



Newsletter of the ASA & CSCA

VOLUME 64 • NUMBER 4 • 2022

ASA Hosts Retirement Reception for John Wood Meet and Greet with Janel Curry and ASA Team

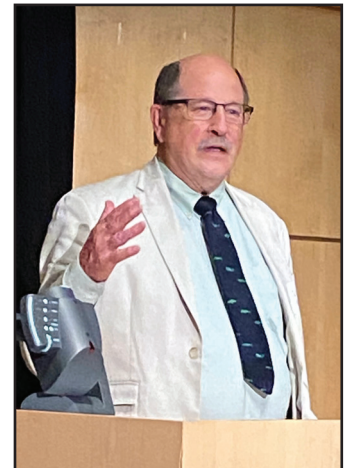
Vicki Best



ASA President Janel Curry

A lively crowd of ASA members and friends gathered at the Ken Olsen Science Center at Gordon College on October 14, 2022, eager to celebrate John Wood's second retirement and welcome Janel Curry as she steps into the role of ASA President. After mingling and enjoying refreshments, the group entered the Science Center's auditorium for the evening's presentations, which can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2xQkKJDZL7A>.

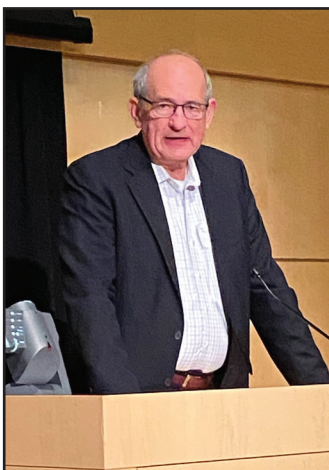
During the presentations, ASA Executive Vice President Vicki Best introduced the members of the ASA team who were in Boston for their annual staff retreat. She also gave a heartfelt tribute to John and celebrated his many achievements. Having worked closely with John primarily over Zoom during the COVID pandemic, Vicki conveyed how John was the right person, called by God, for this particular season in the life of the ASA.



ASA Executive Director Emeritus John Wood

It takes courage and clarity to lead an 81-year-old organization in the twenty-first century and John did so with bold visionary leadership. John helped transform the ASA in the areas of board governance, institutional intelligence, and strategic visioning. His focus was on moving from a first-person oral culture to telling the "we" story of the ASA by serving our members in expressing their vocational gifting and call from God in service to society, science, the church, and one another. Much of his work revolved around making the ASA a redemptive Galatians 3 organization with a laser focus on strategic vision, intentional leadership, and an improved business model.

The ASA team then surprised John by presenting him a very colorful Hawaiian shirt, a signature trademark that he has become known for regularly sporting.



ASA Executive Director Emeritus Randy Isaac



ASA Executive Vice President Vicki Best

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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Friends,

Thank you all for your gracious response to my appointment as Executive Director, and now, President, of the ASA, and for your patience as we have navigated all the logistical changes within the ASA.

In each newsletter over the next year, I will lay out one value that I want to nurture in the ASA. Let's start with our mission:

To interpret, integrate, and communicate discoveries of natural and social science with insights of Scripture and Christian theology; to serve its members in expressing their gifting and call to society, science, the church, and one another.

One value that is central to our mission is intellectual humility, key to the ASA since its founding. Today there is an entire literature on intellectual humility, much of which is funded by the Templeton Foundation.¹ What do people look like who exhibit intellectual humility? They stand in their beliefs with an attitude of willingness to reconsider

opinions when presented with new evidence. They are attentive to the use and strength of evidence regarding a factual claim. They are inquisitive as to the reasons that people disagree with them. They are comfortable with reading, listening, and thinking about arguments counter to their own, recognizing their own fallibility.

In order to serve our members who, in turn, serve science, society, and the church, we need to ensure that all that the ASA does, and how it does it, exhibits a posture of intellectual humility. Brene Brown, research professor at the University of Houston, summarizes what a posture of intellectual humility looks like: "I'm here to get it right, not to be right."²

I pray that in each encounter with our neighbors, our colleagues, and those with whom we disagree, we each embody the virtue of intellectual humility.

Best regards,
Janel

Notes

¹Mark R. Leary, "The Psychology of Intellectual Humility," Templeton Foundation, September 2018, <https://www.templeton.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/Intellectual-Humility-Leary-FullLength-Final.pdf>.

²Brene Brown, *Atlas of the Heart: Mapping Meaningful Connection and the Language of Human Experience* (New York: Random House, 2021), 247.

Continued from p. 1

When Janel took the podium, she thanked John for his excellent leadership and then expressed her vision for the ASA. She said,

The ASA has maintained this mission for over eighty years, through wars, through technological and societal change, and more recently—a global pandemic. And the ASA has more than survived the pandemic—it has thrived through being nimble, creative, and flexible and has come out the other end a stronger organization for it.

Janel talked about the institutional values that need to be nurtured in the ASA over the next ten years in order to ensure its continued flourishing and the achievement of its mission. In summary, these values are intellectual humility, courageous curiosity, and radical hospitality. She stated,

To nurture these institution and mission-centric values, the ASA must develop into a fully resourced organization with a strong leadership development culture. An intentional leadership development strategy results in active chapters and a vibrant Board of Directors whose composition includes the range of gifts vital to leading the organization in this century and in these circumstances. Solid leadership development arises out of clear and sustained strategies to engage and know members, which, in turn, fosters chapters, affinity groups, and members' commitment, through programming that serves them.



Left to right: Boston Chapter Vice President Scott Flaigg, Gordon College Student Chapter Vice President Sean Grimes, and Gordon College Student Chapter Faculty Advisor Angie Cornwell welcomed the attendees.

These values are summarized as follows:

- We grow our members in order for them to serve others.
- We are here to get it right, not to be right.
- We need to stay curious and resist choosing comfort over courage.
- We need to model the kingdom of God and the body of Christ and welcome others to join in the adventure.
- We need not have fear for what we do not understand at any point in time.
- And we need to bridge to other organizations to multiply impact and opportunities.

She concluded by encouraging ASA members and friends to join her in this bold endeavor. Emeritus Executive Director Randy Isaac closed the evening in prayer.

ASA Team Retreat Report

Hannah Eagleson, Director of Partnerships and Innovation

As I listen to Christians in science fields, I often hear these needs:

- A community who understands both science and faith
- Wisdom and spiritual formation for life as a scientist
- Practical professional development support

At the ASA team retreat in October, team members—John Wood, Janel Curry, Vicki Best, Becky English, Lyn Berg, Michelle Pszeny, Dana Oleskiewicz, Hannah Eagleson, and Mark McEwan—brainstormed how to grow ASA support for members in all these areas.

We talked about growing our community and emphasized centering around the things that members value as both Christians and professionals in science or related fields. David Horn, a pastoral leader and one of the ASA 2022 Winter Symposium panelists, guided us through a reflection on what membership in a group of fellow Christians means, drawing on scripture. Dave's book, *Soulmates: Friendship, Fellowship and the Making of Christian Community* (2017, Hendrickson Publishers), addresses this topic.

Many ASA members have expressed deep appreciation for moments of spiritual formation, such as devotionals by colleagues in the ASA and worship at the annual meetings. We explored what it might mean to develop spiritual formation experiences for scientists, in conversation with ASA members. One idea was to explore a Rule of Life for



Left to right: Vicki Best, Lyn Berg, Sharon Carlson, Michele Pszeny, Janel Curry, Becky English, Dana Oleskiewicz, Hannah Eagleson, John Wood, Mark McEwan

scientists, a set of habits and practices that could help scientists grow in both their faith and scientific vocation.

We also discussed practical ways of supporting members across the whole arc of their vocation: from their years as a student, through various career stages, and into faithful service to God in retirement. Ideas included professional development workshops on specific career skills for various stages.

Sharon Carlson joined us to review the results of the Clifton Strength Finders. Through this exercise, we learned how we can use our strengths to effectively work together.

We look forward to working with you, the members, to make this happen! We would love to hear your ideas. You may email them to asa@asa3.org.

Addressing a Need

John Wood

ASA member Alynne MacLean had an idea. Her brainstorm was to find a way to get easy to read, low-cost disease tests to the neediest people in the world. From her undergraduate days, Alynne had a passion to care for the poorest people in the world. Her industry experience developing medical diagnostics and her doctorate in bioanalytical chemistry gave her the necessary skills and experience to address this need.



Alynne MacLean

We all know the challenges that Covid-19 has brought to crowded emergency rooms and physician offices. In poor countries, people seldom get access to quick, sensitive diagnostic medical testing. Even when the proper drugs and medical expertise are available, there seldom is the infrastructure of electrical utilities supporting routine testing.

A disease diagnosis might take days to return from a distant lab. What if we could fill this "diagnostic gap"?

At a recent ASA Brown Bag Lunch, we asked Alynne to tell her story of her twenty-year journey to supply rapid, low cost, easy-to-read diagnostic tests to the places of greatest need. She founded the nonprofit organization, Science with a Mission, Inc. (SMI), <https://www.sciencewithamission.org/>. A crew of volunteers puts together test kit packages that missionaries and visitors distribute to some of the neediest locations on Earth. Although SMI's primary work is in Haiti, it has distributed some of its 8 different tests in 23 of the UN's list of 25 least developed countries.

Featured in *Christianity Today's* "Twelve Women in Science You Should Know," Alynne is putting science to work with the mission to care for the poor. SMI is a very tangible expression of how our work expresses our love for our neighbor.

If you want to hear more first-person stories of ASAers in action, tune in to our quarterly ASA Brown Bag Lunches.



News from the CSCA

Arnold Sikkema

CSCA is poised at the beginning of our 50th anniversary year. Our celebration committee has been planning activities to be launched in January and continue throughout 2023, including a lecture tour of past CSCA presidents, stopping in at most chapters from January to June; weekly interviews with featured members; a cross-Canada scavenger hunt; and special events at ASA/CSCA's Toronto conference in July. A special anniversary issue newsletter is being produced and will be published very early in the new year.

Our November 18, 2022, Annual General Meeting, held fully online for a third year because of pandemic-related uncertainties, saw a significant transition in our executive council. Three members concluded 15-, 9-, and 4-year terms: Bob Geddes (secretary), Janet Warren (past president), and Mike Werth (treasurer) respectively. We are filled with gratitude to them for leading and serving with dedication, wisdom, and grace. The executive council is now joined by Vlad Paserin as vice president, Joseph Vybihal as secretary, and Andy Sebestyen as treasurer; moving up our "presidential line," we have Heather Prior as our president and Patrick Franklin as past president. Nyasha Gondora has one year remaining in her term as student and early career representative, and Arnold Sikkema continues as executive director.

A number of local events—in-person, hybrid, and online—were held in the Hamilton, Montreal, Vancouver, and Calgary chapters in the past three months (many with recordings now at [YouTube.com/@cscs1973](https://www.youtube.com/@cscs1973)). Canadian participation in *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith, God & Nature*, and ASA/CSCA online meetings remains strong.

CSCA is working on ways to fully integrate with the ASA legacy campaign in a way that provides tax benefits on this side of the border and resources the ramping up ASA/CSCA activities within Canada and for Canadians.

Janel Curry Speaks to the Red River Valley Chapter

Mark Strand

The Red River Valley chapter had the privilege of hosting ASA President Janel Curry, speaking on the topic "Christian Environmental Worldviews." While braving an ice storm, a group of eleven people attended the session, some in person and some online.

Using the iceberg illustration, Janel described how people's views on the environment (the tip of the iceberg) are

informed by their worldviews (the part of the iceberg under the water). For example, dispensational views tend toward seeing God, humans, and the natural world as separate, with the God-humans relationship being primary. Reformed views, on the other hand, see God and humans and the natural world as integrated, so that care for the environment is done in partnership with God.

The presence of several attendees who are experts in environmental science fields made for a robust discussion after her presentation.

The session concluded with Janel sharing her vision as the new President of the ASA. She hopes to see intellectual humility, genuine curiosity, and warm Christian fellowship guide the way forward. And she wishes to see more interaction by local chapters with other organizations in their communities.



Wheaton/Naperville ASA Chapter Surfaces

Stephen Moshier

The Wheaton/Naperville ASA Chapter, which serves members in the greater Chicago region, came out of a long period of inactivity on December 1, 2022. We'll just blame the pandemic for the lapse of activity!

The local professional chapter and new student chapter for Wheaton College invited Purdue University Professor Roger Wiens to the Wheaton campus for an evening lecture, "Exploring Mars with Curiosity and Perseverance (the rovers!)." Roger is an ASA Fellow, whose leadership in space exploration with unmanned spacecraft and rovers is expanding our understanding of the chemistry and early history of the solar system. His ChemCam and SuperCam instruments are currently zapping rocks on the surface of Mars from the Curiosity and Perseverance Rovers.



Roger Wiens

Roger presented a lavishly illustrated lecture with the best of NASA images and his personal experiences developing and carrying out these headline grabbing missions. Along the way, he recounted setbacks that all seemed to be redeemed in ways that he attributes to God's wise providence. The audience of about 40 included ASA professionals, students, faculty, and parents with space-eyed youngsters. This was a particularly rewarding opportunity for students to ask Roger career advice and receive encouragement from someone at the leading edge of planetary science.

Last year, science faculty who are ASA members invited their students to organize a student chapter for the college. We might have to go with a slightly different model here. There are already thriving clubs for virtually every STEM major, including a group for women in STEM. Leaders of these groups are skeptical of this Johnny-come-lately (81-year-old) organization. Our pitch has been to encourage students to join the ASA and participate in special on-campus chapter events, our annual science symposium, and Wheaton-Naperville chapter meetings. Biology Professor and ASA Fellow Ray Lewis encouraged the students at the recent lecture to attend the summer ASA meeting in Toronto.



Dinner discussion with Loren Haarsma (far right)

ASA Prairie Chapter Hosts Loren Haarsma

Carl Fictorie

The ASA Prairie Chapter, along with Dordt University and Northwestern College, hosted ASA Fellow Loren Haarsma of Calvin University on November 10–11, 2022. The main event was a public lecture on Thursday, Nov. 10, where Loren spoke on the topic of his recent book *When Did Sin Begin?* About 110 students, faculty, and community members attended the lecture.

On Friday evening, about fifteen ASA chapter members and guests hosted Loren for dinner, after which we spent about 90 minutes discussing various aspects of his book. In addition to these chapter-related events, Loren spoke at several classes on each campus and gave a chapel address at Northwestern. It was an informative and edifying event for all involved.



Attendees at the ASA Prairie Chapter, September 29, 2022

David Winyard
Entertained the ASA
Ohio Chapter,
November 19, 2022



Year-End Chapter / Affiliate Activity Summary

Dana Oleskiewicz, Director of Chapters and Affiliates

Regional gatherings of our members and also by discipline are foundational to the outreach for the ASA. In 2022, there were a total of 61 chapter meetings representing 25 of the 36 ASA/CSCA chapters. The affiliates also held events including a newly created theologian/clergy group. Many of the chapter/affiliate gatherings this year were done in person, although zoom continues to be a tool used regularly in connecting members virtually. The fellowship that is experienced is what gives strength to our organization. We are hopeful for even more engagement in 2023!

Chapter / Affiliate	Number of Events	Attendance
Boston / Gordon College Student	2	78
Boston / Gordon College Student / New Jersey	1	23
California Baptist University Student / Southern CA	2	20
Colorado Christian University Student (CCU)	2	136
CSCA - Calgary, Saskatoon, Winnipeg, Vancouver	1	72
CSCA - Central	1	10
CSCA - Eastern	1	25
CSCA - Hamilton	5	97
CSCA - Montreal	4	48
CSCA - Vancouver	2	80
CSCA - Western	1	41
CSCA - Winnipeg / Waterloo	1	111
CSCA - General Meeting	1	29
Christian Women in Science	2	43
Houston	2	12
North Star	5	58
Ohio	2	15
Philadelphia	1	12
Prairie	2	126
Red River Valley	7	113
Rocky Mountain	2	23
Rocky Mountain / CCU Student	7	85
Silicon Valley	1	11
Theologians / Clergy	1	10
Washington DC	4	64
Wheaton / Naperville (Chicago area)	1	40
West Michigan	1	100
TOTALS	62	1482

PSCF Changes Publication Frequency

James Peterson, PSCF Editor-in-Chief

The ASA Board of Directors has concurred unanimously with *Perspectives on Science and Christian Faith* that we are at the point where the round-the-clock rhythm can best be served by publishing PSCF for the fall, winter, and spring quarters, with scholarly focus shifting in the summer quarter to proposals, presentations, and dialogue at the July annual meeting.

Three journal publication dates instead of four can redirect some significant costs (such as printing and mailing) to other member services, and it can lessen what has become a significant strain on our office team. Currently, they amazingly process the June issue at the same time as handling all the arrangements, registration, and programming tasks for the annual meeting. This change becomes effective in 2023. See the December 2022 PSCF editorial for more details.

Fruitful Visits in Wisconsin

Vicki Best

After Janel participated in a pastor's conference at the Upper Room at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Vicki joined her the weekend before Thanksgiving for a time of connecting with ASA members in that area.



Charles Boardman, Cal DeWitt, Janel Curry, Vicki Best

Our first visit was with Charles Boardman, who has been ASA member since 1983 and first learned of the ASA during his time as a student at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. After a longstanding tenure as an engineer at Epic, Charles now works for the US Forest Service. While admitting being loosely engaged with the ASA, he enjoys reading PSCF and thinks that we could benefit from more comprehensive disciplinary book reviews.

Cal DeWitt joined the conversation while Charles with us, and it was wonderful for the two of them to reconnect after many years. A 30-year member and ASA Fellow, Cal was the founding director of the AuSable Institute and served as their CEO for many years. Blessed with the gift of storytelling, we enjoyed Cal's stories of his important work in the creation care movement.



Left to right: Ann and Bob Woodson, Terry Morrison, John Pfothenhauer, Janel Curry

Robert and Ann Woodson hosted a fun dinner party in their beautiful home in Middleton, Wisconsin. A retired medical doctor, Bob spent his career as a medical school faculty member at U Wisconsin Madison. They are a delightful couple who we last saw at ASA 2019 at Wheaton College. Also joining us was ASA Fellow Terry Morrison, a 56-year ASA member who recently lost his wife of 60+ years. He spent his career serving InterVarsity Christian Fellowship (IVCF). His work travels took him to nearly all of the US states as well as to 35 different countries. Terry is well respected in ASA circles and is responsible for the strong ASA-IVCF partnership over many years. John Pfothenhauer, good friend of Bob's and mechanical engineer professor at U Wisconsin Madison, added interesting science-faith experiences to our conversation. His keen interest is in Christian international students. He takes a group to China each year to study.

The next day, Vicki drove two hours south through picturesque farmland to have lunch with Dwight and Sharon Klaassen in Platteville. Dwight has been an active ASA member since 1969 and spent his career as professor of bio-chemistry at U Wisconsin Platteville. After a tour of that campus and around town, they introduced Vicki to the frozen custard at the famous Culver's. Both Dwight and Sharon talked about their ASA memories of coming to annual meetings together and conveyed the importance of the ASA in their lives.



Vicki Best, Sharon and Dwight Klaassen

The weekend was a joyful time of hearing how God is using each one of these members in their service to society, science, the church, and one another.

Member in Glory

Randy Isaac



Kermit Ratzlaff

Kermit Ratzlaff

(1921–2022), Biologist

Kermit Omer Ratzlaff, Hillsboro, Kansas, passed away peacefully on September 27, 2022, at Parkside Home in Hillsboro at the age of 100. He was predeceased by his wife of nearly 72 years, Ruth.

Kermit was born December 26, 1921, in the Hillsboro Hospital to

Jonathan J. and Marie Plenert Ratzlaff. In 1928, they moved to the Balko area in the panhandle of Oklahoma, in time for the hardships of the dust bowl. The family was part of the Balko Mennonite Brethren Church, and he was baptized at the age of 12. Kermit was valedictorian at Corn Bible Academy and at Bethany School in Balko.

He enrolled in Tabor College, and here he met Ruth Warkentin. In the fall of 1942, they were engaged just days before he was inducted into Civilian Public Service as a Conscientious Objector. He served in Oregon, Wisconsin, and California. Kermit and Ruth were married in Los Angeles on August 11, 1944. They lived in Pasadena and west Los Angeles, California, for 18 years where their five children were born. During this period, City Terrace Mennonite Brethren Church in east Los Angeles was central to their

lives. Kermit received his PhD in Biology from UCLA in 1962. Then the family moved to Edwardsville, Illinois, where Kermit joined the Physiology faculty of Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He remained at SIUE until retirement in 1992. Kermit was a member of the American Scientific Affiliation for over 70 years.

After retiring, Kermit and Ruth moved to Hillsboro, Kansas. There he kept busy with gardening and volunteering. He immediately joined the Lions' Club and became an active proponent of recycling in Hillsboro. Kermit led the Senior Center board and was involved in multiple capacities with Grand Oaks low-income housing. He was the long-time sexton of the Hillsboro MB Cemetery. Always needing to be busy, he was a paperboy for the Hillsboro Free Press until age 97, possibly the world's oldest paper carrier.

Kermit joined the ASA in 1951. He was in graduate school at UCLA when a fellow biologist and ASA member John Sinclair, who was then an instructor in science at California Baptist Theological Seminary, told him about it. Kermit has been a member ever since, becoming the longest-term member in ASA history.

Kermit was very active in the Southern California chapter of the ASA, serving as chair for several years until he moved to Illinois. He was elected an ASA Fellow in 1964. A few years ago, Vicki Best interviewed Kermit and his Profile of Transformation is posted on the ASA website.

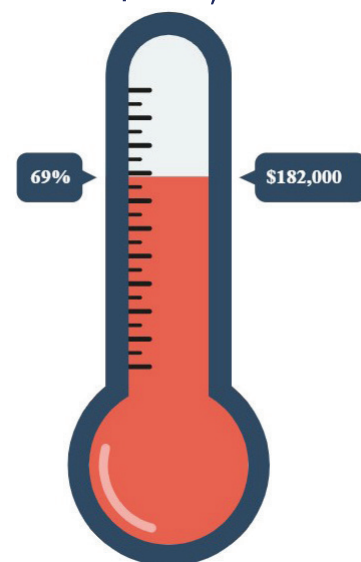
ASA New Members July–September 2022

Please join us in welcoming these new members!

Dennis Baril –Sioux Falls, SD
Bradley Bink –Petersburg, NY
Willem Jan Blom –Gouda, Netherlands
Taylor Bradford –Topsfield, MA
Amanda Bush –Dallas, TX
Jenessa Butler –Calgary, AB
Rafha Jr Calma –Langley, BC
Sherol Chen –Sunnyvale, CA
Lauren Colt –Wenham, MA
Emma Grace Condon –Madisonville, LA
Sarah Demian –Chilliwack, BC
Calvin Dundore –Wenham, MA
Maya Eathorne –Casper, WY
Zosia Ettenberg –Langley, BC
Meridith Finegan –West Greenwich, RI
Hannah Fuher –Bismarck, ND
Caleb Haynes –Nashville, TN
Samuel Hodges –Prairie Grove, AR
Kaden Hunt –Waco, TX
Kelli Jelsma –Sioux Center, IA
Baraka Kamau –Wenham, MA
Pete Koziar –Lititz, PA

Isabelle Matthews –Howell, NJ
Elizabeth Mattson –Lakewood, CO
Colin McGinn –Wenham, MA
James Metcalfe –Indianapolis, IN
Joel Noah –Fort Myers, FL
Afolabi Olufemi –Ibadan, Nigeria
David Ondich –Minneapolis, MN
David Peana –West Lafayette, IN
Daria Pedersen –Oxford, MA
Christine Ray –Moultrie, GA
Scott Santibanez –Decatur, GA
Garrett Sattazahn –Morris, CT
Hayden Schmidt –San Diego, CA
Kristen Siaw –Rowley, MA
Jacob Sola –Riverside, CA
Jhonatan Statia –Willemstad, Curaçao
Alexander Werth –Hampden Sydney, VA
Carson Wieler –Abbotsford, BC
Abby Woodford –Colorado Springs, CO
Diya Yang –Toronto, ON
Yufeng Zhao –Keizer, OR

Help Us Reach Our Annual Fund Goal of \$265,000





WALTER KIM
President
National Association of Evangelicals



JESSICA MOERMAN
Vice President of Science and Policy
Evangelical Environmental Network



WINTER SYMPOSIUM

“The Challenges of
Scientists in the Church
and Serving the Church”

ONLINE EVENT

January 28, 2023
1 pm EST / 10 am PST



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