

### CLASS OF 1975 LUNCHEON ADDRESS

By Katherine Scofield, '75



I wish to welcome all the alumni of St. Vincent's School of Nursing. I am honored to speak today on behalf of the Class of 1975.

On November 4, 2000, our 25th Anniversary, Joanne Billott spoke about the guidance provided by Sr. Robert and Sr. Kevin in welcoming us to Saint Vincent School of Nursing and acknowledged their helping hands in transitioning us from wary high school seniors to our new roles as First Year student nurses.

Our instructors Joan Caruana, Jane Claffy, Mary Ann Dono, Sister Boyle, Sister Grace, Grace Metcalfe, Patricia Madden, Grace McGonical and others helped us with anatomy & physiology, disease specific care plans, team planning, medication administration, the scientific process, obstetrics, home health, pediatrics and intensive care. Their knowledge and expertise guided us in meeting benchmarks and competencies necessary for participating in our Capping Ceremony on May 6, 1973 and graduation from St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 13, 1975. These extraordinary women and others molded and motivated eighty-five graduate nurses to walk down the aisle of Saint Patrick's Cathedral exemplifying the qualities indicated on our school pin, Fortitude, Patience and Perseverance.

Our class experienced several firsts. We were the 1st class to matriculate with Mount Saint Vincents' College and the 1st class not to have a meal plan. We relied on our own culinary skills and those of roommates, floormates and local eating establishments. Our first Thanksgiving in 1972 had the 14th



floor preparing dinner for themselves and Sisters Edward Mary MacNamara and Grace Henke. I know for myself & Mary Jean Gambino Rays Pizza was a Thursday night must.

In preparing for this luncheon, we asked classmates to share memories and sentiments regarding their student nurse experience and information about their life, family, employment & travel since graduation. I would like to share some of these with you now.

We have 21 classmates attending the luncheon today. We are from (9) states including CA, FL, NH, NJ, NY, PA, SC, VA and WA

Our nursing paths included positions in: Administration/Directorship/Management, Auditing & Appeals, Education, Emergency Medicine, Hospice, Maternal Nursing, Medical Coding, NICU, School Nursing, Nursing staff & leadership positions in multiple settings, Outcome and Disease Case Management, Research, Surgery Centers and Quality Management. These fifty years have seen classmates obtaining advanced degrees & certifications, presenting at National Conferences, volunteering in many community settings and traveling around the world.

Some of the memorable moments include:

- The Beau Parlor and many of us not having beaus to bring there
- Roller skating in the auditorium & having a roller derby on the 12th floor
- Mrs. Feci our Housemother
- Vincent telling us to step lively when getting on the elevator.
- Hiding from ICU instructors by standing on the handrails of a hospital bed, so they would not see my feet.
- Saint Patrick's Day Parade and a NYC Policeman saying "St. Vincent Hospital Nurses are New Yorks Finest.

- Sun Bathing on Tar Beach

- Being told St. Vincent's School of Nursing is the Harvard of Nursing School

- Friendship & Fun Times

- Instructors teaching us communication skills and to think of each patient as someone's father, mother, sister or brother.

Today, as we celebrate our 50th Anniversary I would like to briefly speak about the three quiet forces that may have shaped the careers and lives of everyone here and guided our achievements. The core values of St. Vincents Hospital School of Nursing Fortitude, Patience and Perseverance.

In a world that celebrates speed, overnight success and instant results these virtues often go unnoticed. If you look closely at anyone who has truly made a difference, including all who sit here, you will find our stories had setbacks, struggles and relentless effort.

Fortitude is more than just bravery; it's the strength to face adversity without losing your purpose. It's what carries you through failure, criticism and the

temptation to give up. Fortitude is what keeps you standing when the easy path is to sit down. But strength alone is not enough. That's where Patience comes in.

Patience is not passive. It's not about waiting and doing nothing. Patience is active faith. It's the ability to keep working, day after day, even when progress is invisible. Patience reminds us that Rome was not built in a day and true growth and attainment of dreams takes time.

Perseverance is the quiet determination to keep going. Perseverance does not shout or boast. It simply endures. It shows up day after day rain or shine. With perseverance we learn from our mistakes, and we adapt to keep our vision alive when others lose site of it. Perseverance is not about never falling; it's about always getting up. As Saint Vincent School of Nursing Alumni, we strive to support our patients, families, friends, communities, colleagues and each other. We

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## **Patience, Fortitude, Perseverance**

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seek to make a difference, improve outcomes, be caring and loving individuals and to dream of a better future.

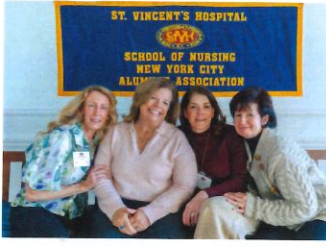
To that end we should always stand firm with fortitude, wait wisely with patience and push forward with perseverance.

At Mass we recognized seven of our classmates who are no longer with us. The yellow roses and votive candles are in memory of these special women. They touched our lives and remain in our hearts forever.

We want to thank our families, mentors, educators, colleagues and others who have been instrumental in helping us become competent, caring and confident Saint Vincent nurses.

I personally want to thank the Class of 1975 Alumni Committee for their work in helping make our 50th Golden Anniversary a special celebration and the Alumni Association Board for their guidance, recommendations, detective work and ZOOM meetings.

On behalf of the Class of 1975 thank you for sharing in OUR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION.



Faith, Hope and Charity



and throughout the 90s ended without the strong bonds forged like the earlier generations

I task all our members in assisting me in reaching out to these nurses and encourage them to learn more about our legacy. It is up to us to teach, mentor and encourage the current generation of active nurses to explore the schools' rich history, the storied past excellence of the hospital and the mission of The Sisters of Charity and the school's faculty. Nursing education today is starkly different from the way we were trained but with our effort, we can share our experiences at our thrice annual gatherings and personal relationships

The annual in-person Mass and Luncheon as well as the Spring and Fall general meetings via Zoom are how we stay connected to one another and again I offer that any class wishing to have a virtual mini reunion should contact us at [svhalum@gmail.com](mailto:svhalum@gmail.com) and it can easily be arranged.

Annual dues are now being accepted, I announced at the November luncheon business meeting that anyone who has remitted their dues as of 10/1/2025 will be considered paid and in good standing for 2026.

In closing, please utilize our website and/or FaceBook for current updates and to contact us directly. The creation of the Apple and Android free apps can be downloaded to your mobile device for quick access to our website. The address is: SVHAA NYC

## SLATE OF OFFICERS FOR 2026

The following graduates will be installed as new Board Officers as of January 1st, 2026 for a two-year term, as no other candidates have come forward. Please congratulate these fine women for volunteering their time and talents to further the longevity of our Alumnae Association.

<b>Vice President</b> , 1st term	Mary Carmody, '73
<b>Director</b> , 1st Term	Harriet McGreal, '69
<b>Director</b> , 2nd term	Doreen Foley-Dowling, '94
<b>Director</b> 1st term	Lisa Guasto Wilbert, '87

### Harriet McGreal, '69

### 1st Term Director

I graduated SVH in 1969 and received my BS from Caldwell University. My SVH career began in the Seton Building with both medicine and surgery experiences. I was also the Assistant Director of Quality Assurance and Clinical Director of Nursing in the OPD at SVH.

My other work experience includes Senior Systems Analyst for Computer Sciences Corporation; Administrator of the Developmental Disabilities Clinic at Terence Cardinal Cooke Health Care Center; Director of Audit and Appeals at The Brooklyn Hospital Center; and Vice President of Resident Services at Vista on Fifth Assisted Living Facility. I'm a member of the Professional Advisory Committee at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services and on the Board of Continuity Home Health Care.

I have been a member of the Alumnae Association for a long time and became more involved as a delegate to the St Patrick's Day Parade Committee and have served on the Board in several different capacities over the years. I look forward to helping to maintain a vibrant, expanding organization.

### Doreen Foley- Dowling, '94

### 2nd Term Director

I am a graduate of the St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Class of 1994. My first RN position was on Cronin 9 where I learned a great deal from both my preceptors and my patients until being laid off in 1997. After leaving St. Vincent's Hospital, I began my career at NYP-Weill Cornell where I am currently working as a nurse practitioner with Interventional Cardiology. I obtained my BSN from Hunter College, then continued at Stony Brook to earn my MSN, and eventually obtained my DNP from Chamberlain College of Nursing.

My family has a long-standing history at SVH, and it saddened us all to see the nursing school and the hospital closed. Three generations of my family were born there, many sought medical treatment and were cared for by the St. Vincent's nurses throughout their lives. I am a School of Nursing legacy of my mother Patricia Foley (Lake) class 1961, Aunts Helen Busweiler (Lake) class 1962 and Maureen Foley (Sullivan) class

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1963. I have enjoyed many years of marching up 5th Ave in the St. Patrick's Day parade with other alumni and look forward to many more. The St. Vincent's family will always hold a special place in my heart. I hope to be able to continue the spirit of St. Vincent's through the members in our alumnae association.

**Mary Carmody, '73 Vice President 1st term**

My professional background includes nursing and social work. I graduated from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing in 1973 and received my Master's in Social Work from Adelphi University in 1979.

My first position, following graduation from St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing, was on the medicine service at Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in NYC. This was a 40 bed unit with medically complex patients and included cardiac step down and dermatology patients as well. I initially worked as a staff RN and later held the positions of Assistant Head Nurse and Head Nurse. Prior to entering graduate school, I also worked as a Visiting Nurse in Westchester County, NY.

For the greater part of my career, I have worked in leadership positions in several academic medical centers in Care Management and Social Work. I also worked in End of Life Care at two prominent Hospices in South West Florida as Director of Admissions as well as a corporate position overseeing Social Work, Bereavement and Volunteers.

These positions afforded me the opportunity to be very involved in Ethics Committees, Schwartz Center Rounds programs, End of Life Coalition groups, Community Education and Social Work supervision with Smith College in their End of Life Certification for Social Work.

In 2023, I retired from a position that I held for 11 years as the Director of Care Management and Social Work at the NYU Langone Orthopedic Hospital and Rusk Rehabilitation.

Two years ago, I had the privilege of joining the Board of our Alumnae Association. In this role, I have been primarily responsible to coordinate

our educational programs. I have truly enjoyed finding excellent speakers including the author, Adriana Trigiani who spoke of her love of Greenwich Village, St. Vincent's Hospital and all of the SVH nurses. Most recently, Dr. Al and Kathleen (nee Maldini) Hartmann presented on their work to establish Palliative and Home Based Care in Eswatini, formerly known as Swaziland.

Over the last two years, I have seen the dedicated work of our officers and board members of the Alumnae Association making many positive changes to ensure that we remain a dynamic and vibrant organization. I hope to continue to contribute and to support these efforts

**Lisa Wilbert, '87 Director 1st term**

As the Assistant Director of Quality Measurement & Analytics at Stony Brook University Hospital, I provide strategic direction for the hospital's analytic program, ensuring that the Chief Quality Officer and other senior leaders have the data they need to effectively manage programs, drive performance improvement initiatives, and meet regulatory reporting requirements. I oversee registry and abstraction supervisors and staff, including surgical abstraction and analytic teams, and am responsible for developing and managing complex databases, data sets, and analytic tools that support quality improvement across the institution.

With 21 years of experience in Quality Management and 38 years as a registered nurse at Stony Brook University Hospital, I have had the privilege of publishing and presenting more than 64 works on quality improvement at national conferences.

When I had the opportunity to join the Alumnae Association, I was excited to connect with graduates from other classes—those who came before and after my time at St. Vincent's. I value the opportunity to share my experiences and to learn more about the school's history, from its earliest days to its final chapter.

Currently, I am collaborating with the Alumnae Association leadership to expand our online presence, applying my professional skill set to enhance engagement and accessibility. We

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have updated the website to include more photos and videos, implemented automated online payments for dues and luncheons, and created a listserv for email updates on events such as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Our latest initiative is the development of a mobile app that will allow members to easily stay connected and informed.

I would be honored to serve as a member of the Board to further support and advance the mission of the Alumnae Association, contributing both my professional expertise and my enduring dedication to the St. Vincent's School of Nursing community.

## **GLOBAL HEALTH: PALLIATIVE CARE AND HOME-BASED HEALTH CARE IN ESWATINI, FORMERLY SWAZILAND PRESENTED BY DR. AL AND KATHLEEN (NÉE) MALDINI HARTMANN**

*by Mary Carmody, '73*

On 9/20/25, our Alumnae Association welcomed back Dr. Al and Kathleen, (nee Maldini) Hartmann as presenters to our General Membership Fall meeting.

Kathleen is a SVH graduate, class of '68. She and Al shared the good fortune of meeting each other while Kathleen was still a student and Al was beginning his medical career as an intern at St. Vincent's Hospital.

The Hartmann's journey began in 2001 when their initial focus was on the HIV AIDS pandemic. They are now in their 24th year of truly compelling work in Eswatini.

Eswatini is a country of 1.2 million people. The area is approximately the size of New Jersey. To say that this country is resource poor would be a gross understatement. The people of Eswatini experience high rates of TB and cancer. Some go without food for 2-3 days at a time. They also experienced harmful delays in receiving Covid vaccines.

In addition to the above, the brave people of Eswatini face other serious problems including

poor education, lack of empowerment, unreliable transport and high unemployment. They reside in mud and stick homes. There is no electricity and some families are as far away as a mile from a water source. These water holes can also be a constant source of infections.

With hygiene being a huge problem, the Hartmann's and their team devised an ingenious method to teach the people to wash their hands. Utilizing a bottle similar to an old IV bottle filled with water and tubing attached to simulate running water, they established regular hand hygiene practices in the community. They also developed strategies for caregivers to function in the dark until they were able to secure solar lights.

In spite of these staggering challenges, the people of Eswatini are profoundly spiritual. They have beautiful voices and a deep faith. A cornerstone of the Hartmann's daily practice with their team is prayer with patients and families.

In 2012, The Hartmann's began to shift their focus to providing Home Based Palliative Care. In spite of the limited resources, Kathleen and Al always maintained the highest standards of care. To hear them describe their approach, you might think that you were in one of the finest teaching hospitals in the US.

The Hartmann's slides were so impactful that they brought us right into the daily life with their team, their patients and their families. Each of the case studies was very moving.

There was a video of a man who was well known to Kathleen and Al and who was nearing the end of his life. The gentleman reflected the enormous grace and dignity of the people of Eswatini. It was so evident that this man, who had already experienced the loss of his wife and was now focused on planning for his only son after his death, had a clear understanding of his illness and prognosis. His great love of his son and capacity to express gratitude for the care he was receiving was truly impressive. By sharing the story of his "precious life," Kathleen and

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Al drew us in more closely to the experience of caring for these remarkable people.

Another case study illustrated how they addressed a seemingly insurmountable problem for a patient who was nearing end of life. The clinic had run out of chemotherapy medications and the patient began to decline significantly. The patient lived a long distance from the clinic. Due to the limited transportation options, the family was bringing her to the clinic in a wheelchair. This was exhausting for the patient and her family. The team decided the best approach would be to have a family meeting. Dr. Al, with the assistance of a translator, explained the risks and benefits of resuming chemo versus the alternative of receiving supportive care at home with family members taking the lead. The patient and her family demonstrated an accurate understanding of the dilemma. Together, the patient and her family decided that the best decision would be for the patient to remain at home with supportive care provided by the family. The family members embraced their caregiving role with a loving spirit that honored the patient and her wishes. Kathleen, Al and the team provided education and supplies as best they could. The patient and her family felt their support in person whenever possible and in spirit every moment.

"We cannot always control the outcome but we can affect the journey" is a guiding principle that sustains the Hartmann's in their work.

In 2021, the Hartmann's and their team were awarded the End-of-Life Nursing Consortium (ELNEC) Award of Excellence.

Over the years, the Hartmann's have focused on professional education and worked closely with the Rural Health Motivators (RHMs). They have established regular team communication via What's App. They are having scheduled video team meetings and clinical care conferences so that they can remain involved in clinical care when they are not on site.

Having invested so much in clinical competence, Kathleen and Al are now able to place more emphasis on the sustainability of their pro-

gram. They are engaged in many collaborative efforts including working with ELNEC as well as the Center to Advance Palliative Care (CAPC).

The devastating loss of US funding will severely impact Eswatini. They are losing up to 70% of AIDS relief funding as well as 4,000 jobs. There is also a current lack of pain medication. Addressing this is a top priority for Al Hartmann. The Hartmann's will continue to do everything in their power to support the community that they have come to love and regard as family.

This presentation brought the people of Eswatini into our hearts. Through the eyes of these dedicated clinicians and humanitarians, we saw, in the Hartmann's own words that, "hope is greater than fear."

Their creativity, resourcefulness and commitment are unparalleled and truly inspiring!

Please note, this summary cannot take place of hearing from Kathleen and Al directly. I hope that you will take the time to view the video on our website.

In closing, I will share another quote that the Hartmann's included in their presentation. This captures the essence of their devotion to the people of Eswatini.

"I shall light a candle of understanding in thy heart which shall not be put out." 2 Esdras 14:25

The Hartmann's have surely "lit a candle that continues to shine brightly in the hearts of the people of Eswatini."

## ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025 AWARDS CEREMONY



On November 18th, 2025, Marilyn Lynaugh Strafer, '80 attended the St. Patrick's Day Parade NYC awards ceremony at the Church of St. Agnes in midtown Manhattan, hosted by The Ancient Order of Hibernians. It was a proud moment

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for The St. Vincent's Hospital School of Nursing Alumnae Association to be recognized for the 4th consecutive year with Second Place in the Specials Category. Congrats to all who marched as we look to further distinguishing ourselves in 2026. Members will receive a post card and listserv announcement in early March 2026 with the parade line-up information.

## CLASS NOTES

### Class of 1960

Dear Pat

I'm in Florida now. But in hurricane season I am in Vicenza, Italy where my son and his family live.

I have 2 stories about my RN experience. In 1966, I was living in Manhattan, Kansas. My husband decided to go back to school but I said—I'll go back to work. I went to St Mary's Hospital. I greeted the Director of Nursing and introduced myself with my nursing experience. Her response: "Can you start tomorrow"?

In France, my mom was in the hospital. She was 75 and the doctors decided she had a stroke. I noticed a Jacksonian convulsion and demanded a neurologist see my mom. She was operated on for a hematoma. She woke up. She lived to 87 years old.

So my gratitude to those wonderful years continues today.

Thanks,  
Barbara McCabe, '60

### Class of 1966

Haven't been in touch since 1970. I'm sure much has happened to many of us. Time to catch up. Delores Mueller, Agnus Mulrone, Melinda Faranda are just a few of my former roommates. Love to hear from anyone who might remember Patty Feeley, class of '66.

Lacey, Barbara Fein, Sally Finnegan, Jean Bartelheim, Joan Cleary and many others. If anyone is still around please get in touch.

And Many Thanks  
Patricia Feeley Fiore

### Class of 1966 Mini Reunion

Joan Clerkin has formed a committee to organize a 60th Anniversary celebration at The University of Mount St Vincent on Friday, September 18, 2026. To clarify, this is a separate event from our Fall luncheon at the Manhattan Penthouse on October 24, 2026

### Class of 1981

Dear Mrs. Costello,

My wife, Leslie Slade Eng, was a proud graduate of St. Vincent's School of Nursing

(Class of 1981). We both have strong ties to the hospital. Leslie was employed there

before and after nursing school; I was a resident at St. Vincents's.

Leslie passed recently and, in her memory, I would like to make a donation to the last remaining vestige of St. Vincent's. Please find enclosed a check for \$1000 to be used At your discretion.

Sincerely,  
Leonard Eng, MD

## THE SPRING GENERAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for **Wednesday, April 15th, 2026 at 7:00 pm**. Our speaker will be our own Susan (Hagen) Morrison, MD, Class of 1972 discussing Penicillin Allergies. So stay tuned as a post card and listserv mailing will be sent in mid-March. A Zoom link will also be available on our website to bring you directly into the meeting without troubling technology, so please download our app.

## DATES FOR WINTER/SPRING 2026:

Jan 7, 2026 7:30PM  
**Officer's/Director's Meeting** - Zoom

Jan 14, 2026 7:30PM  
**Board Meeting** - Zoom

Feb 22, 2026 TBA  
**St. Patrick's Day Grand Marshall Installation  
Dinner Dance** @ Antun's Queens Village

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Mar 11, 2026 7:30PM  
**Board Meeting** - Zoom

Mar 17, 2026  
**St. Patrick's Day Parade** – Line up site TBA

Apr 15, 2026 7:00PM  
**Spring General Alumnae Meeting** - Zoom

May 13, 2026 7:30PM  
**Board Meeting** - Zoom

## ATTENTION ALUMNI

### Dues:

Once again we need to remind everyone to pay their Alumni Dues. As of this newsletter there are still over 150 members in arrears. If you have a issue just let Pat Costello know. Other wise your name will be removed by the end of February 2026.

### Capes:

The Alumni Association is looking for Capes. Anyone wanting to move their cape along to another member who is looking for one please get in touch with Pat Costello at [pcostellosvh@gmail.com](mailto:pcostellosvh@gmail.com).

### Caps:

Our caps can be purchased from Kay's Caps. They are \$24.50 plus shipping.

Go to [info@kayscap.com](mailto:info@kayscap.com) phone 516 791-8500

## CAP CHARM ORDERS

We have engaged Wayne Silversmith to replicate our cap into a piece of wearable jewelry. A form will be created and placed on our website for direct purchase through the company. The following is the price quote:

Sterling Silver	\$40.00
10 kt gold	\$452.00
14 kt gold	\$566.00
Sterling shipping	\$7.00
Gold shipping w/insurance	\$13.00
8.875% Tax if you live in New York	

## CLASS NOTES:

Please keep in touch with us by sending us your class year and email address to [SVHalum@gmail.com](mailto:SVHalum@gmail.com). Alum frequently request information about their classmates, particularly to reconnect for reunions.

## WEBSITE:

Please visit the site for review of Class Notes, Photo Gallery, and more.

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[stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org](http://stvincentsschoolofnursingalums.org)

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## NEWSLETTER STAFF

Kathie Shea Contello, '74 - Editor in Chief  
Marilyn Lynaugh Strafer, '80 - Associate  
Susan Faggiani, '68 - Associate  
Bernadette Fleming Hemmer, '68 - Advisor  
Maureen Garrett McElhinney, '68 - Advisor

[SVHalum@gmail.com](mailto:SVHalum@gmail.com)

### Change of Address, Correspondence and Annual Dues of \$50.00

Forward to Mrs. Patricia Costello  
28 Cowdrey Street  
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845-544-2675  
[pcostellosvh@gmail.com](mailto:pcostellosvh@gmail.com)

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# ETERNAL REST

## GRANT UNTO THEM O LORD

Eileen Marie Coyne Greis '56

Lucia Innacelli Hill Limbach '63

Linda Kempkes Legg '64

JoAnn Oliveto Gratt Blair '67

Mary Beth Dragner Bocksel '72

Leslie Slade Eng '81

Catherine Gorman Klug '81

Mary Beth Crynes sister of Joanne Crynes '65

Richard Abbott, husband of Lucille Nielsen Abbott '74

Tina Auriemma sister-in-law of Kathie Shea Contello '74

Richard T. Michalowski, husband of Janet Sirianni Michalowski '74

Robert Raggi husband of Carol Bacino Raggi '79

Arlene Ann Dempsey mother of Kathleen Dempsey Devlin '87

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