

April 2018

FROM THE PRESIDENT

by Kathleen Thomas



March comes crawling in like a lion
and sneaking out like a lamb. April
showers bring May flowers.
And May...the force be with you.

I relish the sunshine pouring
through my window above the
desk, and I bask in the bright blue
sky.

I've noticed a the gym this week,
there's a new spiritual energy.

Must be the sunshine.

Do you have difficulty sometimes keeping your
motivation up and active in order to complete
everything you want to accomplish? I know I do.
Sometimes I think I take too much on. I know I'm not
the only one. Sometimes I'm just too darn lazy.
Sometimes I make a shorter list.

When I spend an evening with my friends and
colleagues, an evening at Napa Valley Writers, my
motivation grows. Watching others, hearing news of
your accomplishments and goals you've reached, that
is all the rest of us need to hear sometimes just to kick
us back into gear.

So, please, all of you, keep it up. Keep that pen in
hand, those eyes in the clouds, your dreams and
imaginings flowing. For you. And for the rest of us. It
does indeed, take a village. One person at a time, one
day at a time, one smile and one heart at a time.

Thank you for all you do. As my term of NWW president
comes slowly to a close, I want to thank you all for your
encouragement, support, your energy, your laughter
and for you just being you. The best person you can
be.

April 11, 7-9 pm

Napa Valley Writers Presents

Joe Clifford

The Road to Redemption: From Homelessness to Publishing

Joe Clifford, a Connecticut native, moved to San
Francisco to be a rock and roll star.

It didn't work out.

After a ten-year heroin and
methamphetamine addiction,
which culminated with felony
arrests, overdoses, and
homelessness, Clifford finally
had enough and decided to turn
his life around. After cleaning
up in 2001, he went on to earn
his Bachelor's and Master's degrees, relocating back to
the Bay Area in 2008, where he lives with his wife and
two sons. His autobiographical novel, *Junkie Love*,
chronicles his battle with drugs and was published by
Battered Suitcase (2010).



Joe will speak about his journey and how anything and
everything can inspire the writer within. Visit Joe's
website at www.joeclifford.com

WE NEED YOUR VOTE!!!

**Napa Valley Writers will be voting on April 11 to
change our by-laws so that we can accomplish**

Meanwhile, the sun is still hot and bright. I've finished my crossword, and it's time to get back to that pirate tale I'm working on.



Arnold Genthe Art and Architecture SF

Washington and Kearny in Chinatown

Napa Valley Writers Presents
a Spring Workshop

The First Page:

**How to write a First Page that Hooks
the Reader**

**Saturday, May 12
1 - 4 pm**

**Synergy Wellness Center
3421 Villa Lane, Napa
Conference Room**

(12 participants maximum, RSVP ASAP)

Join Malena Watrous for a hands-on workshop that will focus on writing a compelling first page. Participants are

our annual election of officers without a large quorum. The irony is that we need the quorum (about 28 members) to change the by-laws!

So we really need you to come to the April meeting-even if you can't stay for the speaker! Someone will be on hand from 6:30 p.m. to collect your ballots if you must vote and run. The proposed revisions will go out in email before the meeting.

Thank you!!



Barbara Toboni will be April's member reader. She will read from her latest poetry book titled, *Light the Way*.

Napa Valley Writers, a branch of the California Writers Club, holds monthly meetings at Napa Valley Unitarian Universalists Church Sanctuary, 1625 Salvador Avenue, Napa. Cost at the door is \$5 for CWC members. Guests, \$8. Students with ID, free. For more information, contact publicity_nvw@outlook.com or see napavalleywriters.net. Always open to the public.

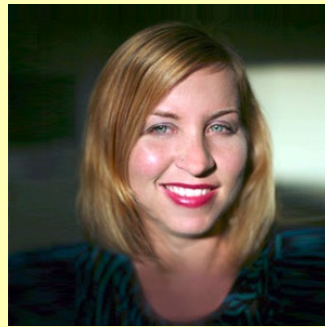
NVW fosters professionalism in writing, promotes networking of writers within the Napa Valley writing community, mentors new writers, and provides literary support for writers and the writing community through education, networking, and leadership.

Five Facts About Me

Jan Flynn

1. My short story collection, *CORPSE POSE: AND OTHER TALES* is available as an ebook on Kindle Unlimited - and it has over 20 five star reviews. Other short fiction appears in literary journals and anthologies, including NVW's *FIRST PRESS (Dummy)*.

invited to bring the first page (750 words maximum, double spaced) of a fiction or nonfiction work to read and edit with the expert advice from Malena.



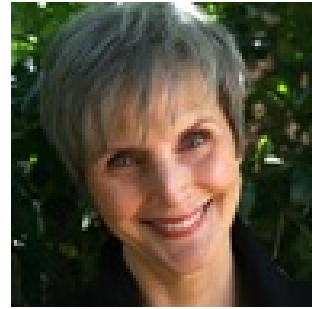
San Francisco native and resident, Malena Watrous is a head instructor for Stanford's Online Writer's Workshop.

Her stories and essays have appeared in multiple publications, including The Alaska Quarterly Review, Glimmer Train, and Salon.com. Watrous contributes regular book reviews to the San Francisco Chronicle and the New York Times. Malena's debut novel, *If You Follow Me* was awarded the Michener-Copernicus Award. Her second novel, *Sparked*, was released in October 2017.

**Please RSVP to Lori Narlock
by Monday, April 30**

\$25 (or \$45 for CWC non-members)

lorinarlock@gmail.com



2. I have an unusual resume: acting, teaching, writing, non-profit management, sure . . . but also serving two terms as mayor of a small Southern California city and, back in the day, performing in a circus act wherein I rode a camel, a llama, a water buffalo, and a brahma bull.

3. *THE MOON RAN AFTER HER*, my first novel, is in the query process and is based on the real-life experiences of women in my extended family who survived the Armenian Genocide.

4. I'm at work on another historical novel, *GLORY DAYS*. Considerably lighter in tone, it's set in 1915 on California's central coast and involves a runaway bride, an ill-conceived Wild West show, several figures of doubtful reputation, dancing buffalo, and a dash of romance.

5. I live in St. Helena with my husband J. Michael Flynn (NOT to be confused with the other Michael Flynn!), an actor, and our helplessly comical dog Molly.

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Storytelling Speakeasy

Saturday, April 7, 6 p.m.

Price: Free

Curated presentation of poetry, spoken word and storytelling focuses on words as an artistic medium, plus after-hours wine tasting.

Tank Garage Winery

1020 Foothill Blvd, Calistoga

For more information:

☎ 707.942.8265

For more information, see here:

[NVRegister - Saraomaia Arts in April](#)

"I want to write while crossing the fields that are fresh with daisies and everlasting and the ordinary grass." - Mary Oliver



The days grow long, the birds sing, flowers burst open, and the poets write it all down. In this four-session workshop, we'll read poems by Mary Oliver, Robert Bly, Gary Snyder and other poets who "write while crossing the field," filling their poems with natural imagery. Using natural imagery as our framework, we'll pick up our pens and write our own poems, returning the next week to workshop them as a group. Facilitated by Napa County Poet Laureate Jeremy Benson, this workshop is for all levels of poets.

Wednesdays April 4, 11, 18, 25

6:00-8:00PM

The decision to self-publish your book is a bold move. It can take an unfathomable amount of time, research and money-maybe even a few sleepless nights. If you've self-published your book, you deserve recognition. You deserve to be rewarded for your dedication.

DEADLINE: April 2, 2018

Self-Published BOOK AWARDS



Writer's Digest's Self-Published Book Awards has been recognizing self-published excellence for more than 25 years, and this time around, your book could win big.

EARLY-BIRD ENTRY DEADLINE: April 2, 2018

REGULAR DEADLINE: May 1, 2018

Here's what you could win:

\$8,000 in cash

A feature article about you and your book in the March/April 2019 issue of *Writer's Digest*

A press release from *Writer's Digest*, to be sent, along with a copy of your book, to 10 different major publishing review houses

A paid trip to the ever-popular *Writer's Digest* Conference

...AND more!

For the chance to earn the prestige you deserve and watch your career soar to new heights, enter *Writer's Digest's* Self-Published Book Awards.

[Writers Digest Self Pub Award](#)

\$50

Jeremy Benson is the Poet Laureate of Napa County, CA. His poems and short stories have found homes in Spittoon, Dead Flowers, and Inner Art Journal. Jeremy endeavors to cultivate a rich community of writers, readers, and artists, whether as a participant, patron, or planner. He has emceed open mics, curated readings, hosted craft-ins, and led writing workshops. He is an organizer of the Broken Nose Collective, an annual exchange of hand-made chapbooks.

Please call 707-733-3199 or email Naomi at

naomi@napabookmine.com to reserve your spot.

Payment will be due on or before the first meeting.



July 29 - Aug. 3, 2018

Applications are now being accepted for the 37th Napa Valley Writers' Conference, [Napa Valley Writers' Conference](#).

April 2...

is the admissions deadline for all applications, including requests for financial assistance.

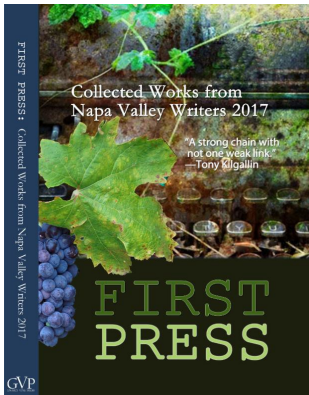
Poetry workshops focus on the production and critique of new work. The poetry faculty: Camille Dungy, Brenda Hillman, Jane Mead, and Carl Phillips. Fiction workshops will be led by Lan Samantha Chang, Lauren Groff, Mat Johnson, and Howard Norman.

A reading fee of \$25 is due with your application. Tuition is \$1,025. Financial assistance is available. **Thanks to the Napa Valley Writers, two half-scholarships, one in poetry and one in fiction, will be offered exclusively to residents of Napa County.**

NVWC is looking for YOU!

For faculty profiles and application information, visit [Napa Valley Writers'](#)

The Perfect Gift: First Press



Are you looking for the perfect gift any time of the year?

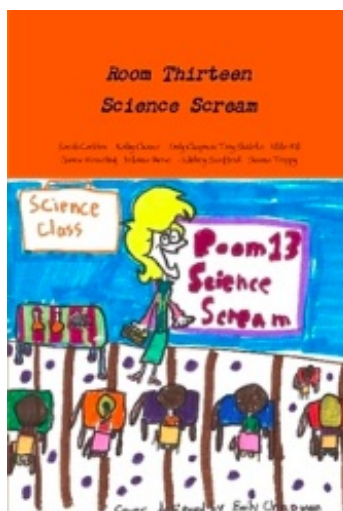
Copies of *First Press: Collected Works from Napa Valley Writers 2017* is now available for your gift giving needs. Find yours at Napa Bookmine, Copperfield's in Napa and Calistoga, and online at Amazon.

\$15 for *First Press*!

April NVW Member Book Excerpt

**Room Thirteen
Science Scream**

Kathleen Chance



Chapter 1 31 Students in Room 13

"Class, it's time for science!" Mrs. Chance announced. "Get out your science folders, please. We're doing a new experiment today!"

Mrs. Chance lifted a big black box from the floor and set it on the front table. The box was labeled New Improved Science Experiments in scrolly writing. Underneath in small lettering: BEWARE: ONLY TO BE USED BY MAD SCIENTISTS

"Perfect!" Mrs. Chance said excitedly. "That would be me!"

Opening the chest and peering inside, Mrs. Chance reached in and pulled out a test tube labeled Gigantic Touchable Bubble Solution. "Here we go, class. Time to make some gigantic touchable bubbles!"

"Al-riiiiiight!" said the class of 31 super-smart scientific 4th graders.

"I've done this experiment before," announced Emily.

"Good, then you may be my lab assistant."

Emily came up to the front of the room.

"Well, first you take this bottle," she began, extracting the cork out of the Gigantic Touchable Bubble Solution.

"Oops, my bad!" Emily said, as some of the solution leaked out of the bottle onto the table.

"No worries! I'll clean that up," said Mrs. Chance. She grabbed a tissue from a nearby box and began sopping up the goo.

Oh dear, she thought. I feel a sneeze coming on.

Without thinking, she put the goo-soaked tissue to her nose, and, in so doing, transferred some of the Magic Gigantic Touchable Bubble Solution onto the end of her nose.

"Ahh Ahh Ahh CHOOOO!!" Mrs. Chance sneezed, producing a gigantic, multi-colored touchable bubble. The bubble floated around the classroom.

"Al-riiiiiight!" said the class of 31 super-smart scientific 4th graders.

"Cool!" Emily exclaimed, "Let's play silent ball!"

~Following chapters written by Room 13 students~

[Conference](#). To join the conference community online, "like" the conference at [Facebook Napa Writers' Conference](#) or follow [NVWC Twitter](#).

Napa Valley Writers is a non-profit organization, a branch of the California Writers Club, founded in 1909. The NVW Bylaws dictate an annual election of officers.

Please consider joining the leadership team. Job descriptions for each Board position will be posted in this Newsletter during March, April and May. Take a look and see where you can bring your own skillset to the fore. It's a lot of fun, a little bit of work, and you can make such a difference.

Vice President Responsibilities, currently held by Edgar Calvelo

To be an officer of the NV Writers is an honor. It's an honor to serve the writers of Napa Valley.

The vice president gathers together the list of monthly member readers and monthly program speakers from a Program Committee composed of other members. There is a committee in charge of selecting monthly member readers: members who read their works and guest speakers who give talks at the club meeting.

When the club president is away or unable to conduct the board meeting the vice president may be asked to lead the meeting. The president has the discretion to designate someone other than the VP to conduct the board meeting and/or the club meeting.

One of the benefits of being an officer is knowing what's going on in the writing world at large and locally. And most of all one will enjoy the company of the fellow club officers and writers who are the most friendly and enthusiastic group of people.

The club officers also receive copies of the newsletters from the different branches of the California Writers Club.

NVW's VP can choose to take on special projects of interest to her(him) during the year.

NVW TREASURER'S DUTIES, currently held by Lenore Hirsch

1. Use the *CWC Branch Treasurers Handbook*, and local resources to become familiar with the tasks

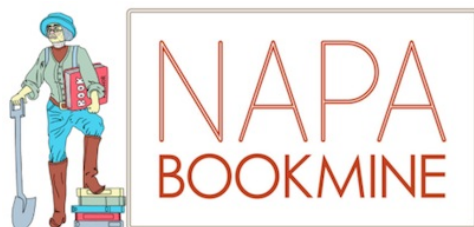
Lance Burris - Krug Time



Congrats to Lance Burris on another fine newspaper appearance!

ARTS IN APRIL

Inspiration Beyond the Vine



**Sunday, April 29,
Open Mic
Napa Bookmine
3-5 pm.**

Open to all genres, 5 minute max reading time each reader.

Please arrive early to sign up to read. Always a great time!

<https://www.visitnapavalley.com/events/arts-in-april/>

Napa County's Eighth Annual Arts and Culture Month is gearing up again.

Help us make it the best year yet!

described below. More detail is available.

2. Receive, post and deposit money for meeting fees, dues, workshops, and other income, keeping copies of all checks and banking forms.
3. Prepare and sign checks, oversee debit card use and balance income and expenses monthly on designated forms, retaining documentation of all expenses.
4. Monitor subscriptions and automatic renewals of various online services, e.g., Constant Contact, eScrip, GoDaddy, MeetUp, PayPal, and WordPress.
5. Membership Dues
 - a. Notify Membership Chair of all membership dues received.
 - b. Enter payment data on CWC Member Record Management System (MRMS) for new and renewing members as needed.
 - c. Make payments of dues to CWC regularly.
6. Regularly monitor activity of bank, PayPal, and eScrip accounts.
7. Monitor passwords for all online accounts.
8. Prepare Monthly Financial Reports as requested by the board:
 - a. Budget Comparison against actual income and expenses
 - b. Balance Sheet*
 - c. Income Sheet*
 - d. Expense Sheet*
 - e. Monthly Bank Statement*
 - f. Such other financial reports of NW activity requested by the board or deemed useful by the treasurer.

**These are required as quarterly reports by the CWC.*
9. Prepare Quarterly Financial Reports as prescribed by CWC.
10. Assist board and officers, as directed, in preparing and monitoring of budgets and managing NW's finances.
11. Attend NW board meetings and monthly membership meetings (or designate someone to collect and record monies).
12. Keep copies of any correspondence with members, creditors or other organizations.

Each year Arts Council Napa Valley produces a month-long campaign to promote our local talents and bring our community together through live music, art fairs and exhibitions, storytelling, theatre performances, culinary arts, and hands on activities.



For information about events and all the exciting happenings from one end of the valley to the other, please see here:

[Arts in April](#)

Stevenson Poetry Night – April 26th!

The Robert Louis Stevenson Museum Presents the 2nd Annual

Stevenson Poetry Night



Thursday, April 26 at 6:30pm
at St. Helena Public Library

An open mic night highlighting the poetry of Robert Louis Stevenson and celebrating the work of new poets!

Arts in April NAPA VALLEY

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON MUSEUM

www.stevensonmuseum.org

Its that time of year again! Celebrate the spoken word and Stevenson at Stevenson Poetry Night, the RLSM's open mic night!

To be guaranteed a spot to perform please click the link [HERE!](#)

For more information, see: [RLS Museum Poetry Night](#)

Ready to publish?

NWW received an email from John Siedel asking us to let you know all about his publishing company. Check it out.



Van Rye Publishing, LLC ("VRP"), offers a variety of book publishing possibilities that make authors' books available worldwide at major retailers and libraries in the most popular print and e-book formats.

VRP has published multiple number one and top five best-selling books, has published books for university-level courses with a combined enrollment of over 600,000 students, and has published

MEMBERSHIP CHAIR, currently held by Roberta Wright

You might have heard the rumor circulating among the various branches of the California Writers Club regarding the Membership Chair position; I can verify that it is true. Membership Chair IS the most amazing position available on the board! Attending the monthly board meetings you get to hear all of the plans for upcoming events and contribute your ideas for making Napa Valley Writers a dynamic club. At every monthly member meeting you partner with the Treasurer and greet members and guests at check-in; a perfect time to hear about all of the adventures from our interesting group.

Processing new applications and keeping the name tags in alphabetical order are the main clerical-type duties. Vicki Baird was my mentor for this position two years ago and she was willing to assist with sorting out any puzzles I encountered. I will certainly be available for the lucky new Membership Chair. Please contact me if you have any questions: Roberta Wright ([Roberta Wright](#)).

Hello Writers and Artmakers! Invite the Muse

Monthly class for writers - beginners or seasoned - who want to enhance and approach writing from a creative direction using art-making to loosen and open up the creative juices, as well as using your personal experiences to pique your muse.

- RSVP to secure your spot at the table.
- \$3 per person at the door for cost of art supplies.

April 21

1 to 3 p.m.
Art Center Napa Valley
1520 Behrens Street in Napa

A collaboration between Art Association Napa Valley and Napa Valley Writers.

For more information, and to RSVP, please contact [Emily Freiman](#) or 707-224-5454.

books in seven major languages.

And VRP-published books receive four-star and five-star customer reviews.

VRP offers stand-alone manuscript editing and formatting services in addition to traditional book publishing possibilities. To learn more about VRP and its services, you can visit its website at www.vanryepublishing.com.

Also, please feel free to contact John Seidel, President of Van Rye Publishing directly at john.siedel@vanryepublishing.com.

www.vanryepublishing.com

ARTS IN APRIL EVENT!

Hill Family Estate Tasting Room
6512 Washington Street
Yountville



Poetry Month
Arts in April

A Poetry/Prose Salon
Sunday, April 29, 2018
12:00pm - 2:00pm

Water and snacks will be served
Wine: \$10 for two tastings

Bring a favorite poem or two
or a short prose selection

3 minute limit for each reading

RSVP to reserve a spot
(walk-ins welcome as time allows)
jllyon@comcast.net



Redwood Writers
Our Neighbor to the West

April Conference on the Horizon!
Pen to Published 2018

all this and more... [Redwood Writers-CWC](#)

[All About Litquake 2018](#)

From Litstock to Litquake

Originally hatched over beers at the Edinburgh Castle pub in 1999, Litstock debuted as a free one-day reading series in a fog-bound Golden Gate Park. Local writers Jane Ganahl and Jack Boulware realized quickly that booklovers craved something grander. Against the backdrop of a technology-crazed San Francisco, writers were still drawn to the city, and readers still appreciated the written word.

In 2002, the festival was rechristened Litquake, and began expanding its programming to include all elements of the Bay Area literary scene. Taking a cue from a USA Today report that San Franciscans spend twice the nation's average on books and booze, in 2004, the festival inaugurated an immediately successful closing night Lit Crawl bacchanal throughout the city's Mission District.

Popular demand drove Litquake to expand even further, adding more national and international authors,



BAY AREA BOOK FESTIVAL

in partnership with the
San Francisco Chronicle

Tens of thousands of book lovers meet hundreds of acclaimed authors over an exciting weekend in downtown Berkeley, California. One of the premier literary events in the nation!

To join in the fun, or to volunteer, please visit:
[Bay Area Bookfest](#)

April 28-29, 2018
Downtown Berkeley

HELP WANTED!

Napa Valley Writers' Newsletter needs a new volunteer Newsletter Editor. Due to challenges in her personal life, our current newsletter editor tendered her resignation.

Responsibilities: Keep an eye out for events of interest to our members and readers and post them in the newsletter. You will get much of this information from community members.

Coordinate with other NWW members and leadership to gather items of interest for newsletter content.

Create, edit and publish newsletter once a month, using Constant Contact as the publishing platform.

youth programs, classroom visits and book giveaways, monthly literary Epicenters, and special localized editions of the Lit Crawl now held each year in Austin, Seattle, New York City, Iowa City, Los Angeles, Portland, London, and Helsinki.

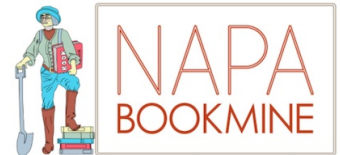
Whether it's poets reciting in a cathedral, authors discussing science versus religion in a library, or novelists reading in a beekeeping supply store, the goal remains the same: whet a broad range of literary appetites, present the literary fare in a variety of traditional and unlikely venues, and make it vivid, real, and entertaining.

Now grown to the largest independent literary festival on the West Coast, Litquake continues its mission as a nine-day literary spectacle for booklovers, complete with cutting-edge panel discussions, unique cross-media events, and hundreds of readings.

NWW will be applying as a group to join this fall's festivities. If you're interested in learning more about our local effort, please contact [Christina Julian](#).

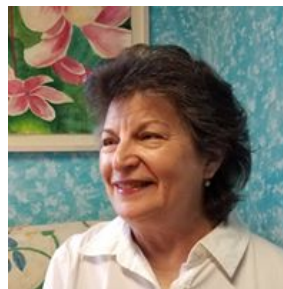
Barbara Toboni and the Bunny Poets

"Let's hop. Spring is singing.
Sunny skies and butterflies."



Percy and Bonny pack their lunch for a trip to the meadow. Percy brings his journal so he can write a poem along the way. Bonny wants to write one too, but she's not sure how. Can Percy help? Together they explore the sights, sounds, scents and scenery that inspire their words. Share Bonny's joy as she discovers how fun it is to write a poem.

Sunday, April 22
3 pm
964 Pearl Street in Napa



Barbara Toboni is the author of three collections of poetry, *Undertow*, *Water Over Time*, and *Light the Way*. She has also published a variety of short stories and articles in anthologies, journals, and online. While her two sons were growing up she had the opportunity to work as a teacher's aide in a kindergarten classroom. She especially loved hearing the teacher read picture books. Barbara lives in the Napa Valley with her husband.

<http://www.barbaratoboni.com/>

Time commitment: 2-5 hours a month.

Mentoring partner available to get you started.

If you're interested in learning more, please contact [Kathleen Thomas](#).

Thank you for your willingness to serve!



We wish to extend a special thank you to the leadership and members of [Arts Council Napa Valley](#), [Arts Association Napa Valley](#), and [Napa Valley Writers Conference](#) for your continued collaboration in our arts partnerships. Thank you to the owners and staff at [Napa Bookmine](#) for your support of our writers and readers. Our thanks also to the [Boys and Girls Club of Napa Valley](#) for their monthly donation of NWW Board meeting space.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF NAPA VALLEY

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS

We are eager to receive your newsletter submissions. Please keep poetry to 24 lines or less. Other articles of interest, including short prose, should be approximately 300 words or less.

Send us your photos, current events, news of interest to writers, new publications, conferences, etc., no later than the 15th of each month to be included in the next month's newsletter.

Thank you.

[Kathleen Thomas](#)
Interim Newsletter Editor



LINKS

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