



#### MONTHLY BULLETIN OF ROTARY CLUB OF TAI PO

ISSUE. SEP 2024

# TAL報: POST

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



In late August, I had the unique opportunity to participate in the District Governor's visit to Mongolia. This was my first trip to the country, and it left a lasting impression, thanks to the rich cultural experiences and breathtaking landscapes I encountered. Mongolia's unique cultural tapestry, especially its distinct Buddhist traditions and Lamaism, fascinated me. More importantly, the visit facilitated a meaningful exchange with local Rotarians, which was both enlightening and inspiring. One of the highlights of the trip was learning about the local Rotary's Global Grant Service Project. This initiative opened my eyes to the various needs within the community that require support. The project underscored the significant potential for collaboration between our club and the local Rotarians to provide services that could greatly benefit those in need. The dedication of the Mongolian Rotarians to making a tangible difference in their community was truly inspiring.









Meanwhile, back in Hong Kong, our members were engaged in a heartwarming service project "Wish Wagon." This project involved spending half day with children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their families, including a scenic drive and a shared lunch. The objective was to bring joy and encouragement to these families, who often face considerable challenges. The photographs from the event captured the joyous smiles of these children and their families, reflecting the true essence of Rotary's service mission.

The smiles of those we serve are a testament to the impact of Rotary's work. While the satisfaction of club members is rewarding, the primary focus remains on bringing happiness and support to those in need, offering them a sense of community and love, no matter how small the gesture.

This juxtaposition of my experiences in Mongolia and Hong Kong highlighted the global and local dimensions of Rotary's mission. Both settings showcased the power of community service, whether through international collaborations or local initiatives. The ability to adapt our service projects to meet diverse needs across different cultural contexts not only enriches the experience of the volunteers but more importantly, significantly impacts the lives of those we aim to help.

These experiences reinforced my belief in Rotary's mission and its ability to bridge cultures and communities through service. They reminded me that, regardless of geographical and cultural differences, the fundamental goals of Rotary—to foster understanding, goodwill, and peace—are universal. The joy and satisfaction derived from helping others are profound, echoing the core values that Rotary clubs around the world strive to embody.







I was in Makati, Philippines enjoying the visit to our sister club, Rotary Club of Makati San Lorenzo, on their Charter Installation Ceremony (see PP Peter's lively recount in the pages that follow) and have missed the buzz of Chinese Olympic champions gracing Hong Kong. However, thanks to replays on the news and internet, I caught those unforgettable moments that sprinkle magic over the Games, revealing a cheeky side of athletes often hidden behind their game faces.

Amid the Olympics' rollercoaster of emotions, from unbridled joy to heart-wrenching defeats, athletes paint a vivid picture of dedication and passion. It's a kaleidoscope of diversity—different skin tones, ages, heights—united by their unwavering commitment to the sport they love. When those feelings erupt on the Olympic stage, the raw display of emotions captivates us, embodying the essence of the Olympic spirit and true sportsmanship.







Beyond the athletes, the spectators and teammates add their own flair to the spectacle. Their faces tell stories of elation, disappointment, and everything in between. Cheering, dancing, drumming—each moment is a symphony of contrasting emotions. Side by side, fans of opposing sides create a visual tug-of-war, each reaction a mirror to the other's emotions, creating a dynamic and impactful contrast.





As the Chinese victors landed in Hong Kong, they shed their competitive personas, revealing a more relaxed and down-to-earth side. Trying new sports, belting out tunes, capturing selfies—these moments humanized them, showcasing not just their athletic prowess but their hard work and determination. Their encouragement to local youths echoed the Olympic spirit, leaving a legacy of inspiration.











From Manila to Hong Kong, I've savored the journeys of Olympic athletes and found joy in their triumphs and humanity. Here's to the indomitable spirit and sheer prowess of these Olympic champions!







In Rotary, there are indeed many ways we can get involved in service and fellowship, either within our own clubs or at District level. But outside the club and district, **INFORMATION** in the broader global level, there is also the Rotary Fellowship Groups like the Wine Appreciation,

Yachting Fellowships and International Fellowship of Flying Rotarians which some Rotarians in our district are involved. For the service & the community, there is in fact the Rotary Action Group which covers diverse interest and concerns. In our District, we formed our own chapter of the Rotary Action Group for Peace since 2012 to encourage and facilitate Rotarians to promote, advocate and pursue positive peace in our community. Let's take look at this Rotary activity on the global level.





Rotary Action Groups are independent, Rotary-affiliated groups made up of people from around the world who are experts in a particular field, such as economic development, peace, addiction prevention, the environment, or water. Action groups offer their technical expertise and support to help clubs plan and implement projects to increase our impact, one of Rotary's strategic priorities. This support includes helping clubs find partners, funding, and other resources. Action groups can also help clubs and districts prepare grant applications, conduct community assessments, and develop plans to monitor and evaluate their projects.

ROTARY

Anyone who wants to share their expertise to make a positive difference can join an action group. Only Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Rotary Peace Fellows can serve in leadership roles. Contact a Rotary Action Group to:

- Get expert advice on planning and implementing service projects, including those funded by Rotary Foundation district and global grants
- Connect with potential project partners, both within and outside of Rotary
- Get help fundraising and obtaining resources for projects



# Rotary Action Groups by area of focus

# **Promoting peace**

Peace Refugees Slavery Prevention

#### Providing clean water and sanitation

Menstrual Health and Hygiene Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

# Saving mothers and children

Clubfoot Reproductive Maternal and Child Health

#### Fighting disease

Addiction Prevention Alzheimer's/Dementia **Blindness Prevention Blood and Organ Donation Diabetes** Family Health/AIDS Prevention Health Education and Wellness Hearing Hepatitis Eradication Malaria Mental Health Initiatives Multiple Sclerosis

# Growing local economies

Community Economic Development Disaster Assistance

# **Protecting the environment**

Endangered Species **Environmental Sustainability** 

# Action groups that work in more than one area of focus

Food Plant Solutions

# **Supporting education**

Basic Education and Literacy







# Spouse: Trix Har







This is KF Tam









Children: Ray

Chloe









# **Current Post in Club:**

Public Image Chair, Learning Facilitator, Director

Year As President: 2019-20 Rotary Connects the World

Classification: Civil Engineering

**Schools:** Hong Kong Polytechnic University

**Qualifications/Credentials:** 

Fellow Member of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers

Member of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation

Member of the Hong Kong Institute of Real Estate Administrators

Passions and Hobbies: Learning and Driving





Thirty years later, the only thing that has changed is my hairstyle.



The background building and the characters remain the same, but the time has changed.



4 generations



Four of us have birthdays in the same month.



The one at the back, all muscular, is me.



Even during the pandemic, we still had lucky draw for the raffle prizes at our regular zoom meetings; I found an online lucky wheel to serve this purpose.



Because the original president had an issue, I was called to step in as president at the last minute. I didn't know much about Rotary, but fortunately PP Patrick served as my advisor.





# PP KF's Rotary Photos



As new member at our meeting at Royal Garden Hotel 25 Feb. 2013 when sister club RCMSL's Johnny Tan also attended.



As our speaker at our 6 May, 2013 meeting with then acting President PE Francis Au.



Attended the District Vocational Seminar with Wong Kam Po as guest speaker on 7/1/2020.



Helped collect red box from newly inducted member Dr. CM Yu at our mother club RC Peninsula family 3 Generation joint meeting in Apr. 2014.



Played dodgeball with the teenagers at the 'Star Reaching Project' in Jan 2023. RCTP members performed quite well.



At our Rotaract Club of Tai Po installation in Sep 2014 held in a Mongkok café when Tony Luk took over as president from Iki Chan.



Running in heels at the 2014-15 Star Reaching project「錫晒你大行動」 Closing night in Jan. 2015.



Having fun at "北漏洞Night" Vietnam Theme Night in May 2015 at 金牛苑restaurant in TST.



As Club Youth Service Chair and game organizer at our Youth clubs joint meeting at the school hall of TTCA in Mar. 2015.



Home visit to elderly with dementia of our 守護與關懷行動計劃 in Nov. 2017.



At our "Plastic & You" Green project Panel discussion day at Mikiki Mall in Apr. 2018. At District Tree Planting Day in Tai Po with our Interactors in Mar. 2018.





Participated in dessert making activity of our Star Reaching project 感動歷情 in Dec. 2019.



As 2019-20 President, he attended sister club RCMSL Club installation in Manila in Aug. 2019.



Donated masks to kindergartens in Tai Po at the start of Covid in Mar. 2020.



# **OUR BELOVED FATHER**

Sincere Yip (with Wingsie & Nina)

16.07.2024











Our Dad, Dr. Yip Wai Hong, passed away on Father's Day, June 16, 2024 at age 94. He was engaged in music education for over 60 years, and was a distinguished music educator, conductor and composer.

He founded the Hong Kong Children's Choir in 1969 and was named "The Father of Children's Choir" after he helped established a number of community children's choir in local districts and churches throughout Hong Kong. He founded a semi-professional orchestra, the Pan Asia Symphony Orchestra, in 1976 to promote classical orchestral music. Later in 1983, he established the Yip's Children's Choral & Performing Arts Centre alongside Yip's Children's Choir, and in 1996, the Hong Kong Children's Symphony Orchestra. During the past 55 years, he had led his Choirs and symphony orchestras to go on numerous concert tours and participated in international music festivals, doing cultural exchange and sharing music and love with people all over the world.

Dad started off studying music at Yanjing University in Beijing but graduated from the Central Conservatory of Music, Beijing in 1955, majoring in Composition. He received his Master's of Church Music Degree from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky in 1970. He was awarded Doctor of Musical Arts degree majoring in conducting and composition from the South Western Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas in 1979.

Dad had deep roots and far-reaching origins with the Hong Kong Baptist University (Hong Kong Baptist College at time). He had taught at the college from 1963 - 1992. He established the Music & Fine Arts Department for the school in 1973, taking office as the Head of the department for 20 years. He became the Head of the Faculty of Arts for 4 years before his retirement in 1992.

Dad loved children. He originally wanted to have as many children as a football team, which is at least 11, but he ended up with 3 girls who show no interest in sports. But who would have known that thousands of children in Hong Kong would eventually receive his love and musical cultivation.

Dad loved to boast and be recognized, especially the children he had taught, he was always full of appreciation and praise. Whenever there were students receiving certain achievements, no matter big or small, were world champions in his mind,

and he felt extremely proud of them!

Dad liked to use his brain and had always been able to adapt quickly to unpredicted situations. When he was young, he loved to play Chinese Chess and Bridge, from which he was trained to become a person who always made precise deployment for everything and remained calm in times of crisis.

My father was a very emotional and impatient person. He never hid his emotions deliberately, and his 4 emotional expressions: Joy, Anger, Sorrow and Happiness were written clearly all over his face. He would shed tears because he was reluctant to let his daughter study abroad alone; and would lose temper because others were not efficient in doing things. He would even take the initiative to shake hands with others after an unpleasant argument because he didn't like to let negative emotions bother him for too long and made himself uncomfortable.















Dad loved to joke and had a great sense of humor, so children loved to get close to him. He always told funny stories, and every former choir student of different generations will never forget the story of "The Bald Man Smoking Cigars"... A joke that had been told for fifty years and was still talked about.

Dad was a pioneer. With his hands, many things could turn from nothing to something. If something had never been done by anyone else, he would just do it if he thought it's worthwhile. He would do everything he promised and committed, and sticked to it even if he ran into obstacles here and there.



Dad loved to mentor the younger generations, giving young people opportunities to develop their talents and paving the paths for them. He also created job opportunities for mainland musicians who settled in Hong Kong in the 1970s and 1980s by arranging students for them and inviting them to play in his orchestra.

Dad was a natural salesman, eloquent and persuasive. What was he selling? It's definitely just classical music and talented musicians!

Dad loved to immerse in laughter and often needed company. What he enjoyed most was to invite people to dine and chatted while eating! No matter what he did, there would always be students or colleagues around to assist him. Of course, his loyal fan and best partner Mrs. Yip, our mother, was also indispensable.

Dad loved to eat chicken, so he had the nickname "Chicken Hong" (雞康). He said that eating chicken could cure all kinds of diseases. After every concert/performance that he conducted, he would definitely eat a meal of chicken soup. Unfortunately, due to dementia and the decline in swallowing ability in the last two years of his life, he could only be fed through the stomach with a tube inserted, and he no longer remembered the taste of chicken.

Dad's life had not been ordinary. He had experienced great turmoil in life and suffered a lot in the first half of his life, but all those had made him a stronger person and knew how to cherish every opportunity. He often said that people should "forget the past and leave unhappiness behind, work hard to move forward, and run straight to achieve their goals." He really did it. We will miss him forever.





# **WISH WAGON**24 August 2024 ~ Danny Lau







On August 24th, The Rotary Club of Tai Po, in collaboration with Tai Po Baptist Church Social Service, organized a memorable "Wish Wagon" journey.

The "Wish Wagon" was closely linked to the 點亮飛凡獎學金計劃, a program designed to support children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and aimed to provide encouragement and recognition to these remarkable children.

As part of this initiative, our club members offered their private cars and volunteered as drivers to take the scholarship recipients on a special local tour of Hong Kong. This journey was not only a celebration of their achievements but also an opportunity to create lasting memories and strengthen their family ties.



A special thanks to PP William for planning the itinerary and introducing the landmarks, enriching our understanding of Hong Kong's hidden stories. We were also grateful to PP Wilson Woo for inviting his brother, Danny Woo, and to PP KF Tam for bringing along his friend, Wah Gor. Viola's husband, Jason, offered his assistance as well. My wife's brother-in-law Stanley was a great help, and despite his busy schedule, Manson joined us in the morning before returning to work. His dedication was truly appreciated.







Our day began at 9:30 am as we gathered at Tai Po Fu Shin Estate. With nine families, we embarked on a delightful tour of Hong Kong. Our first destination was the scenic Fei Ngo Shan (Kowloon Peak) viewpoint. This spot was chosen because it's usually inaccessible without a car, offering a unique experience for everyone involved. During the drive, we shared stories and laughter, providing opportunity for families to strengthen bonds.











After the airplane adventure, we enjoyed lunch together at the Regal Airport Hotel, providing more time for connection and conversation. Finally, our drivers ensured each family returned home comfortably.

Our second stop was near the airport's maintenance area, allowing the children to see airplanes up close. This rare opportunity to take photos with planes was a thrilling experience for them. Located at the westernmost part of Chek Lap Kok Airport, this spot was new even to our Rotary Club members. Along the way, we encountered aviation enthusiasts and fishing hobbyists, adding to the lively atmosphere.

















The day was filled with joy and excitement, especially for the children. It was a heartwarming event that reminded us of the power of community and the difference we can make together.



# **VISIT TO SISTER CLUB ROTARY CLUB OF** MAKATI SAN LORENZO 29-31 August 2024 ~ Peter Lam







Our delegation consists of President Jules, PP Peter & Tomomi, PP Claire, PP Tsubaki and Rotarian Sim Sim. We are most pleased that new member Sim Sim could join to experience, for her first time, this international fellowship and exchange which is an important part of Rotary! Here is my account of the 2 days visit which was truly enjoyable and glad to renew our friendship with many good friends from RCMSL!

#### Day 1 29 Aug. arrival & lunch

Upon our arrival, we were picked up by PP Erwyn and then treated to a delicious buffet lunch at the Fairmont Makati Hotel. We tried the teppan ice cream which was interesting and tasty! Then we moved on to our Dusit Thani Hotel nearby which was nice although not as grand and luxurious as the Peninsula Hotel we used to stay . . . so I know next time it is best to stick with Peninsula and not explore new places (or maybe try Fairmont?!) After check-in, Claire tried the hotel swimming pool and I had cocktail with Tsubaki in the hotel bar before we were picked up later to attend the big function.



















# Day 1 29 Aug. RCMSL Installation of Officers Party

The event was held at North Forbes Park Pavillion which is a private club located inside a high-end residential area which was the same venue when we came with KF in 2019. The dress code was "Filipiniana" which was very beautiful and eye catching but we sister club Rotarians were of course exempted from same costume... our 3 ladies did dress appropriately with their colorful long dresses! Unlike RCTP and perhaps many clubs in our district where ceremony is simple, the RCMSL event was indeed very formal which started with Parade of RCMSL Council of Presidents led by their CP Rennie Andrews followed by Invocation and National Anthem of Philippines and sister clubs.





















# Day 1 29 Aug. RCMSL Installation of Officers Party

There were many formalities like remarks by various Rotary dignitaries, Renewal of Sister Club Agreements as well as the "Charging" of RCMSL 2024-25 President Ellie and her club officers by DGE/PDG/DG. President Jules had to sit separately with other Rotarians from RCMSL as well as from RC Taipei Capital, another sister club of RCMSL. Jules signed the sister club renewal agreement and presented our club's gift and donation to RCMSL. Buffet dinner was served but we were quite busy running around meeting old friends from RCMSL like PP GJ, PP Rey, Julius, and Johnny Tan, the Cantonese speaking guy who was in fact the first Rotarian from RCMSL to visit our club in Hong Kong back in 2013, as introduced by PP Pearl. Tsubaki & Peter were most delighted to meet old friend PDG Edwin Afzelius (husband of Rtn. Carmen from RCMSL) who was from RC Alabang (our club first sister club in the Philippines (1993-2011)) and a golfer who used to play with us when we visited back then! I must say I don't quite remember the food but it seems that the Ice Cream from the cart was most popular as it ran out quite soon!







































# Day 1 29 Aug. RCMSL Installation of Officers Party

There were of course entertainment (Musical Interlude) which include Philippines Folk Dance and ballroom dancing by PP Jamie. We noted that both their charming IPDG and DG Yulo as well majority of President Ellie's fellow classmates (Presidents) are all ladies which truly demonstrated the "ladies' power" in not only RCMSL but in their whole district. That was why I begged for more ladies from our club to join this trip ... but have not been successful!









Claire & Sim Sim also participated in the last Group Dancing and looked really excited! I believe they wish this fun part could start earlier and last longer but I guess the various formalities were a must for this club tradition so the fun must come at the end! We left the party around 10:45pm but maybe RCMSL members stayed behind for more fun?







# Day 2 30 Aug. Local Tour

Peter & Tsubaki was planning a game of golf at a public course in the city on Saturday morning but gave up the idea as a local tour to the country side was organized for us and we had to depart hotel around 9am. Buffet breakfast at our hotel was very good with great varieties including Peter's favourite Egg Benedict and they even served 豆腐花, Indian dishes and Japanese Ramen! Too bad Jules was still recovering from stomach problem from his recent trip to Mongolia and had to skip breakfast. After breakfast we were transferred to Peninsula Hotel where Rotarians from RC Taipei Capital as well Rotarians from other local clubs gathered, ready to depart.











Our first destination was a rural village area known as *Mexico Pampanga* and due to traffic, we ended up arriving at around 13:00 over 2 hours drive by bus. Thanks to a good young tour guide who explained various culture and history of Philippines and we also had some karaoke singing during our long journey started off by IPP Leigh. The main attraction was the lunch buffet at the home of a village lady (Atching Lilian Borromeo) who is famous for making cookies to sell which her family had started a long time ago dated back to Spanish rule era. We were served local dishes whose names I could hardly recall and only remember this sausage dish made from pig blood! After the meal, the village lady demonstrated to us how she has been making cookies the old traditional way by hand and Sim Sim also gave a try making one sample!





























# Day 2 30 Aug. Local Tour

After lunch we visited the Bacolor Church (San Guillermo Parish) which was established in 1576 but rebuilt in stone in 1886. We were amazed that this very old site still exists and that the church was in fact buried half in lahar and mud because

of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption of 1991 which diminished its height to 6 meters. If not for RCMSL, I doubt normal tourists will ever get the chance to visit such historic site, big thanks to RCMSL!



The next stop was the Furniture Showroom Tour where we visited a big showroom situated in a nice countryside surrounding. The furniture on display were mainly wooden classic furniture chairs, desk, bed, closet all with very refined wooden craftsmanship and would have costed so much in Hong Kong but at very good price here. And right after this, we took a tea break at a nearby wooden pavilion and were treated to Filipino Spring Rolls "Lumpia" snacks and cold lemongrass drink, quite good!





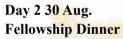












We ended our tour around 4:45pm and expected to return to the city in 2 hours for dinner but traffic was so bad on this Friday evening that we ended up with almost a 3-hour drive and finally arrived at our dinner venue at almost 8pm. Unlike previous years where the farewell dinner was held at some RCMSL Rotarians big home, this time the dinner was held at the Solaire Resort North which was a very modern casino hotel in Metro Manila. When we arrived, we were glad to see several RCMSL Rotarians who had not joined the tour present: PP GJ, PDG Cha Cha, Marian, PP Nikki, Johnny, Marj and few others. The buffet dinner restaurant was huge and crowded. It served unlimited wine and so much good food like lobster, roast pork, steak & pasta which was just right as we all seem a little hungry having this late dinner! We also celebrated President Ellie's birthday and someone must have told RCMSL about my upcoming early September birthday so I was the next celebrant, thanks! We all fully enjoyed the good food and fellowship, and I trust that this must be a good experience for our new member Sim Sim. I wish that more members, new & old, could participate in future trips! Mabuhay & Salamat RCMSL! We love you all!

























# **REGULAR MEETING**

19 August 2024













Speaker Mr. Maurice Yeung is the husband of dear friend DS/PP Angela Hui of RC Hong Kong Harbour. Their presence attracted quite some attention and attendance.

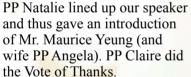
President Jules gave red box for 'you know why'; while PP Danny paid happy box as he cheerfully broke the good news of his wife's pregnancy... and received overwhelming congratulations!















Mr. Maurice Yeung spoke to us about "Smart Window," his award-winning solution to counteract unwanted traffic noise at residential premises while at the same time maintains free airflow. Maurice started by taking us through different noise/sound levels, their measurement in decibels and causes, how Hong Kong fare against other cities in terms of traffic noise and the environmental impact. His "Thinking Out of the Box" solution, (inspired by what he read from German literature) comes like this: 2 Windows – Outer Window openable side-hung with fixed glazing on one side plus Inner sliding Window which is sound absorbent with panes facing the air gap. Maurice said these days Smart Windows are developing with better and more cost-effective materials from China and as at 2024 Q2, smart windows have been proposed to address traffic noise impacts for over 150 residential developments.











The topic is not exactly an easy one and generated questions from Wilson, Benjamin, Sim Sim, Natalie and Jules, all which Maurice answered with ease.



Lucky Claire claimed the raffle prize of a set of dumpling-shape Salt and Pepper Set and a bottle of branded Soy Sauce given out by Sim Sim.







# REGULAR MEETING AND CLUB ASSEMBLY

p.15

2 September 2024



Danny promoted the upcoming service on 11 September for gifting mooncakes to the homeless.



President Jules won the raffle prize of a bottle of locally-produced Honey Wine given out by Rtn. Henry.





KF reported on the Wish Wagon event which took place on 24 August; and spoke about the recent observations he has from his vocation.





Birthday celebration for the 8 of us born in September, including: Armstrong (yes, real birthday that day), Peter, Jules, Natalie, Claire, Kenneth, Danny and Wilson (... just missing Vikky).





















Members gave a piece of their mind during Club Assembly when 2 matters were discussed: Fund-raising and Finance of the Club.









D	ate	Time	Event	Venue
	Sep Ion)	18:30 - 22:30	DG Nigel Lo Official Visit to Area 6	Royal Plaza Hotel
4-7	Oct		RC Taipei 76th Charter Anniversary & RC Taipei Diamond 16th Anniversary	Taipei
	Oct Ion)	19:00	#1447 Regular Meeting Speaker: Ms. Joan Ng Topic: Croatia, Slovenia, Italy & UK 豐富體驗之旅	Regal Kowloon Hotel
	Oct Ion)	19:00	#1448 Regular Meeting Speaker: Ms. Kadri Keung Topic: Transforming Lives of the Marginalised Communities Through Sewing and Innovation	Regal Kowloon Hotel

AUG

**Anthony Hung Armstrong Shea** Claire Mak Jules Jiu Mac Chan **Natalie Kwok Peter Lam** Simsim Lai Wilson Woo









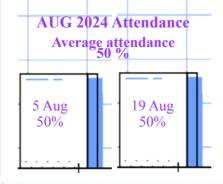


Andy Siu Frankie Wu Kenneth Wong Louis Tang Mansan Ho Ronald Chung Sincere Yip Write in to

On Leave

William from 7/2024

Vikky from 8/2024



Got something to say?

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