasts! Please see the enclosed order form for more details or stop by the Museum Store to purchase yours today!

Interested in education? Want to spread an anti-bullying message?

Unique volunteer opportunity for college students, theatre enthusiasts and many more!

The Museum of disABILITY History is looking for volunteers to assist with its kNOw Bullying program. The program will be provided as a supplement to established anti-bullying programs and will help to reinforce the message that students should become “Stand-byers” rather than bystanders in the efforts to reduce bullying incidents in their schools. Educational puppetry will be used to facilitate a discussion with students regarding the definition and types of bullying, tools and resources for students to use if they become a victim or witness and how to become a “Stand-byer.” **If you would be interested in being a puppeteer or would like to assist with the coordination of the program, contact Doug Farley, director of the Museum of disABILITY History, at dfarley@people-inc.org or at 716.629.3601.**

kNOw bullying![™]

A project of the Museum of disABILITY History

**Learn to be
bully free!**

Café ModH

By Pamela Formoso, Museum Store Manager

Believe it or not, cold weather and snow is just around the corner if not here already! Instead of curling up with a good book and a cup of coffee at home, visit the Museum of disABILITY History where you can do that and more by enjoying our new café area! Step inside the reception area and embrace the warm aromas of creamy caramel coffee, homey hazelnut, original blend, hot chocolate and green tea.

While you shop in our unique gift shop or browse the educational gallery, you can quench your thirst with other beverages like Pepsi, Dr. Pepper, lemonade, root beer and juice. And there are irresistible snacks! The new café area also offers many different ice cream products such as mouthwatering triple chocolate fudge cones, original vanilla ice cream sandwiches, Twix ice cream bars and more! Enjoy delicious chocolate covered popcorn, tasty potato chip variety and other delectable refreshments. Stop by and see for yourself the exciting and yummy new edition to the Museum of disABILITY History!



Save the Date!

**Amherst Chamber of Commerce After Hours Event
at the Museum of disABILITY History**

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

4 p.m.-6 p.m.

3826 Main Street, Buffalo

Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, wine and great conversation!

Guests are invited to network with other chamber members! Bring your business cards! The cost to attend Business After Hours is FREE for both members of the Chamber and non-members.



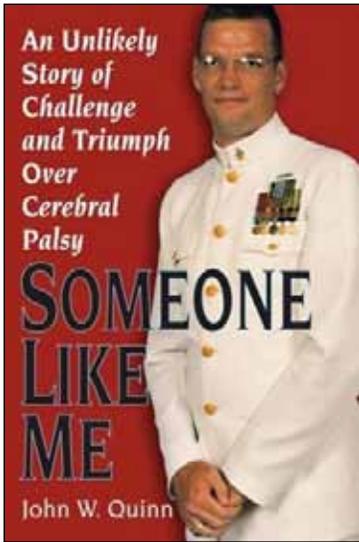
To RSVP, contact Kim Whelan, director of Member Relations for the Amherst Chamber of Commerce, at kwhelan@amherst.org or 716.250.0994.

Someone Like Me: An Unlikely Story of Challenge and Triumph Over Cerebral palsy

By Thomas Stearns, Research Assistant

The following article was included on the Museum of disABILITY History Blog.

Just a couple of days after contacting author John W. Quinn on Facebook, the Museum of disABILITY History received a signed copy of his autobiography *Someone Like Me: An Unlikely Story of Challenge and Triumph Over Cerebral Palsy*. Inside, the title page contained a hand-written message of pure determination: “Work Hard. Never Give Up. Dream Big!” – words that will undoubtedly serve as a powerful



source of inspiration to every person who visits the Museum and encounters his book, for Quinn embodies the message to an extraordinary degree.

Someone Like Me brings to life the story of John W. Quinn, a now-retired Senior Chief Petty Officer in the United States Navy who served for two decades without ever disclosing the fact that he had a disability. Born with Cerebral palsy, “a group of chronic conditions affecting body movement and muscle coordination,” Quinn faced challenges from the beginning. As a child, he recalls wearing

“clunky” orthopedic shoes to help correct his “scissor-like, shuffling gait” and donning “thick, heavy glasses” to help correct his eyesight. In addition to their therapeutic purposes, these devices also prompted him to develop emotional armor in order to cope with the resultant bullying.

Quinn’s symptoms became more pronounced as he grew older, but his parents refused to let him be defined by his disability – even going so far as to (unsuccessfully) insist that the doctors at Children’s Hospital make no mention of his Cerebral palsy on any official medical records. They did not want the label of “handicapped” or “disabled” to stigmatize their son for the rest of his life.

Although he does not encourage anybody to hide who they are, Quinn followed his parents’ decision to keep his disability a secret and was therefore able to pursue a dream that would otherwise have been unattainable at that point in time—a career in the United States Navy.

The odds were certainly stacked against him, but Quinn persevered – enduring immeasurable pain and more than a year’s worth of preparation in order to pass the military entrance physical exam, and then excelling through the ranks by means of hard-work, intelligence and an abundance of grit.

During the course of his naval career, Quinn served aboard dock landing ships, a battleship, a guided missile destroyer, and two Nimitz-

Honored by the WNY Association of Historical Agencies

The Museum of disABILITY History is honored to have received an Organizational Award of Merit from the Western New York Association of Historical Agencies for the exhibit, “Little Differences: The Portrayal of Children with disABILITIES Throughout History.” The exhibit shows how children with disabilities have been depicted in art, literature and medias as a way to inform people about qualities lacking in their lives, raise funds for a “cause,” and create awareness. The importance of this exhibit lies in its ability to stimulate dialogue and introspection on how these portrayals have impacted cultural biases and stereotypes of disability.

The Little Differences exhibit is an excellent example of the Museum’s work in promoting its mission to advance the understanding, acceptance and independence of people with disabilities and create awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery.

The Museum of disABILITY History is proud to be among the recipients of this award. Two other organizations received awards: North Collins Historical Society and the Seneca-Iroquois National Museum.



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Support the Museum, Become a Member!

Want to support the Museum of disABILITY History? Membership opportunities are now available! With five different levels to choose from, you can choose the one that is right for you. All supporting membership levels are good for one year.

To become a member, please call 716.629.3626 or log on to our website at www.museumofdisability.org. Click on the "Support Us" tab, click on "Membership," and then "Click Here to Become a Member." Thank you for your support!

Don't forget that as a member you receive free admission to the museum and events, and a 10% discount in the Museum Store!

store.museumofdisability.org

New Members!

A warm welcome to our new members:

Individual/Student

Gail Armstrong	Melissa Dunlap
Joan Barry	Richard Epps
Robert Bedigian	Duane Godfrey
Chris Boles	Councilmember Joseph Golombek Jr.
Dan Boles	Theresa Kolodzies
David Boles	Eden Mack-Hardiman
Shawna Boles	Helen McGreevy
Carol Caisse	Denise McGuigan
Robert Colangelo	Mary Walek
Linda Covell	

Family/Dual

Robert and Fran Armstrong	Richard Koterbus
Lisa and Lester Boeh	Nona and Amy McQuay
Patricia Carrig	Jesse and Mary Palumbo
Bill Collins	Patrick and Suzanne Reilly

Friend

Eve Berry	Anna Korus
Ann Burk	Michael Modrzynski
Susan Mann Dolce	Jim Sutherland
Robert Dunford	Andrew Symons
Assemblymember Dennis Gabryszak	Kathleen Wood

Sustainer

Douglas Farley

We are Members!



Employees from SODEXO.



*Dr. Barry A. Weinstein,
Amherst Supervisor.*



*Assemblymember Dennis H.
Gabryszak.*



Nancy Palumbo, People Inc. Chief Administrative Officer, and James M. Boles, Ed.D., People Inc. President and Chief Executive Officer.

“Of Grave Importance” continued from page 1

moss and lichen from headstones. They have straightened cast iron markers and created memorial gardens. The dedicated group has trimmed trees and pulled weeds. They have done battle with grape vines, Hawthorne trees, poison ivy, bees and fire ants. They have edged around flat markers and scrubbed out letters and numbers with toothbrushes.

Under the sweltering summer sun, volunteers located 550 head stones which were buried by time. For two summers, they engaged in the painstaking task of finding these numbered stones underground and carefully bringing them back to the surface. They cleaned them and positioned them in their original locations.

Families visited this section after the work was completed and for the first time were able to visit the grave of their ancestors. Staff at the Museum of disABILITY History have assisted many families in trying to find the location of the grave of their relative or any other information about them.

The Museum of disABILITY History recently unveiled “Monument for the Forgotten,” a huge mosaic of institutional grave markers designed by Faces of Buffalo. Unused markers from some cemeteries will also be on display. In addition, a rededication ceremony will be held at the Niagara County Almshouse Cemetery in Lockport in the Spring of 2014. At that time, the refurbished monument and memorial plaque will be unveiled. Please join us in celebration of all of these remarkable restoration efforts.



The unveiling of the “Monument for the Forgotten.”

“Someone Like Me” continued from page 4

class aircraft carriers, was stationed at an Air Force Base in Florida, and even received a special assignment to Navy SEAL Team THREE – “the first naval special warfare team in history to have non-SEALs assigned to its unit from its inception” – where he participated in grueling physical training exercises alongside some of the fittest military men on the planet.

Quinn’s autobiography does not shy away from discussing even the most painful times of his life. He writes candidly about his awkward childhood and teenage years, his struggle to find a viable career option, his experience confronting alcoholism and coping with deaths in the family (including the suicide of his older brother, Steven) and a particularly wrenching heartbreak – just to name a few.

Throughout all of this, Quinn battled symptoms of Cerebral palsy, including muscle spasticity, rigidity, and fatigue, as well as nearly constant, excruciating pain. And what’s more, he always needed to be cognizant of his actions and appearance lest someone discover his disability and push for his discharge from the U.S. Navy. The result is a captivating book with emotional depth and no shortage of excitement.

“ It also speaks volumes about the idea of inclusion, which Quinn defines as ‘the opportunity to succeed.’ If he had disclosed the fact that he had a disability, he would never have been permitted to serve his country in the capacity that he chose.”

It also speaks volumes about the idea of inclusion, which Quinn defines as “the opportunity to succeed.” If he had disclosed the fact that he had a disability, he would never have been permitted to serve his country in the capacity that he chose. However, because he kept his Cerebral palsy a secret, he was able to demonstrate just how powerful the human spirit can be when given “the opportunity to succeed.” Quinn’s desire is for society to continue moving forward in the 21st century so that everyone will have that opportunity. He wants the focus to be on people’s abilities, rather than on their disabilities (a message that the Museum of disABILITY History wholeheartedly supports).

Since the release of *Someone Like Me*, Quinn has been traveling the country as a motivational speaker and disability advocate. He takes pleasure in meeting with his readers and delivering presentations to schools, organizations and corporations in an effort to expand awareness about a variety of topics—including disabilities, bullying, teamwork, and life challenges. Described by many as a “natural storyteller,” this sailor turned author has left audiences captivated and inspired.

For anyone who wishes to purchase a copy of *Someone Like Me*, feel free to visit our Museum Store in person or online at store.museumofdisability.org—we would be more than glad to help you!

For more information on John W. Quinn, please visit his website at www.johnwquinn.com or read his blog at johnwquinn.blogspot.com. He also operates a video blog at www.youtube.com/user/authorjohnwquinn, which features some fascinating topics of conversation.

Recapping “Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series”

By Douglas Platt, Curator

The Museum of disABILITY History has successfully started one of its new speaker series, which is open to the community to attend.



Char Szabo-Perricelli.

On September 27, the Museum of disABILITY History launched its new “Dialogues on disABILITY Speaker Series” and played host to Char Szabo-Perricelli and “Her Inside Voice - a photographic study of JN Adam Memorial Hospital.” The eclectic crowd that attended was treated to nearly ninety of Char’s favorite photographs that were culled from the thousand or so that she has taken of the J.N Adam grounds over the last decade, as she was interviewed about her passion for the renovation, re-use and documentation of the sprawling Perrysburg campus. The Q&A that followed was lively, as the audience was a diverse mixture of photography buffs, JN Adam’s fans, disability history aficionados and friends and members of the Museum of disABILITY History. The evening ended with a chance to have an informal meet and greet in the KeyBank Room, tour the Museum and the opportunity to purchase some prints of Char’s work. To paraphrase a comment made on the Museum’s Facebook, “Char, you kept us captivated the whole evening. Great job!”



Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D.

On October 19, Michael L. Wehmeyer, Ph.D., author of “Good Blood, Bad Blood: Science, Nature, and the Myth of the Kallikak,” provided a thorough debunking of psychologist Henry Herbert Goddard’s seminal work on the subject of eugenics. Dr. Wehmeyer, professor of Special Education at the University of Kansas entertained and informed a small but enrapt audience with a presentation that exposed the faulty and fabricated underpinnings of the American Eugenics movement, and restored a degree of dignity to Emma Wolverton, the primary subject of the Kallikak story. After the presentation, Dr. Wehmeyer engaged in an extensive Q&A session with the audience that covered a wide range of topics. One audience member (who had made the trip from Syracuse) commented, “Mike was amazing! Can’t wait to read the book.” Another said, “This speaker was very informative and interesting. A well spent early afternoon.”

9th Annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series

By Dave Mack-Hardiman, Associate Vice President

On October 12, 2013, the sound of precision Japanese Taiko drums reverberated throughout the Dipson Amherst Theater in Buffalo. The film, *Inclusion: The Joy of Drumming*, was shown twice at the 9th Annual disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series. The event was hosted by the Museum of disABILITY History and People Inc.

This inspirational film follows a group of people who are diagnosed with disabilities and formerly lived in institutions in Japan. Through their own motivation, training, and intensive practice, they create perfection in percussion. Trained by the renowned Japanese drummer Ichiro Jishoya, the group learns to perform publicly and flawlessly produces a thunderous closing number. This documentary, made in 2011, showcases the unlimited creative potential of the Taiko drummers. It looks at their lives and relationships through an optimistic lens.



Screening at the Amherst Dipson Theatre.



Janet Harrison spoke to the crowd about what inclusion means to her, and she also displayed some of her artwork.

Between showings of the film, the speaker series was held at the Museum of disABILITY History. Michael Rembis, Ph.D., director of the Center for Disabilities Studies and Assistant Professor at the University of Buffalo hosted the event. He introduced four speakers who spoke to the gathered crowd about their own experiences with inclusion. Marie Malinowski, Janet Harrison, Lisa Maria Cruz and Michael Rogers each gave poetic and poignant presentations. In addition, artwork was on display from People Inc.’s Arts Experience and Starlight Studio and Art Gallery. Short animated films from Starlight Studio were also shown. Thank you to all who contributed to this exhibit of talent and creativity!

The disABILITIES Film Festival and Speaker Series was sponsored by The Buffalo News, The Buffalo International Film Festival, The New York State Council on the Arts, The New York State Council for the Humanities, The University of Buffalo Student Association and the University of Buffalo Japanese Student Association.



“Like” the Museum of disABILITY History on Facebook!

www.facebook.com/museumofdisability

A Dream Come True

By Maria Bell, Docent, Museum of disABILITY History

Hello, my name is Maria Bell, and I have worked for the Museum of disABILITY History for six years. I began working at the Museum in 2007, and my job is to give tours to new employees of People Inc. I also give tours to people from outside of People Inc. On these tours I share history about the Museum, and about the history of disabilities from 1600 until today. I also do PastPerfect (Museum software) and research for the Museum. In the past, I have helped with "A New Garden," and "In Remembrance."

I also share the history of my life while I am doing tours. I lived in a group home from 1992 until 2009. I've now had the chance to live on my own. It's had its challenges, but I have persevered. I also attend Faith Fellowship Church, where I started going in 1998. One of my ministries at the church was to write to people who were sick and give them encouragement through notes. At the time this ministry was called, "James Gang," and we also handed out food to those in need. I am now a Junior Church teacher, and teach once or twice a month. Having my friends and family at my church helps me get through my day.

Having Cerebral palsy as a young child was difficult, and many young people would have given up, but I'm a self-advocate who never gives up. I never let my disability stop me from doing what I do. Because if I did, I wouldn't be the woman God wanted me to be. I have always wanted to work in a museum, but I never thought people would give me a chance. Once again I didn't give up. This is a dream come true.

“ Having Cerebral palsy as a young child was difficult, and many young people would have given up, but I'm a self-advocate who never gives up. I never let my disability stop me from doing what I do.”



MUSEUM INFO

3826 Main Street, Buffalo NY 14226
716.629.3626
info@museumofdisability.org
www.museumofdisability.org
store.museumofdisability.org

MUSEUM HOURS

Monday-Saturday: 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Sunday: Closed

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The Museum will be closed on the following holidays:
November 28 - November 30.....Thanksgiving
December 24.....Christmas Eve
December 25.....Christmas Day
January 1.....New Year's Day

ADMISSION

General Admission:

Museum Members.....FREE
People Inc. employees.....FREE
Adults.....\$5.00
Students, Seniors, and Human Service Employees.....\$2.50
Children ages 6-17.....\$2.00
Children ages 5 and under.....FREE

Group Tour Rates:

All groups (greater than or equal to 10 people): \$4 per person
Rental of the KeyBank Room (1st Floor, up to 20 people): \$50 fee added to the total amount per person
Rental of the Main Training Room (2nd Floor w/ elevator access, up to 80 people): \$100 fee added to the total amount per person

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of Mental Hygiene

MISSION STATEMENT

The Museum of disABILITY History advances the understanding, acceptance, and independence of people with disabilities. The Museum's exhibits, collections, archives and educational programs create awareness and a platform for dialogue and discovery.

STAFF

Doug Farley - *Museum Director*
David Mack-Hardiman - *Associate Vice President*
Douglas Platt - *Museum Curator*
Pamela Formoso - *Museum Store Manager*
Sarah Jerge - *Research Assistant*
Thomas Stearns - *Research Assistant*

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Janet McNevin - *Employment Specialist*
Maria Bell - *Docent*
Israel Cruz - *Docent*
Charles Degraffenried - *Docent*

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