



foundation FOCUS

Catherine C. Kahn Named 2009 Judah Touro Society Honoree

Touro Infirmiry is an institution, and Cathy is its living, breathing soul and memory." This observation from Touro Assistant Archivist Linda Epstein explains just how connected Catherine C. Kahn is to the very history she lovingly preserves.

"I've spent a lifetime tooling up to do what I'm doing — this is a part of me," Cathy said.

The history of Cathy's family ties to Touro begins with a love story that reigns as her most prized find in the Archives.

In 1896, Cathy's grandfather, Edgar M. Cahn, was a young lawyer, with a red moustache and hearty baritone voice.

Her grandmother, Minnie S. Cohen, was a New Orleans native with wide blue eyes. Minnie's family was from East Prussia and belonged to a small Orthodox congregation, and Edgar's family was from Alsace-Lorraine. In short, Minnie and Edgar's families would not have intermingled socially.

In 1880, Touro held its first fair, raising \$23,000. In 1896, Touro

ventured into this fundraising effort once again. A member of Touro's Young Men's Auxiliary Association, Edgar was named the chair of the floor and reception committee for the Touro Fair. Minnie had volunteered for the fair and landed a spot on the music and entertainment committee.

The rest, as they say, is history, and the two were married on November 15, 1896.

"A lot of people are Touro babies and have history with Touro, but I owe my existence to Touro," Cathy said. "The two worlds in which my grandparents moved would have never collided if not for the Touro Fair."

For 13 years, Cathy worked at The Historic New Orleans Collection. She was thinking about retiring and was "snatched

up" by Margaret Epstein, then Director of Development at Touro.

"When I first started looking at what was housed in cardboard boxes on the third floor of the Quaife Building, I was dazzled by what we had," she said.

Cathy started in 1990 in a "cubby hole" in the Marketing department.



Catherine C. Kahn, 2009 Judah Touro Society Award honoree.

Breaking News: Children's, Touro Join Forces

The Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital and the Touro Governing Board have signed a health care system agreement to create a two-hospital nonprofit community-based hospital system that will advance the quality, delivery and efficiency of the entire continuum of care for the Gulf South region.

"The new hospital system is one of the brightest advances in the region's health care outlook in many years. This system brings together two hospitals known for excellence and quality care and will provide comprehensive care at every stage of life," said Betty Sullivan, chairman of the Board of Trustees of Children's Hospital.

Children's Hospital's parent corporation, Louisiana Children's Medical Center (LCMC), will be the common parent corporation that will govern Touro and Children's Hospital. Steve Worley, President and CEO of Children's Hospital for more than 23 years and also President and CEO of LCMC since its inception in 1997, will head up the newly created system. Touro will continue to be led by the current management team, as will the Touro Infirmiry Foundation.

Notes From the Executive Director



At the Foundation, the beginning of a new year is always our cue to look back and assess our goals and accomplishments. A new start also brings the opportunity to do things differently or launch new projects.

Florence D. André

I am very proud to report that, in spite of the bleak economy and contrary to the record of many other healthcare organizations, the number of donors and the amount of funds given or pledged to Touro Infirmary increased in 2008! Of course, in the fundraising business one can never take a moment to rest on success, for the coming year's goals will always be higher!

There is also reason to be proud of our Volunteer Services. With a 50% reduction in staff, the office still managed to have a 7% increase in volunteers. Moreover, under the leadership of Volunteer Services Director Denise Chetta an exciting new Health Career Camp was a great success in August. She also helped initiate a program for Café Reconcile students to intern at Café Touro. The goal this year is to double the number of local high school students in the camp and to start a pilot program with Cohen High School for skills building.

Another new project is the Here for Life Gala, at The Roosevelt, a Waldorf=Astoria Collection Hotel, on October 10. Chairwoman Nancy Bissinger is recruiting an incredible group of volunteers to make the entertainment-filled event, called "The Big Apple Meets The Big Easy," a huge success.

CONTINUED PAGE 3

Big Easy Meets The Big Apple

The Roosevelt, a Waldorf=Astoria Collection Hotel, will be buzzing on October 10, as Touro unveils its 2009 Here For Life Gala. The gala is a part of the Here For Life Campaign to raise funds for the creation of a new Cancer Center at Touro Infirmary.

The 20,000-square-foot Cancer Center will be a space where patients can receive all their radiation/oncology services in one location. It will feature state-of-the-art design and technology, including two linear accelerators for targeted radiation treatment, a million-dollar Healing Art collection, a diet and nutrition education kitchen, a new Infusion Center featuring both a private and community infusion area, and a pediatric waiting area.

The first of what the Foundation hopes will be an annual signature



fundraising event, the Here For Life Gala will feature amazing entertainment in a luxury venue. This year's theme, "Big Easy Meets the Big Apple," ties together two of the nation's greatest musical centers, New Orleans and New York. Each year, the beneficiary department/unit

will change to reflect the needs of the hospital. Headed up by gala Chairwoman Nancy Bissinger, the Touro Auxiliary-sponsored event will feature multi-tiered entertainment to attract new friends to Touro across generations.

The event will include a Patron Party, featuring guitarist Javier Olando; Dinner and Presentation Show, featuring **Tony Award-winning Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell**; and an After Party, featuring a local band.

For more information, contact Melissa Wells at 897-8943.

LCMC will infuse at least \$100 million in capital improvements for Touro over the next five years. Access to such capital will ensure Touro's prominence as a state-of-the-art medical facility.

Under the terms of the agreement, Children's Hospital and Touro will form a medical system governed by LCMC. The existing Touro Governing Board and Children's Hospital Board of Trustees will continue to operate the individual hospitals, and representatives from both hospitals will serve on the system board. Each hospital will retain its current name and logo.

"This brings together two of our region's great health care leaders to significantly advance the quality, stability, efficiency and delivery of care," said Michael J. Sniffen, president and CEO of Touro.

CHILDREN'S CONTINUED

"Children's Hospital and Touro are philosophically aligned and unwavering in their community-focused missions. It's a natural and synergistic progression to form our own system. By joining forces we will achieve more than any institution could dream of accomplishing alone," said Stephen H. Kupperman, chairman of the Touro Governing Board.

"From the beginning, Touro took in the elderly and children. With our relationship with Woldenberg Village, and now Children's Hospital, we have come full circle, providing a true continuum of care," said Touro Archivist, Catherine C. Kahn.

It is expected that, when cleared by regulators, a corporate integration will emerge, tentatively expected in early 2009. Both hospitals are not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporations.

JTS AWARD CONTINUED

Through a generous endowment by Frank Mayer Besthoff, the Archives moved to its present location in the Gumbel Building in 1991.

The spark for the Touro Archives came from Ann Israel, who saw firsthand the extensive archives housed at Mount Sinai Hospital. The idea immediately resulted in a pledge for the Touro Infirmary Archives at the end of 1989 by Touro's Auxiliary.

As Archivist, Cathy has succeeded in preserving the history of Touro.

"With Katrina, for example, I couldn't wait to get back because it was so important to recall the heroism and intelligent leadership that kept the hospital going during that time," she said.

The Archives have become a true asset both for marketing and



Cathy's grandparents, who met at the 1896 Touro Fair, working together in Edgar's law office around the turn of the century.

fundraising purposes. Administration and a host of other Touro departments seeks information from the Archives.

Recently, the Archives have taken on a new focus, moving from the "archaic" DOS-based cataloging system to Archon, which allows researchers to search the Archives' holdings remotely.

New treasures are still turning up, like the ones found on a recent excursion in the Quaife Building. Photocopies of the 1854 Minute Book, which had been lost for years after 1954, was just one of these historical tidbits.

Cathy also serves as the Archives' biggest cheerleader, spreading the word on both a regional and national level.

"Our history could have been a well-kept secret outside of New Orleans," she said.

"Teasingly we call her our 'talking head,' however that just is not enough," said Epstein. "If Touro hurts, Cathy hurts. If Touro excels, Cathy is as proud as any mother could possibly be of her child."

With the JTS news up their sleeves, Foundation Executive Director Florence André, CEO Michael Sniffen, former Foundation Board Chairman Paul Rosenblum and Foundation Board Chairman Bobby Bories headed to the Archives.

The Judah Touro Society Award is given annually to a living individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the welfare of Touro Infirmary.

"When Florence and Michael walked in with the others in tow, I thought, 'Oh my gosh, they are coming in here to try to tell me nicely that in this economy the Archives were a luxury, and we were going to have to cut them,'" Cathy recalled.

When Rosenblum asked her if she would accept the honor of being the JTS award recipient, Cathy admits that for the first time in nearly 80 years, she was totally speechless.

"It nearly caused me to have cardiac arrest!" she said. "I didn't think that my peripheral contribution here could ever be considered on the same level as the other leaders, physicians and donors who have contributed so much to the hospital," Cathy said. "This honor says that our history, which distinguishes us from every other hospital, is significant and is as important to the hospital as I think it is."

NOTES CONTINUED

Finally, this year's Judah Touro Society event, honoring Catherine C. Kahn, will be a little different. To be held in Café Touro on April 4, the event will be a stroll down memory lane at the "Legendary Touro Fair," which was held in 1896. The music of pianist Tom McDermott and clarinetist Evan Christopher (coming straight from performing at Carnegie Hall) will help make it not only fun but authentic.

Much of our success is the result of outstanding leadership. Michael Sniffen has been a remarkable CEO, and Paul Rosenblum has just completed almost two decades of dedicated board leadership. The Foundation is fortunate to have a new chairman from an old line of Touro supporters. It is already a pleasure to work with Bobby Bories, whose family has been affiliated with Touro for generations.

Our 2009 list of goals and new projects, along with the fresh Foundation board leadership, promises to keep us all busy and focused. Stay tuned!

Soothing Serenade



Members of the local Barbershop Harmony Society performed for patients in the M-9 Rehab gym.

THE PATIENT PULSE

The following comments are from Touro's award-winning patient comment system and reflect our commitment to provide the highest quality and most compassionate care.

*"The nurses on Q8, including two student nurses, were absolutely wonderful. **Their care was excellent, and they treated me like a "queen"!** If being in the hospital can be pleasant, this was a good experience."*

*"All of the staff were friendly and helpful. The entire atmosphere was cheery and accommodating. **When my radiation treatment was completed, I felt like I was leaving friends!"***

*"I had so many questions in my mind about diabetes. I talked to your clinic's diabetes nurse. **She answered all my questions, and I left with hope instead of despair.** Thank you again."*

*"You have a wonderful team in Cardiology. **My experience was great; even though I came in a little nervous, they made me feel at ease.** The doctor's assistant was incredible and so was the doctor. Thank you."*

*"My physical therapist is a great, pleasant and polite person to work with. She is knowledgeable about her work. She explains everything that she does and why the procedures are used. **She takes time with you and does not force you to do anything that she feels you cannot do.** Her personality will make anyone love her. She is always on time for her appointments, and she will work the schedule to suit your needs. Hats off to her."*

Cancer Survivor Touches Lives as Oncology Nurse

You can sometimes get to a place where you're just comfortable, but I wanted to find a job that I just loved," Paula Harrelson said.

In 2003, she was diagnosed with breast cancer, finishing her surgery and treatments shortly before Hurricane Katrina.

"I had worked recovery rooms for a long time, and I wanted to change directions," she said. "After experiencing cancer, I knew I wanted to work in oncology."

Katrina brought Harrelson to Touro, and she was recently honored with the Warren L. Rosen Award of Excellence for consistently providing patients with care far beyond what is defined in her job description as an oncology nurse in outpatient chemotherapy.

"To still be learning new things and to still be passionate after nearly 30 years of nursing is a blessing," she said. "It's amazing to fall in love with your job all over again."

As a cancer survivor, Harrelson has a unique perspective.

"As a nurse, it made me want to be in a position where I could really feel like I was making a difference," she said. "Cancer was a wake-up call, a time to assess where I was in my life and career."

Harrelson believes that cancer patients need total, supportive care, as cancer is emotional, physical and spiritual. It's the little things, she said, that make a difference for patients — tell them a joke, laugh with them, cry with them.

"You give a little part of yourself to each patient and his or her family," she said. "My reward in this job is

what I've gained from my patients and knowing that I made things a little easier for them and their families."

Harrelson said she likes the supportive care approach that Touro takes with cancer care.

"Post-Katrina especially, our patient population needs so much



Paula Harrelson, RN, tends to William Blount in the Outpatient Chemotherapy Center. She was recently recognized with Touro's top honor for employees.

assistance and care with needs related to social services, nutrition and transportation," she said.

"Too social" to be in an office setting, Harrelson is happy to be back in a hospital, and especially at Touro.

"I love it here," she said.

Harrelson said she was "shocked" to be named the Rosen Award winner, especially since she has only been at Touro for two years.

"The more it sunk in, the more I realized how big of a deal it is, and that makes me that much more honored," she said. "I am very proud of it."

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'Start on Success' Program Debuts at Touro

Beginning in January, Volunteer Services placed six special education students from Cohen Health Sciences Academy in several Touro departments in an after-school program designed to teach work and life skills to young people.

Touro is the first and only hospital in the New Orleans area participating in this program, which will expand to other healthcare facilities in the fall.

This venture is part of the National Organization on Disability's Start on Success (SOS) program, established in 1994 to provide paid introductory job experiences for high school students with physical, mental or sensory challenges. The purpose of SOS is to prepare special education students, most of them from low-income urban families, for competitive employment before they leave high school.

"As the first hospital to place SOS students from Cohen Health Sciences Academy, we hope our program will set the standard and be a model that others can emulate in the future," said Denise Chetta, Director of Volunteer Services.

"Touro is the first and only hospital in the New Orleans area participating in this program."

Volunteer Services is working with Dietary Services, Materials Management, Housekeeping, Human Resources and Information Technology to create student placements, four afternoons per week this semester.

In SOS programs across the

country, students spend a portion of their day attending special education classes and then the rest of their day working at various locations. Job site supervisors — nonteaching staff such as maintenance and food service workers — serve as mentors, providing a constant source of guidance and support to these young people.

According to the National Organization on Disability/Harris polling surveys, access to employment is the most difficult barrier facing Americans with disabilities — more than 70% are unemployed or underemployed. For high school students with disabilities, the dropout rate is twice that of their nondisabled peers. If not effectively transitioned to the workplace or continuing education by the time they leave high school, these students are prime candidates for isolation, the judicial system or expensive public assistance.

Café Reconcile Students Lend Helping Hands in Dietary Services

Touro's Volunteer Services recently partnered with the local organization Café Reconcile to place four new volunteers in Dietary Services. The students were enrolled in the second phase of Café Reconcile's training program for jobs in the hospitality industry.

"This partnership provides Café Reconcile students with real, on-the-job experience and provides Dietary Services with much needed extra helping hands," said Director of Volunteer Services Denise Chetta, who hopes to have another group of students come to Touro later this month.

Located in Central City, Café Reconcile was founded by the late Rev. Harry Thompson, S.J., and a group of people concerned about the challenges of out-of-school youth. The result was a safe and supportive place where at-risk youth could learn life, work and educational skills to lead productive lives.

For more information, visit www.cafereconcile.com or contact Denise Chetta at 897-8107.



Café Reconcile students help in the kitchen at Touro, cleaning fish for the day's lunch menu.

Outgoing Chairmen Honored At Meeting

The Touro Infirmiry Foundation presented Paul S. Rosenblum with a recognition plaque at the Annual Meeting earlier this month. The plaque recognized Rosenblum for his generous and dedicated commitment to Touro Infirmiry and noted his service as Chairman of the Touro Infirmiry Board of Governors (1994-1996) and Chairman of the Touro Infirmiry Foundation (1995-2009).

Also at the Annual Meeting, outgoing board members Jack C. Benjamin, Jr., Emanuel V. Benjamin III and David M. Rubenstein were recognized with plaques for their longstanding service to Touro.

Outgoing Governing Board Chairman Steve Kupperman passed on his well wishes to new Board Chairman Allan Bissinger. Kupperman was presented with a plaque as well as an 18th century map of New Orleans.



Foundation Executive Director Florence André and Paul Rosenblum.



From left, Abraham and JoEllyn Kupperman, Steve and Mara Kupperman, and Zach Kupperman.



Governing Board Chairman Allan Bissinger and Steve Kupperman.

Family Creates Special Christmas Moment

As a result of one family's special Christmas day moment, a plaque on Woldenberg Village's donor wall reads "Donated in memory of Roy M. Bakewell, Sr. by his loving wife and children."

Mike Bakewell, who grew up on the west bank of New Orleans in Algiers, was familiar with the Touro name and even more familiar with Woldenberg Village, the retirement community that is now a subsidiary of Touro Infirmiry.

"Woldenberg always had a great reputation," said Bakewell, who now lives in Houston. "At 87, my mom seems to know everyone in Algiers,

and she has known many people who have had good experiences there."

When Bakewell and his family made the decision to move his mother, Mae, to Woldenberg, he was surprised to learn that Woldenberg was not-for-profit.

"I like to support organizations that are important to our family," Bakewell said.

Bakewell made a \$25,000 gift for general support for Woldenberg, and chose to dedicate a plaque for his mother.

"My mom really misses my dad a lot and having the plaque with his name on it creates a connection for her while she's at Woldenberg," he said.

The unveiling was a hit. The Bakewells had Christmas dinner at their mother's house, like they have for years. But since she doesn't live there anymore, her son had planned to take her back to her apartment at Woldenberg that evening and show her the plaque.

"My two sisters decided to take a ride with me, so it was perfect," he said. "The plaque had a big, beautiful bow on it, and I told her we had a Christmas surprise for her. It was very touching."

"She loved the bow too, so she still has it on the door to her apartment!" he added.

Art Donation Comes From the Heart

David and Lynn Tankersley made an unplanned trip to New Orleans this past fall as a result of Hurricane Ike, which caused their cruise ship to dock here instead of Texas. Lynn arrived very sick and was admitted to Touro. Patient Relations Manager Dora Prosper received a call from a nurse requesting assistance for the couple.

"They had just gotten married September 6 and were on a honeymoon cruise," Prosper said. "David told me that he had finally gotten the woman of his dreams and now this. He was emotionally beat up."

Prosper did what she could to help, making reservations for David at a nearby hotel and asking Touro security to bring him there, along with all of their luggage. She also stayed with Lynn until he came back. David's brother, Don, had driven in from Texas to be with the couple.

"During that time, she was in a lot of pain and was squeezing my hand," Prosper said. "She told me that I must be her guardian angel."

Lynn took a turn for the worse the next day, Prosper said. She was moved

to the third floor and was in a coma.

"I told David that all we could do was pray," she said. "He broke down to me, and I told him that although she wasn't here physically, he should just listen and he'd hear her. I think that meant a lot to him."

David wanted to have his wife closer to home, at a hospital in Austin. Prosper helped make the needed phone calls to arrange the transfer. Though they were successful in transferring Lynn to Tyler, Texas, she died one week later, at the age of 53, Prosper said.

While waiting for the transfer to take place, Prosper and David had spent some time walking through the hospital. They were passing through the pulmonary department when David stopped abruptly.

"That's my brother's painting," he said, motioning to a print mounted on the wall of hallway. He mentioned that he possessed the original painting by

his brother Paul, who died in 1992.

Following Lynn's death, Prosper received a call from David saying that he had something for her — the original painting of his brother's.

"He told me that I helped him get through this, and I told him that that's my job and that I couldn't accept anything in return," Prosper said. "He sent the painting anyway, so I told him I was turning it over to the Touro Foundation and that they would make sure it had its rightful

place in the hospital halls. He was grateful."

Prosper said her time with the Tankersleys is something she'll never forget.

"I think it was meant for them to be a part of my journey, and it was an honor to help them," Prosper said. "David's love and compassion humbled me. Even in the midst of tragedy, people can have wonderful hearts."



The original painting will also grace the halls of Touro.

In Memoriam: Touro Remembers Special Friends



Lawrence J. Israel
Dec. 13, 1934 -
Aug. 12, 2008

Lawrence J. Israel, former Board Chairman and 2008 Judah Touro Society Award honoree, died on Aug. 12. When Larry was first appointed to the Touro Infirmary Board in 1990, he became part of a familial leadership legacy to which he added his own dedication and sense of responsibility. We are grateful for his years of outstanding guidance, service to and support of Touro.



Carl Barré
Feb. 22, 1995 -
Dec. 30, 2008

After a courageous fight, Carl Barré died on Dec. 30. Carl became part of the Touro family after receiving radiation treatments for an aggressive form of leukemia, with which he was diagnosed in April 2007. He graciously agreed to be featured in a fundraising video for Touro's Cancer Center, and was an inspiration to the staff at Touro. Carl loved the Saints, photography and playing guitar.



Joseph Ellis Decuir
Dec. 15, 1938 -
Jan. 21, 2009

Known and loved by all for his sweet treats and penchant for storytelling, Joseph Ellis Decuir died on Jan. 21. After a career as a truck driver for 37 years, Mr. Decuir started Honey's Pies, featuring homemade pralines and other desserts, which he generously shared with many staff members and doctors' offices at Touro. His kind smile will be greatly missed.



A VIEW FROM THE CHAIR

Both my father and grandfather instilled in our family a love for Touro and a commitment to support it, so it is an honor to serve as the new board chairman of the Touro Infirmary Foundation. Touro is a unique part of this community, and the Foundation, which is dedicated to the mission of providing the highest quality and most compassionate care, is the cornerstone of the hospital.

This year, while I'm sure there will be challenges, there are also big plans ahead. The "Here for Life" Gala in October promises to be an exciting event, with funds from the gala benefitting a new 20,000-square-foot comprehensive Cancer Center. In the spring, the Judah Touro

Society Reception will, as always, serve as an important gathering of the hospital's most dedicated friends and supporters.

As board chairman, I will work actively with the board and the Foundation staff to ensure that Touro continues to build on its proud history of providing care to the New Orleans community. I hope you enjoy this special issue, which gives you a peek into the heart of Touro — our staff, our donors and our volunteers making a difference in the lives of our patients.

Sincerely yours,

Robert A. Bories, Chairman
Touro Infirmary Foundation

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FOUNDATION STAFF

Florence André

Executive Director
(504) 897-8409
florence.andre@touro.com

Denise Chetta

Director,
Volunteer Services
(504) 897-8107
denise.chetta@touro.com

Harriett Cortez

Development Director
(504) 897-8744
harriett.cortez@touro.com

Linda Epstein

Assistant Archivist
(504) 897-8090
linda.epstein@touro.com

Catherine C. Kahn

Archivist
(504) 897-8090
catherine.kahn@touro.com

Jeanette Lauve

Manager, Gift Shop
(504) 897-8716
jeanette.lauve@touro.com

Katie Macaluso

Writer
(504) 897-7825
katherine.macaluso@touro.com

Ernie Nichols

Foundation Associate
(504) 897-7058
nicholse@touro.com

Peter Peschke

Finance Manager
(504) 897-8489
peter.peschke@touro.com

Melissa Wells

Foundation Associate
(504) 897-8943
melissa.wells@touro.com

Kimberly Zar

Executive Assistant
(504) 897-8435
kimberly.zar@touro.com

Touro Infirmary Foundation

1401 Foucher Street • New Orleans, LA 70115-3593

Phone: (504) 897-8435 • Fax: (504) 897-7863 • Email: tourofoundation@touro.com

www.touro.com

A Look Back: Pediatrics at Touro

From Touro's first recorded admissions in 1855, children were admitted to the hospital, but it was not until 1906 that a dedicated pediatric unit was established. The pediatric unit remained through 1983.

A variety of childhood ailments were treated, but in the '40s and early



Nurses sit with children in a courtyard at Touro. The picture is from the 1909-1910 Annual Report.

'50s, polio, formerly called infantile paralysis, was causing a panic among parents. Although the cause was identified in 1908, how it was spread was not. The treatment varied from iron lungs to braces to warm water. Touro Infirmary was given the task of caring for all crippled children in the southern half of Louisiana who came under governmental jurisdiction.

In 1941, a portion of the hospital was set aside for charity patients, a total of 206 children. Physical therapy was begun after the acute stages were past, according to the Annual Report of Chairman Charles Rosen in 1941. Also in the early '40s, the Touro Women's Auxiliary began a Cripple Fund to purchase braces and appliances for needy patients.

It wasn't until 1952 that the Salk vaccine banished this killer of children



William Joseph Hurst, Jr., with physical medicine doctor Harry Louis Acker, M.D., in 1955.

and adults and relieved the terror of summer months from the minds of parents. In 1972, Dr. Jonas Salk was the Leo Weil Endowed Lecturer here at Touro.



1401 FOUCHER STREET | NEW ORLEANS, LA
70115

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