



APPALACHIANSTUDIES.ORG

APPALINK

*Appalachian Studies Association
Newsletter*



SPRING 2024

VOLUME 47, NUMBER 2



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APPALACHIAN JOURNAL

President's Message

Travis A. Rountree

Dear ASA Members,

There have been lots of changes happening as we move towards the new normal. We were fully face-to-face last year in Athens, Ohio, and what a joy it was to be all together. I want to extend thanks again to that entire planning committee and community. I know that it was five years in the making, but it was well worth the wait. I felt at home walking on campus, around the small town, and having fellowship with those at the conference.



Our finances of the organization are going through changes as well. We're going to start approaching Corporate Sponsorship for the conference and the organization. We cannot be sustainable without the aid of financial contributions. What better ways can our region's corporations demonstrate their love and support for our region than by supporting our association? The Steering Committee is aware of the history of the extractive industry from our region, so we will be mindful of where this money is coming from as well as the ethics of each corporation that contributes.

Finally, I'm excited that my university, Western Carolina University, will be hosting the conference in March. There are three distinct places in Jackson County: WCU is in Cullowhee, Sylva is our town seat, and Cherokee is where the Eastern Band of the Cherokee tribe lives and thrives. The planning committee and I hope that those of you who come will take the time to learn about our distinct special region and the Beloved Community that lives here. I'd like to take this time to thank each of them for their incredible work during the conference: Rachel Adams, our Conference Chair; Liz Harper, our Program Chair; Amber Albert, WCU local arrangements chair; Natalie Newman, Sylva local arrangements chair; and Sara Snyder Hopkins, our Cherokee local arrangements chair. Know we all appreciate everything that each of y'all have done to bring us all together. Like the rest of the Appalachian region, Sylva has a diverse population. I hope that you find the charm and love that these mountains and this community bring us daily. Until then, take care of yourself and hope to see you in March.

Sincerely, Travis A. Rountree
President, Appalachian Studies Association

Mission Statement



The mission of the Appalachian Studies Association is to promote and engage dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action among a diverse and inclusive group of scholars, educators, practitioners, grassroots activists, students, individuals, groups and institutions. Our mission is driven by our commitment to foster quality of life, democratic participation and appreciation of Appalachian experiences regionally, nationally, and internationally.

47th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

Beloved Community: Pride in Identity, Culture, and Geography

On behalf of the WCU planning committee, I'm happy to welcome you to the campus of Western Carolina University for the 47th annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference. WCU is in Cullowhee, North Carolina, nestled in one of the most biodiverse regions in the world with an equally rich cultural tapestry. We are excited for you to experience WCU and Western North Carolina, and to explore the theme of "Beloved Community" together.

The conference will be held March 7th – 9th, with all sessions taking place on Friday the 8th and Saturday the 9th.

Thursday March 7th, please join us for a bike ride with Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle, a trip to Judaculla Rock, the Opening Ceremony and Awards, and an Opening Reception.

Friday March 8th, you can start the day with the ASA Conference 5k Fun Run before a full day of concurrent sessions, followed by an evening with our Keynote speaker, Annette Saunooke Clapsaddle. Friday evening, join us in Sylva for a square dance!

Saturday March 9th is another full day of concurrent sessions. Join us in the evening again in Sylva for a drag show!

Rachel Adams,
Conference Chair



PRELIMINARY CALL FOR PARTICIPATION 2025 APPALACHIAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

“Rural Reimagined: A Grand Challenge for Appalachia”

One-fourth of the counties that comprise Appalachia are classified as rural—neither part of nor adjacent to a metropolitan area. The 48th annual Appalachian Studies Association Conference will explore the theme “Rural Reimagined” by celebrating the creative uses of technology, science, and the arts with the greatest potential to transform life in and proximate to the region’s rural communities.

We understand that the potential models of innovation in Appalachia are as significant and varied as the area’s needs. In the spirit of a grand challenge, we will honor expertise and collaboration to meet those needs. We seek to document the distinctive rural experience in Appalachia and to platform the ideas, projects, and partnerships with the greatest potential to create positive change for the people living in the Appalachian region, with a special focus on country life.

The 2025 Program Committee invites proposals for panels, papers, posters, roundtables, performances, and workshops that address diverse aspects of Appalachian experience. We especially seek contributions from historically marginalized individuals and groups, including LGBTQ and Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) presenters. Papers and posters should feature original unpublished work in progress. Scholarships are available.

Please note: applicants may be listed as participants in a maximum of three accepted events.

As a STEM-infused, comprehensive institution, Tennessee Tech delivers enduring education, impactful research, and collaborative service. This will be the university’s first time hosting the Appalachian Studies Association.

For further information contact:

Monic Ductan, conference chair, mductan@tntech.edu

Erin Hoover, program chair, ehoover@tntech.edu

Colleen Mestayer, local arrangements chair,
cmestayer@tntech.edu

Timeline:

September 2, 2024: Call for participation

October 7, 2024: Deadline for proposals

January 15, 2025: Preliminary program



March 20-22, 2025



**Tennessee Tech University,
Cookeville, Tennessee**





GARRETT BLAIZE APPOINTED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY FUND

Appalachian Studies Association Steering Committee member, Garrett Blaize, who is one of the Young Appalachian Leaders and Learners (Y'ALL) co-chairs, has been appointed the new Executive Director of The Appalachian Community Fund (ACF)!

ACF said, “This marks the beginning of an exhilarating chapter. Previously our Grantmaking and Philanthropic Partnerships Manager, Garrett embodies the spirit of youthful dynamism. In elevating him to this role, we are reaffirming our commitment to championing the leadership of the younger generation, especially LGBTQ youth and others from marginalized backgrounds and identities.”

Garrett added about his roles both with ASA/Y'ALL and ACF that he is “really excited to connect scholars to community organizations and practitioners in the field.”



Member Spotlight:

Raithlyn Godfrey

Appalachian Studies
Association Intern



Having grown up as a Polynesian Asian Appalachian in southern West Virginia and O’ahu, Hawai’i, I’ve struggled with mixed feelings over my cultural identity, and truthfully, I’d be lying if I said this isn’t a theme I still find myself meditating on from time to time.

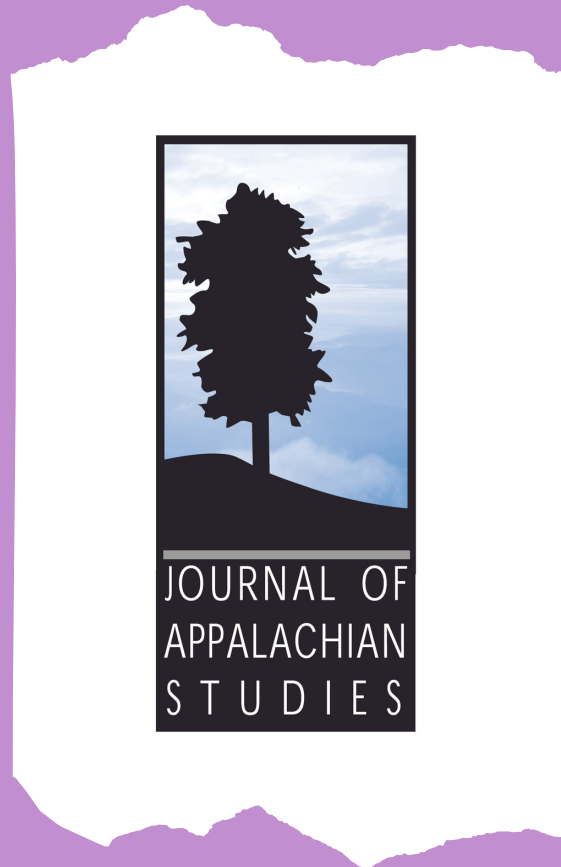
Throughout childhood and teenhood, I didn’t feel native Hawaiian enough. I was reluctant to reveal that I’m Chinese since I’m the least familiar with that aspect of my lineage. I wondered how I could be Appalachian if I was so embarrassed to admit it. I never fully resonated with those around me, in West Virginia or Hawai’i or any place in-between. No matter where I was, I constantly felt like an outsider in some way or another.

As I’ve gained exposure and experience, I’ve realized how extraordinary it is to be a part of all these cultures and how eager I am to continue to explore the pieces that help make me me. With age, and effort, has come an acceptance of who I am and (every)where I’m from. While it’s been an undeniable rollercoaster of a journey, working through the notions of self-doubt, confusion, insecurity, and even shame has brought me a sense of peace. Learning to be proud to be me has transformed the way I express myself, reshaped the way I interact with my community, and revolutionized how I view the world.

Having the opportunity to intern with the Appalachian Studies Association has been really special. After a lifetime spent torn between openly embracing my ethnic background and trying my best to divert attention away from it, I can share now with certainty that delving deeper into my roots in Appalachia—and elsewhere—is insightful, fulfilling, and unexpectedly healing too. I look forward to attending the ASA conference this spring and to meet people who can relate to my not so unusual upbringing in a—believe it or not—rather diverse Appalachia.

Raithlyn Godfrey is a Marshall University student and current intern at the Appalachian Studies Association headquarters in Huntington, West Virginia.

JOURNAL OF APPALACHIAN STUDIES



The *Journal of Appalachian Studies (JAS)* is a refereed, multidisciplinary publication that seeks to provide a written forum for quality scholarship on Appalachian history, culture, and society. The official journal of the Appalachian Studies Association (ASA), the *JAS* is published twice per year by the University of Illinois Press for the ASA with support from Marshall University.

The *Journal of Appalachian Studies* invites authors to submit their work in the field to the journal, and *JAS* always needs reviewers. If you are interested in being a reviewer for the journal, please contact Rebecca Scott at scottrr@missouri.edu.

Committee Reports



Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee is looking forward to seeing those who are joining us in March at Western Carolina! The committee will be meeting virtually in the weeks following the conference and would love for you to join. Email justinraydutton@gmail.com for more information.

Justin-Ray Dutton, DEI Chair



Committee Report

Communications

Communications Committee Members: Krystal Carter, Sophia Enriquez, Crystal Good, Yndiana Montes-Fogelquist, and Jordan Lovejoy, chair.

The Communications Committee continues to work to expand ASA's reach on social media and grow our online networks as they help us share the work of our larger Appalachian Studies community. We encourage anyone who may be interested in serving on the communications committee, especially emerging folks who might like to become more involved with ASA, to reach out and express your interest to Communications Committee Chair and Appalink editor, Jordan Lovejoy at jlovejoy@unc.edu.

We encourage all conference attendees to share your ASA thoughts and images by including our official conference hashtags on your social media posts: #BelovedCommunity and #AppStudies2024.



Committee Report

Silent Auction

SILENT AUCTION DONATIONS - We are still seeking donations for the silent auction!

Your donations fuel the ASA scholarship program. If you've got something to give during the conference, bring them to the Illusions Room/309 in the University Center on the 3rd floor. We'll photograph them and upload them so attendees can bid on them right on the spot!



Special Collections

Special Collections Committee Members: Emil Asanov, Tim Binkley, Marc Brodsky, Jeff Dey, Katherine Everhart, Julie Fox-Horton, Liz Harper, Gene Hyde, Sarah Insalaco, Jacob Johnson, Kimberly Larmee, Stewart Plein, Scott Sikes, Jeremy Smith, Kopana Terry, Jinny Turman, and Jed DeBruin, chair.

The Special Collections Committee (SCC) met for our Winter Meeting on Monday, December 11, 2023 via Zoom. The major meeting items were getting updates on the ASA records reprocessing at Berea College (more below), an update on the records management schedule (more below), the *Appalachian Curator* (more below), the 2024 ASA conference (more below), and recruitment.

The SCC is also pleased to announce that we are growing, and since the FA23 progress report the following members have joined: Emil Asanov (West Virginia University), Katherine Everhar (University of Virginia, Wise), Sarah Insalaco (Hindman Settlement School), Jacob Johnson (University of Kentucky), and Kimberly Larmee (University of Virginia, Wise). Many thanks to Ann Bryant for sharing the call for new membership on social media!

The SCC's Spring Meeting will be on Friday, March 8, 2024 in-person at the Appalachian Studies Association Conference at Western Carolina University, as well as via Zoom. Please email Jed DeBruin (jed@uky.edu) if you are interested in attending this meeting, and are not already a member of the SCC.

The SCC continues to work on several projects, and here are the updates on these projects:

Project 1: ASA Collections Management

- The reprocessing project is up and running; the project is going well. Lori Meyers-Steele is leading the effort with the assistance of a student worker.
- Gene Hyde and Jinny Turman have started working on a records management schedule for the ASA collection, which will hopefully be ready in the near future.

Special Collections (con't)

Project 2: The Appalachian Curator

- The next issue will be published in January 2024. Stay tuned at: <http://libjournals.unca.edu/appalachiancurator/>.
- Gene Hyde also proposed publishing topical indexes to collections in AC.
- Submissions are needed and welcome! Please direct any questions and ideas for new articles to co-editors Hyde (ghyde@unca.edu) and Liz Harper (harpere@email.wcu.edu).

Project 3: Shared Communication Channel for Cooperative Collecting

- No update on this project at this point in time.

Project 4: ASA Conference Presentations

- The panel proposal submitted by Jed DeBruin and Dr. Jillean McCommons (University of Richmond) titled, “Philosophical and Practical Grounds”: Taking up the Call for Scholarship on Blackness and Appalachia through a Focus on Research Methods in 21st Century Appalachia,” was accepted for the 2024 ASA Conference at Western Carolina University. Panel participants include DeBruin, Dr. Jillean McCommons (University of Richmond), Dr. Enkeshi El-Amin (Agnes Scott College), and Malcolm Cammeron (University of Virginia). This panel will be sponsored by the SCC.
- Jeremy Smith will be presenting on an African-American composer from Johnson City at the 2024 conference.

Project 5: Recruitment

- As a number of our longtime members are retiring in the coming years (all who have agreed to continue on with the SCC), the SCC is looking towards recruiting new members, especially students, early career researchers, and institutionally unaffiliated members. Please direct any interested parties to Jed DeBruin (jed@uky.edu).
- A general flier about the SCC was produced by Gene Hyde and Liz Harper, and Ann Bryant shared this flier on social media, resulting in five new members.

Respectfully submitted by:
Jed DeBruin

Education

Education Committee Members: Katherine Engle, Zachary Greene, Joy Gritton, Carly Pugh, Sylvia Shurbutt, Tim Thomas, Leah Vance-Berg, and Ted Olson, chair.

The Education Committee is working on the following four projects.

1. Given the limited institutional funding support for K-12 teachers to attend the Appalachian Studies Association Conference, the Committee has helped to arrange a reduced one-day ASA conference rate for K-12 teachers.
2. During Fall 2023, the Committee received many nominations for the Stephen L. Fisher Award for Excellence in Teaching competition (held in two categories: K-12 and Post-secondary). The Fisher Award honors individuals dedicated to intellectual rigor and pedagogical integrity in constructing and delivering inclusive knowledge about Appalachia and its people. The committee emphasizes that these awards are open to outstanding educators of any age who meet the criteria. This year's Fisher Teaching Award winners in both categories will be announced at the 2024 ASA Conference. Preliminary nominations for the next round of Fisher Teaching Awards are due by November 15, 2024.
3. The Committee planned, organized, and sponsored an education-themed panel presented at the 2024 ASA Conference.
4. As the ASA revises and upgrades the website, the Education Committee intends to be involved in updating, enhancing, and promoting the teaching resources available on the website.

The Education Committee would welcome and appreciate input from ASA members regarding the above projects.



Officer & Steering Committee Elections

PRESIDENT NOMINATION



Travis A. Rountree

Travis A. Rountree is an assistant professor in the English Department at Western Carolina University. He earned his PhD from the University of Louisville, his MA in English from Appalachian State University with a certificate in Appalachian Studies, and his BA in English from James Madison University with a minor in American Studies. He teaches first year composition courses as well as graduate courses in composition and rhetoric. His research interests include queer archival research and pedagogy, Country Music, Appalachian rhetorics, place-based pedagogy, and public memory studies. He has been published in *The North Carolina Folklore Journal*, *Journal of Southern History*, and the *Appalachian Journal*. University of Kentucky Press will publish his book *Hard to See Through the Smoke: Rememberings of the 1912 Courthouse Shootout in Hillsville, Virginia* in March 2023.

Travis has been active with the Appalachian Studies Association since his first conference in 2008. Since then, he has served as Treasurer as well as the Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee. Since his term as Treasurer, he has been a member of the steering committee. Additionally, he has served on the Weatherford Award and Wilma Dykeman Fellowship Award committees. Impressed with the progressive, inclusive action of ASA, he is excited to contribute more to this vision as it empowers BIPOC, LGBTQ+, and other marginalized voices. Hailing from Richmond, Virginia, Travis has lived in Appalachia for most of his life and feels most at home there. He enjoys running, weightlifting, and gardening. He is an avid fan of old time, bluegrass, and country music and lives in Sylva, North Carolina with his cat, Bean.

VICE PRESIDENT NOMINATION

Sophia M. Enríquez (she/her/ella) works at the intersections of Latinx, Appalachian, and Southern music, migration, and regional culture. She is the Andrew W. Mellon Assistant Professor of Music at Duke University where she also teaches in the Program for Latino/a Studies in the Global South. Sophia earned her PhD in ethnomusicology at Ohio State University as well as graduate certificates in folklore and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality studies. Her monograph in progress, tentatively titled *Canciones de Los Apalaches: Latinx Music, Migration, and Belonging in Appalachia* is the first full-length study of Latinx creative practices in the Appalachian region and shows how longstanding narratives of Appalachia as a monolith have obscured the movement of Latinx people to and through the region over the past century.

Sophia is passionate about community-engaged scholarship and has worked on several public folklore projects across the Appalachian region and the South. She is also a practitioner of both Mexican and Appalachian folk music. Sophia performs with the Lua Project, a Mexican-Appalachian fusion band in Charlottesville, Virginia, and recently co-founded Son de Carolina, a Durham, NC-based collective dedicated to the study of the Mexican folk music tradition son jarocho.



**Sophia
Enríquez**

Y'ALL CHAIR NOMINATION

WenJuan Mo



WenJuan Mo is a third-year doctoral candidate in the Educational Theory and Practice Program at the School of Education, College of Applied Human Sciences, West Virginia University (WVU). She holds a B.A. in Education with an emphasis in English literature from the Central South University in China, and two M.A.s in Linguistics and Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) from WVU. She served as a classroom teacher both in the United States and China for 17 years. Additionally, she worked as a graduate teaching assistant at WVU for another four years. Currently, she is a graduate assistant at the Research Services at WVU libraries. Her research interests include Appalachian Studies, critical place-based education, elementary education, pre-service teacher programs, and curriculum design. She has a passion for disseminating Appalachian culture and presents her academic work at various conferences.

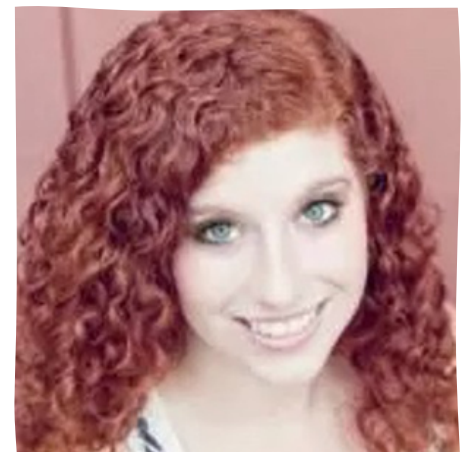
STEERING COMMITTEE AT LARGE NOMINATIONS



***Stephanie
A. Burdette***

Dr. Stephanie Burdette is a lifelong resident of West Virginia, where she has worked as an elementary school teacher, middle school administrator, and university professor. During her time in education, she has worked diligently to promote literacy education and enable her students to rise above the stereotypical perceptions most often associated with Appalachia. She is deeply involved in many state and national initiatives that aim to promote student growth and learning. She has worked for many years as the Co-Director of the Central WV Writing Project, which serves as the sponsor of the state's largest student writing event (WV Young Writers Day). Additionally, she serves as a member of the WV Professional Teaching Standards Committee, WWPBS Steering Committee for the Above and Beyond Teacher Recognition Program, and Chair of the WVPTS Committee License Appeal Board.

Annalee Tull Lanier is an interdisciplinary artist focusing on Appalachian identity in her works. She is currently an assistant professor of dance at Emory & Henry College, overseeing and teaching all dance classes on campus. Her professional dance credits include music videos for artists like Taylor Swift and Dierks Bentley, performances of works created by Brenda Bufalino, Ted Louis Levy, and Bob Boross. She has created performances presented in New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, and the Crooked Road in southwest Virginia. Tull Lanier is currently a PhD candidate at Queen's University in Belfast as an external researcher focusing on tracing Appalachian dance styles across the Ulster plantation and beyond.



***Annalee
Tull Lanier***

STEERING COMMITTEE AT LARGE NOMINATIONS




**John
Unger**

John Unger is a dedicated Appalachian scholar who embodies the ASA's mission of advancing “dialogue, research, scholarship, education, creative expression, and action” among diverse and inclusive Appalachian communities. He has a wealth of experience in teaching Appalachian politics, economics, community development, and social justice where he inspires his students and colleagues to explore and address the challenges along with the opportunities facing Appalachia. He serves on the West Virginia Humanities Council where he demonstrates his leadership engagement in democratic practices to foster quality of life through the arts and humanities. As an Appalachian Regional Commission Expert Grant Reviewer, he understands finances and how to build and strengthen organizations. One of his notable achievements was working with Mother Teresa in 1982 to set up her first home in Appalachia where he helped provide spiritual and physical aid to the poor and marginalized. Today, he continues to work to lift Appalachian voices and perspectives both nationally and internationally.

Originally from West Virginia, Jason Vanfosson now works as an associate professor of youth literatures and cultures at West Chester University of Pennsylvania. In addition to presenting at the Appalachian Studies Association annual conferences, he received the 2023-2024 Wilma Dykeman “Faces of Appalachia” Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship for his research on queer Appalachian youth literature. Part of this project has been accepted for inclusion in the manuscript for *A New American Vein: Critical Essays on Contemporary Appalachian Literature*. His other works have been published or are forthcoming in *Beyond the Blockbusters: Themes and Trends in Contemporary Young Adult Fiction*, *Reading LGBTQ+ Children’s Picture Books*, *Routledge Companion to Young Adult Literature*, *Research on Diversity in Youth Literature*, and *Pennsylvania Reads*.



**Jason
Vanfosson**



**Cast your ballot for the 2024
ASA Officer Election at the
following link:**



SEE YOU SOON!

47th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

MARCH 7-9, 2024
WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY
CULLOWHEE, NORTH CAROLINA

BELOVED COMMUNITY: PRIDE IN IDENTITY,
CULTURE, AND GEOGRAPHY

Conference Chair: Rachel Adams
Program Chair: Liz Harper
Campus Arrangements Chair: Amber Albert



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

48th Annual Appalachian Studies Conference

MARCH 20-22, 2025
TENNESSEE TECH
UNIVERSITY
COOKEVILLE, TENNESSEE

RURAL REIMAGINED



CONFERENCE CHAIR: MONIC DUCTAN
PROGRAM CHAIR: ERIN HOOVER
LOCAL ARRANGEMENTS CHAIR: COLLEEN MESTAYER



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Appalink Statement

Appalink is published twice a year. We welcome submissions, announcements, and news. Subjects may include upcoming conferences, lectures, meetings, fellowships, award nominations, or other events of interest to the membership of ASA. Space is limited and all submissions are subject to editing. Paid advertisements will be considered for inclusion. Contact the managing editor, Mary K. Thomas at mthomas@marshall.edu for rates. Email submissions to Jordan Lovejoy at jlovejoy@unc.edu. Submissions for the fall issue are due August 1. Submissions for the spring issue are due December 1.

Editors: Jordan Lovejoy, Mary Kay Thomas, and Ann Bryant



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Appalachian Journal

A REGIONAL STUDIES REVIEW

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