



QUAKERPHERNALIA

The newsletter of the Bucks Quarterly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends

FEBRUARY 2023

Monthly Meeting News

Bristol

Friends continue to meet on the 4th Sunday of each month; everyone from around the Quarter is always welcome to join them.

Buckingham

Friends welcomed two new members. Planning is already underway for the 2023 Peace Fair scheduled for Saturday, September 30th.

Doylestown

Friends are monitoring the Central Bucks School Board which has passed policies that encourage book banning, discriminate against LGBTQ+ students, and give teachers and librarians less ability to do their jobs.

Fallsington

Friends held a Singing Circle based on the *Rise Up Singing* songbook. There were about 20 Friends in attendance and much fun was had by all.

Lehigh Valley

Congratulations to Sharlee DiMenichi on the publication of her online *Friends Journal* article about the work of Paula Palmer, who researched Quakers' role in indigenous boarding schools. [Click to read the article.](#)

Makefield

Friends continue to hold hybrid Adult Forum after meeting for worship. In January they discussed the *Friends Journal* stories about atonement.

Middletown

Friends are in the thick of planning for our first hybrid Quarterly Meeting in February. Zoom in or come in person!

Newtown

Adult Class in January included Sam Houser, George School Head of School, and Wendy Sanford, author of *These Walls Between Us*.

Plumstead

Their meetinghouse may not have electricity, but Friends are never cold when they gather around the wonderful wood burning stove for worship.

Quakertown

The meeting is welcoming a new young(er) Friend into membership!

Solebury

Friends are delighted by the 10-year-old Friend who gives vocal ministry most First Days.

Southampton

Friends continue with their "visioning sessions" to discern how to best use the space in their House on the Hill.

Wrightstown

The meeting is moving towards "tri-clerk" leadership, modeled after Wilmington Friends Meeting. They also were just approved for a \$500 outreach grant from the quarter to improve their hybrid meeting technology. Maybe an Owl?

Yardley

The meeting has started "Ponderings." The initial discussion focused on how to combat the "Us vs. Them" mentality and how we heal the deep divisions in our society. Queries included asking if there are some beliefs that can not be tolerated in our "us" group and how should an individual holding those beliefs be treated?

Dear Friends,

At a Quarterly Meeting Leadership gathering organized by PYM, we were asked to ponder how our monthly meetings could connect more to our Quarterly Meeting.

One way that I connect with everyone around the Quarter is my rotating visits to share meeting for worship with a different meeting each First Day.

Offering a virtual option for our upcoming Quarterly Meeting at Middletown Friends is a way for everyone to connect with Friends from around the Quarter as well.

Connections are what make our Quarterly Meeting the vibrant faith community it is. Try connecting with another meeting this month – you may make a new Friend!



Your Coordinator,
Wendy

*"If you want peace
you don't talk to your
friends. You talk to
your enemies*

~ Desmond Tutu



CALENDAR

Jan 30, Feb 6, 13	2:30–3:30 pm	Mindful Mondays	<i>A PYM Virtual Event</i>
Jan 31	7:00–9:00 pm	Dancing With History: A Life for Peace & Justice	<i>Swarthmore College & Swarthmore Friends Meeting</i>
Feb 2, 9, 16	7:30–9:00 pm	Why Palestine Matters	<i>PYM Middle East Collaborative</i>
Feb 4–5		Winter Family Overnight	<i>At Camp Onas</i>
Feb 4	9:30 am–4:00 pm	Making Our Activism More Effective through Nonviolent Direct Action	<i>Pendle Hill</i>
Feb 4–Apr 8		2023 Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum	<i>Sponsored by The BlackQuaker Project</i>
Feb 6	7:30–9:00 pm	The Battered Earth: Injury, Loss, and Healing	<i>A Pendle Hill First Monday Lecture</i>
Feb 9	6:30–8:30 pm	Spirituality and Aging Workshop with ARCH	<i>A New York Yearly Meeting Program</i>
Feb 11	4:00–6:00 pm	Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples	<i>Friends Peace Teams</i>
Feb 15		National Friends Education Fund deadline	<i>Applications being accepted</i>
Feb 15	7:00–8:00 pm	Grants, Tax Credits, and more to Decarbonize Your Life	<i>A PYM sponsored webinar</i>
Feb 15	10:00 am–12:00 pm	Friends Village Open House	<i>Styer Campus</i>
Feb 16	7:00–8:00 pm	Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History	<i>A BQ sponsored virtual event</i>
Feb 17-19		Water of Life Retreat	<i>Sponsored by Powell House</i>
Feb 18	9:30 am–1:00 pm	Quaker Eldership: Integral and Controversial	<i>A PYM Thread Gathering</i>
Feb 18	1:00–3:00 pm	DEEP RIVER: a Musical Tribute to the Negro Spiritual	<i>Burlington Meeting House and Center for Conference</i>
Feb 19	9:45 am–3:00 pm	Bucks Quarter February Quarterly Meeting	<i>Middletown Friends Meeting</i>
Feb 19	9:00–9:30 pm	Quaker Parent Postlude	<i>Continuing in 2023</i>
Feb 20-24		Café Darkness Online: A Virtual Writing Workshop for People of Color	<i>A Pendle Hill Program</i>
Feb 21	7:00–8:30 pm	Virtual JEDI Book Group: The Nightwatchman	<i>Gwynedd Friends Meeting</i>
Feb 25		Quakerism in a Nutshell	<i>Fallsington Friends Meeting</i>
Feb 27	11:00 am–12:15 pm	Smartphone Photography	<i>Friends Village Styer Campus</i>
ONGOING EVENTS			
Feb 4	9:30 am–3:00 pm	PYM Extended Worship	<i>Virtual Only</i>
Feb 23	4:00-5:00 pm	FCNL Advocacy Teams	<i>Email emcrofts@gmail.com for link</i>
Every Sunday	3:00–4:00 pm	Southampton Meeting Vigil for Justice	<i>Southampton Friends Meeting</i>
LOOKING AHEAD			
Mar 11 & 12		PYM Continuing Sessions	<i>Registration and info soon!</i>
Mar 18	10:00 am–3:00 pm	Anti-Racism Thread Gathering	<i>A PYM Thread Gathering</i>
Mar 25-28		FCNL Spring Lobby Weekend	<i>Washington D.C. or on-line</i>

FEBRUARY QUARTERLY MEETING – MIDDLETOWN

Quarterly Meeting for Worship, Fellowship & Business Under the Care of Middletown Friends Meeting Sunday, February 19, 2023 • 9:30 AM – 3:30 PM



HYBRID

Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83725794330?pwd=ckJZZmJWb1NZbGt1ZFRmM3RnK3pEZz09>
Meeting ID: 837 2579 4330
Passcode: 387707

9:30–10:00 am Coffee & Conversation: zoom room opens at 9:45 am

10:00–11:00 am Program: Panel Discussion: Bucks Learning Cooperative

The Bucks Learning Cooperative is a self-directed education center for area teenagers who want to leave traditional school and take charge of their education. They offer classes, workshops, field trips, mentoring, independent study and more! BLC provides a warm, welcoming, inclusive space and combines the most valuable parts of school with personalized attention. Most of all, BLC gives kids and their families the freedom to choose how they learn. The panel will include teens and parents currently enrolled at BLC who will share their experiences in self-directed learning and take questions from the audience. They are always looking for ways to engage with the larger community, as well as recruiting volunteers who are interested in sharing their wisdom and knowledge with young people.

Children's Program: An in-person children's program will be offered; registration is *required*.

[Click here to access the registration form on our website.](#)

11:00–12:00 pm Meeting for Worship

12:00–1:00 pm Lunch break; bring a brown bag lunch. Beverages and desserts will be provided by Middletown Friends.

1:00–3:30 pm Meeting for Worship with Attention to Business

Annual reports from Doylestown, Makefield and Quakertown Meetings, Friends Camp Association (Camp Onas), Budget & Nominating (preliminary budget for next year) and Outreach Committee. Advance documents will be available soon on the website at www.quakersbucks.org/members.

*This version of the November 2022 Quarterly Meeting minutes contains the edited highlights.
The minutes in full detail will be available for consideration on our website.*

Clerk: Bill Daly (Middletown)

Bucks Quarter Coordinator: Wendy Kane (Newtown)

Recording Clerk: Terry M. Christensen (Newtown)

Friends gathered at 12:47 pm and settled into a period of worship.

Welcome – Bill Daly

Review and Approval of Agenda – Approved

Roll Call of Meetings: Bristol – 0; Buckingham – 5; Doylestown – 1; Fallsington – 5; Lehigh Valley – 11; Makefield – 1; Middletown – 3; Newtown – 5; Plumstead – 2; Quakertown – 2; Solebury – 1; Southampton – 3; Wrightstown – 3; Yardley – 3.

Review and Approval of Minutes from August 21st, 2022 – Approved.

Stories of Vitality & Strength – [stories from] Buckingham, Southampton, Middletown, Wrightstown, Newtown, Fallsington, and Plumstead.

Quarter Coordinator Report – Wendy Kane (full report attached).

Ad Hoc Committee in Support of Quakertown Minute – Bethann Morgan and Jonathan Snipes: Friend Snipes read the Quakertown minute of support; Bethann reports on work of committee and how Friends can support this minute (see attached minute and report); many Friends continue to reach out in support of this minute. A Friend reports that she cannot stand by this resolution. Southampton Friend wonders if there is further action or approval. Plumstead Friend speaks in support of minute.

Treasurers Report (report attached) Ed Snyder and Lisa Parry Becker – Financial position is very strong at the point. Wendy Kane thanks Ed for his service to the Quarter as Treasurer. Bethann Morgan offers **Minute of Gratitude** for Ed's service to the Quarter: (copy attached).

BREAK

Auditors Report – Bill Dockhorn (full report attached): Audit Committee finds Bucks Quarter financial records and statements to be well-organized and included supporting data. No issues. Bill names members of auditing committee and thanks them for service.

Annual Report – Friends Village – Chiyo Moriuchi (full report attached).

Discernment – Format of Quarterly Meeting, Second Month, 2023 – Bill Daly – Middletown is due to host and would like to discern if the Quarter would like to hold the meeting as hybrid, as opposed to virtual only. **Agreed** – Bucks Quarter will meet with a Hybrid format in February 2023.

Annual Report – Peace Fair Committee – Tim Cunningham (full report attached).

Annual Report – Newtown Monthly Meeting – Janet Braker (full report attached).

Budget and Nominating – Leo Fitzpatrick – Budget and Nominating recognizes the Treasurer’s transition from Ed Snyder to Lisa Parry-Becker; also, the committee recognized the audit work of Bill Dockhorn and Audit Committee; acknowledging Janet Braker moving on from the committee with Bob LeFever taking her place.

Budget & Nominating requesting one-time donation of \$2,500 to African American Museum of Bucks County; Leo offers brief history of Boone Farm; **Contribution Approved.**

Annual Report – Plumstead Meeting – Dafydd Jones (full report attached).

Announcements:

Peace Pilgrimage December 10th; Information on website (peacewalk.org).

Right Sharing of World Resources presenting Dec 11th: 9:45 AM at Newtown Friends Adult Education and 3:30 PM at Pennswood Village.

FCNL Advocacy Teams: meeting December 1st at 4PM via Zoom.

African American Museum groundbreaking on Nov 23rd; reminds of fundraising gala at Parx Casino on Dec 2nd. Wendy will be working with Pat Mervine for possible Boone Farm book lecture.

Outreach grants are also available from PYM – Membership Development Granting Group meets monthly.

Friends Village Carol Singing on Dec 13th at 6:30PM in Paxson Hall (50 South Congress St. Newtown Borough) and on Dec 15th at 6:30PM in Styer Hall (Styer Campus, 301 Lower Dolington Road, Newtown Township)

Christmas Tree Lighting and Singing: Fallsington Meeting will host on Sunday, Dec. 11th at 6PM; all are welcome.

Closing Worship – After a period of silent worship the meeting was adjourned at 3:08 PM.



BUCKS QUARTER

Friends Village



Open House

February 15th: Friends Village is holding an open house on the Styer campus, 331 Lower Dolington Road in Newtown, from 10 am to 12 pm. [Click here to RSVP](#)

Senior Planet: Smartphone Photography

February 27th: Interested in learning more about your smartphone camera? Come to this lecture to explore your smartphone’s camera and some features like recording video, adding filters to pictures, and using your camera’s timer! We’ll also go over some basic tips for taking good selfies, selecting backgrounds, and using optimal lighting. This presentation will cover Android and iPhone. [Register here.](#)

Pennswood Village



Art Gallery Exhibition

The Pennswood Art Gallery presents: *Celebration of Life*, an exhibition of fine quilts by quilter Gretchen Gibbons, on display until March 12, 2023. In addition to viewing Gibbons’ quilts in the Pennswood Art Gallery, you can visit Passmore Gallery to see the fine quilt exhibition featuring our

own resident quilters. Vaccinated non-residents may visit the gallery from 9 to 5 daily; visitors must wear a mask while in all community spaces.

Fallsington Meeting

Quakerism in a Nutshell Workshop

February 25th: Come for inspiration and information! Please join Fallsington Friends at their historic meetinghouse on Saturday, February 25th, from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm (lunch included) to learn about Quaker faith and practice, history, activism and more. Are you seeking a spiritual home? Peace? Community? Or just curious? Newcomers, long-term Quakers and everyone in between are welcome! We would love to have you attend in person, and a zoom option is also available. There is no cost for the program.

9300 New Falls Rd • Fallsington, PA 19054



Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History

A virtual presentation by author Pat Mervine

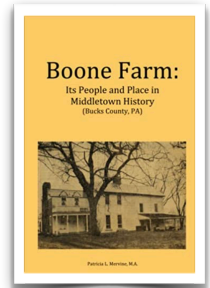
Thursday, February 16th - 7:00 pm

Join Bucks Quarterly Meeting and Middletown Friends Meeting member, Pat Mervine, on Thursday, February 16th at 7:00 pm for an on-line presentation about her newly published book, *Boone Farm: Its People and Place in Middletown History*. The farm is the new location for the African American Museum of Bucks County. In her book, Pat outlines the history of the farm, which has changed ownership more than 20 times in its 300-year history. She addresses the questions:

- What makes this home unique?
- Who were the people who lived there?
- How did they contribute to the community?
- How did the house and property change over time?
- What events and changes throughout the history of Middletown did the owners witness?

Pat's book is available at Commonplace Reader Bookstore in Yardley and at the Middletown Township Municipal Building. All proceeds from the book will be donated to the African American Museum of Bucks County; renovations are projected to cost around \$3.7 million. For more information and to donate, please visit <https://infoambc.org/>.

Registration is required; [click here to register](#). Zoom link will be sent after registration.



AROUND PYM

PYM Sponsored Events



Winter Family Overnight

February 4-5th: Friends, fun, food and a fire! Hot chocolate, stories and games! Join Friends for the Winter Family Overnight at Camp Onas. Registration is open now; this year the event is open to all families with children in 6th grade and younger. [Register here](#).

Extended Worship

February 4th: This month the group will have a virtual meeting on Zoom. The day will follow the usual format of worship from roughly 9:30 to 12:30, and worship sharing from 1:00 until around 2:30 to 3:00, with a lunch break in between. The best way to stay informed is to be placed on an e-mail list to receive Zoom links for this and future Extended Worship meetings; contact Jim Strong at jmmstrong@gmail.com.

Mindful Mondays

February 6th & 13th: The Friends Counseling Service of PYM is sponsoring an online, 4-session series on mindfulness meditation led by Deborah Cooper of Germantown Monthly Meeting. Each session will include a brief talk, a guided meditation, and a time for questions and comments. Come for one class or the entire series, as your schedule permits. These are free events; at registration you will be asked if you would like to make an optional, as-led donation. [Register here](#).

Spirituality and Aging Workshop with ARCH

February 9th: The average lifespan is 85+ years; that gives us a wealth of opportunity to bring a new vision of how the Inner life, the Creative Life and the Community Life can be discovered and shared. What is your unfinished business or new adventure dreams? For more information about the program, please contact: Sheila Sorkin, *Aging Support Coordinator*, (215) 241-7068, ssorkin@pym.org. [Register here](#).

Eco-Justice Collaborative Webinar

February 15th: The Eco-Justice Collaborative will share the latest detailed guidance from the federal government on how to access clean energy grants, tax credits, direct pay and other incentives from both the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Law. Now is the time to decarbonize your life by improving the energy efficiency of your home, meetinghouse, school, place of business etc., and add solar. Learn how to save energy and money in 2023 and beyond! [Click here](#) for upcoming registration information.

Eldership Thread Gathering

February 18th: Nurturing ministry and providing pastoral care to the community are essential to the life of a Friends Meeting. Join us as we explore the idea of ministers in our meetings as practical theologians who engage in the tasks of spiritual guidance and pastoral reflection. Workshop

leader is George Schaefer, the former PYM Care & Aging Coordinator, who currently serves PYM as a volunteer Resource Friend in Ministry & Care. [Register here.](#)

PYM Continuing Sessions - Mark Your Calendars!

March 11th & 12th: Join the Yearly Meeting community in-person at Arch Street Meeting House or online for Meeting for Worship and Business on Saturday morning, then participate in-person at one of six regional events hosted by meetings throughout PYM. We're coming together as Friends and neighbors for lunch fellowship, worship, and growing beloved community! Registration and more information soon!

Youth and Family

Quaker Parent Postlude

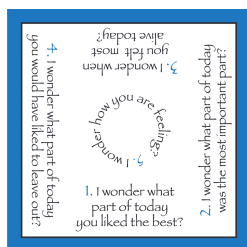
February 19th: Quaker Parent Postlude is a space for people who are currently engaged in bringing up children, to come together for worship, reflection, and connection. The focus of this 30-minute program is to have some quiet time together at the end of Sunday before a new week begins; it will be held in Quaker waiting worship. [Register here.](#)

Quaker Religious Education Collaborative

A story that explores [Do Our Children Know Enough About Quakerism to "Play Quaker?"](#) A wonderful example of play-based learning with a doll house: "Along the way, we have explored elements of our meeting life: welcoming a stranger, accepting difference, being patterns and examples and witnessing, vigiling for racial justice, traveling in the ministry, offering pastoral care, and more."

Wondering Together Project

A simple guide to a simple practice of daily reflection, using the five wondering questions, which encourage slowing down and practicing reflection and gratitude. The project was created by a Godly Play trainer in Maine, Sally Thomas, and the [website](#) invites feedback from families about how the practice is working for them.



New Youth Engagement Coordinator

Kristin Simmons has accepted the position of Youth Engagement Coordinator for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and began serving in this position in mid-January. Kristin will have care of PYM [Youth Programs](#), leading the team of staff whose work enhances the spiritual development of youth in our community. As part of this, Kristin's role includes being the [Community Safety](#) coordinator for the yearly meeting, providing training and support to local meetings re: child safety practices and background checks.

Tuition Aid for Children in Friends' Schools

The Yearly Meeting's Quaker Education Granting Group reminds meetings and families that local meeting members' children who are applying to or attending Friends schools are eligible to apply for educational support for the 2023-24 school year.

Interested families can apply for Philadelphia Yearly Meeting and National Friends Education Fund tuition aid with [NFEF application](#) on the Friends Council on Education website.

The NFEF deadline for forms to be submitted to schools is February 15, 2023.

Swarthmore Friends Meeting

Dancing With History: A Life for Peace & Justice

January 31st: Since the age of 19, George Lakey has been a tireless leader in peace, justice, and civil rights movements, studying and engaging in nonviolent campaigns for social change. Join Swarthmore College and Swarthmore Friends Meeting as they welcome George Lakey and help launch his latest book, a memoir: [Dancing With History: A Life for Peace and Justice.](#)

Burlington Meetinghouse & Center for Conference

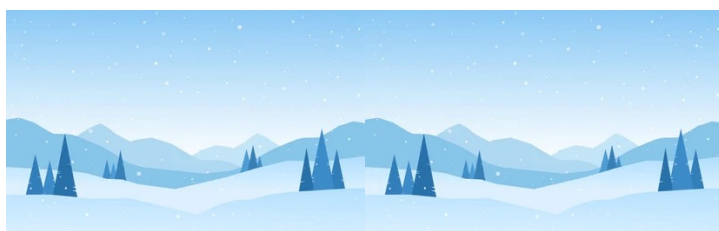
DEEP RIVER: a Musical Tribute to the Negro Spiritual

February 18th: Join in the celebration of black history month with an uplifting soulful expression of the tragedies and triumphs of black history. Audiences will be moved as they hear and experience the exquisitely harmonious voices of the Essence of Harmony Choral Society in the historic 1784 Burlington Quaker Meeting House at 340 High Street, Burlington, NJ. Donations are \$25 and tickets may be [purchased online here.](#)

Gwynedd Friends Meeting

Virtual JEDI Book Group: The Nightwatchman

February 21st: Join Gwynedd Friends as they delve into issues of justice and equality in our society by discussing *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich, which follows one man's tireless efforts to persuade the U.S. government to honor treaties that protected what remained of their already picked-over lands. Email lezenby@gmail.com for the zoom link.



Pendle Hill



Making Our Activism More Effective through Nonviolent Direct Action

February 4th: An in-person, one day program with Eileen Flanagan exploring strategic nonviolent direct action. In this program, you will hear stories of successful campaigns and brainstorm how to apply their lessons today. We'll tease apart our assumptions about how change happens and learn new ways of thinking about our roles as change makers. Cost is on a sliding scale from \$25 to \$125. [Register here.](#)

The Battered Earth: Injury, Loss, and Healing

February 6th: An Online First Monday Lecture with Beverly Ward. She will invite participants to join her in sharing concerns on the urgency of climate collapse, reflecting on the environmental, interspecies, and intraspecies impacts of humans. Her reflection will draw on lived experiences including environmental and climate justice advocacy and research, decolonization, and service. [Register here.](#)

Café Darkness Online: A Virtual Writing Workshop for People of Color

February 20–24th: An online writing workshop for people of color. During this week of dedicated writing, we set specific writing intentions and work within community to compassionately move toward them. Basic fee is \$100; [register here.](#)

Powell House



Water of Life Retreat

February 17–19th: Join Barbara Shulamith Clearbridge at [Powell House](#), a Quaker retreat and conference center in Old Chatham, New York. The weekend will include Quaker and other time-tested ways to deepen our spiritual lives. There will be times of prayer, of learning, of healing, and of silence. [Register here.](#)

Friends Committee on National Legislation



Spring Lobby Weekend

March 25–28th: In March 2023, hundreds of young adults will gather again for Spring Lobby Weekend – our young adult

advocacy conference and day of action. This year, we'll be lobbying Congress for justice reform. We know that our strength comes from the stories we tell and the community we build, so we hope that you will join us in Washington, D.C. or online—to advocate for change! [Register here.](#)

American Friends Service Committee



Food Not Feed Summit

February 7-8th: In February, ahead of the 2023 Farm Bill reauthorization, this coalition will advocate a policy shift towards Food Not Feed, to revitalize America's heartland and put profits back in the pockets of our family farmers. The Food Not Feed Summit aims to establish an agenda of shifting federal farm subsidies toward fiber-rich foods and regeneratively raised livestock and poultry within a system that's fair and equitable from seed to fork. This is an in-person or virtual event. [Register here.](#)

The BlackQuaker Project



The Black Quaker Lives Matter Film Festival & Forum

February 4–April 8th: a groundbreaking exploration of Black Friends who made a difference throughout both USA and world history. From February 4th to April 8th we will hold free screenings, dedicated to Quakers of Color, every other Saturday at 1:00 pm Eastern Time over Zoom Webinar. The schedule and registration can be found [on their website.](#)

Friends Peace Teams



Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples

February 11th: Join Friends Peace Teams for an interactive Zoom workshop *Roots of Injustice, Seeds of Change: Toward Right Relationship with Native Peoples*. Learn the real history of our country through the voices of Native people, European colonists, and historians and understand why this history matters to all Americans today. Suggested donation of \$20-\$50; [register here.](#)



Welcome New Members

Lehigh Valley welcomes
Hali Maples
Buckingham welcomes
Kyle Stretch, Jr
Joanna Hertz



In Memoriam

Doylestown Meeting – Carol Miller
Newtown Meeting – Robert Otto
Lehigh Valley Meeting – Bob Riggs
Yardley Meeting – Maury Benbow

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Blake Parry is a member of Middletown Meeting and **Lisa Parry Becker** is a member of Solebury Meeting.

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