



Museum declares Deb Haaland Upstander of the Year, 2021

by Vicki Gotlieb, volunteer

Preparations for our April 18 fundraiser—one that will be like no other, so stay tuned—got off to an exciting start when Deb Haaland accepted our 2021 Upstander Award while poised to take on the mantle of her historic appointment by President Biden to become Secretary of the Interior. If confirmed, Haaland would be the first Indigenous person to serve as a Cabinet secretary, and she would be running an agency with a long history of attacks against Native American lands, culture, and families. Her actions and advocacy throughout her life reflect NMHM goals. Haaland is tireless in standing up and speaking out for the rights of those who haven't had a seat at the table in many arenas.

As a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe, Congresswoman Haaland says she's proud to trace her ancestry back 35 generations on the land that much more recently became the state she represents. Years of organizing Native peoples and building strong coalitions have prepared her to step into the increasingly impactful roles that mark her trajectory. Like NMHM's first Upstander Award recipient, Brian Colón, Haaland is known as someone who 'shows up' for New

Mexicans and beyond, like when she joined the demonstrators at Standing Rock in September 2016.

Haaland cooked green chili and tortillas at the Standing Rock Sioux camps pitched against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Bringing food was her traditional way of contributing to the fight against the \$3.8 billion pipeline. She stayed in the camps for four days, but the environmental cause she came to support has resounded not only within her, but around the world. "I think it woke a lot of people up and it activated a lot of environmental activists all over the place. We've been able to fight back some on those issues in New Mexico and have had folks that have been on the front lines. Any time when people rise up and protect what they have it's going to activate people.

"My campaign slogan was 'Be Fierce,'" Haaland said in North Dakota. "Be fierce for everything. Be fierce for the environment. Be fierce for women. Be fierce for children. Women throughout history have been...it seems like forever that our voices have been silenced. They work really hard to suppress us and we are incredibly strong



and resilient. We need to keep standing up for the things we believe in.

"They just need to keep stepping up." She added, "I don't want children, immigrant children, thrown in cages. I am going to support common sense immigration laws that give people a legal path to citizenship," which is reflected in another new NMHM exhibit on the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

While Haaland worked her way through law school as a single mom, she started a

(see Rep. Haaland, page 2)

Rep. Haaland named 2021 Upstander

(continued from page 1)

salsa company called Pueblo Salsa to earn some extra income. “I lived paycheck to paycheck, just like everybody else, and I never even had a savings account,” Haaland says. “I know what it’s like to be on food stamps, I know what it’s like to piece together health care for me and my child. And so I feel like, in this day and time, in the middle of a pandemic, with economic struggles and environmental injustice, we need folks who are ‘close to the pain,’ as my dear friend

[Representative] Ayanna Pressley says. And so I count myself as sort of an everyday person who worked really hard and ran for Congress and won.”

Having an Indigenous person lead the 171-year-old Department of the Interior wasn’t on anyone’s radar when Haaland’s remarks were included by video at NMHM’s rededication ceremony August 30, 2020. The revamped, revitalized, and new exhibits include the new *Colonization: Racism and Resilience* exhibit which chronicles the effects of systemic racism brought by Spanish and American colonists, the effects on the Native populations of New Mexico, and how they resisted and survived. Although the museum was open briefly after the rededication with COVID-safe practices, NMHM has remained closed far longer than hoped. There is now an under-10-minute virtual tour of the expanded array of exhibits at <https://nmholocaustmuseum.org/exhibits/>.

Many have expressed sincere hope that Haaland’s appointment will signify the beginning of a new era. Elizabeth Kronk

Sunday, April 18, 2021
SAVE THE DATE



NMHM's FIFTH ANNUAL **To Life!** FUNDRAISING EVENT NEW MEXICO'S HIDDEN TREASURE

Upstander

a person who speaks or acts in support of an individual or cause, particularly someone who intervenes on behalf of a person being attacked or bullied.

Warner, the dean of the University of Utah’s S.J. Quinney College of Law and a member of the Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa tribe, told *The New York Times* that it would mark the moment Native Americans go “from being classified as a group of people that the federal government was trying to destroy to having a president say, ‘I see you and value you to the point that I will raise you to the highest level of decision-making in the country.’”

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change found that Indigenous people are disproportionately vulnerable to climate change in the United States. Alaska Native villagers and a Native American community in south Louisiana

are among the first climate refugees in the country. Both are being relocated due to rising seas.

Indigenous people are also disproportionately affected by environmental pollution, says Kandi White, the Native energy and climate campaign director at the Indigenous Environmental Network. As a member of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nation in North Dakota, White thinks having a Native American woman, who understands the complex government-to-government relationship between Indigenous people and the U.S., leading the Department of the Interior is promising.

“She gets it,” White says.

Jerry Small (1933-2021)

We mourn the loss of a dear and devoted friend

Gerald (Jerry) Small's heart failed early Monday morning January 25, a day past his 88th birthday after a short stay in UNM Hospital following a fall in his home.

Born in Detroit on January 24, 1933, he lived there until finishing high school when he moved to Los Angeles.

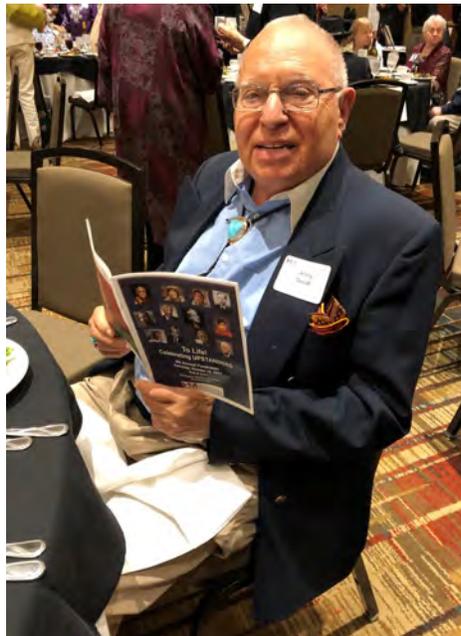
In LA he was an interior decorator as well as filling several social service positions, and was a founder of the first Gay & Lesbian (LGBTQ+) synagogue in the USA. Based on this success, he collaborated with Rev. Troy Perry, founder of Metropolitan Community Church, the first Gay & Lesbian Christian denomination. It was also the first LGBT congregation of any religion to be recognized by a mainstream religious movement.

He was the first director of LA's Nechama: A Jewish Response to AIDS in 1988 shortly before his move to Albuquerque in 1991 where his good works, activism, and indomitable spirit kept right on going and going and going.

He founded the Albuquerque AIDS Walk, according to Kevin Hoover, a former NMHM board member and treasurer. Jerry co-chaired the Albuquerque Chanukah Festival held at the Civic Center for many years and was named *Man of the Year* by Congregation Albert's Men's Club. He had been president of Common Bond New Mexico Foundation and co-founder of Way OUT West Film Fest, formerly Southwest Gay & Lesbian Film Festival.

He was also an accomplished Asian (Japanese) brush painter. He won several awards for his art and taught this form at UNM.

While we are well aware of Jerry's impact in Albuquerque, we are especially grateful for his innumerable contributions to our museum. Even before he became a board member, he stepped up to chair the committee that raised \$45,000 to bring us a traveling exhibit, *Nazï Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933 to 1945*, from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM)



in 2007. He was there when we hit a bump in the leadership road in 2014, and brought together a dedicated group that kept us viable and moving forward.

Jerry was a strong voice when recognizing the importance of our special library. He encouraged, promoted, and made some of our important exhibits become reality including *What is Propaganda?* and *The Valiant and the Brave*, which came almost immediately after the horrendous 2017 attack on a nightclub in Orlando. At his suggestion, we donated that exhibit to the local Metropolitan Community Church. He urged us to honor the late Werner Gellert, one of our founders, which we did in Jerry's lifetime by renaming the museum in 2020 to the New Mexico Holocaust Museum and Gellert Center for Education.

We mourn along with his family, extended and otherwise, and his amazing cadre of devoted friends.

Jerry's physical heart may have failed on January 25, but it will beat with us forever.

We are grateful to his good friends and colleagues who contributed information for this article.

Lyn Berner, NMHM managing director

Thoughts and memories

We have lost a great soul and exceptional human being. Jerry was a man who lived his mission, our mission - to make the world a better place. He was a pillar of the museum for many years which, without him, would not be what it is today.

Reinhard Lorenz, volunteer and educator

I can't stop thinking about his smile. He had the best smile. Thank you, Jerry. You blessed us with your compassion, your energy, and your commitment.

Jennifer Cornish, board member

May his memory be a blessing to all who knew and cared for him.

Doris Fields, board member

*The first thing that comes to mind is that he should have been named **Jerry Big!** His physical stature, even his car, his smile, his contacts, his generosity, his parties, his commitments to: friends, Jewish Community and our Holocaust museum (especially the Library) – all a part of a remarkable human being who will be missed.*

Jennie L. Negin, board member

Jerry, You saved my life

by Harold L. Folley, former docent

Soon after I retired, 25 years ago, I met Jerry at a Jewish community function. His personality, voice and appearance ensured that, once you had met him, you never forgot him.

I met him again at the local Holocaust museum where we were both volunteers. Slightly older than I, by just over a year, I realized his knowledge of the Holocaust was more extensive than mine, and we had countless conversations exploring each other's opinions. Early on Jerry made it clear to me that he was gay. This surprised me, but didn't bother me. I enjoyed his company and conversations. We shared a strong admiration for the

(see Jerry, the lifesaver, page 8)

Archives *Alive!*

Spotlight on new acquisition

by Camelia Caton-Garcia, collections manager

NMHM celebrates the recent acquisition of Peter Robert Keil's painting *Always Remember Dachau*. In November we were contacted by the store Thrift-A-Lot about a possible donation. They had received a number of items from a generous donor including the above mentioned painting. To quote Thrift-A-Lot manager Banx, "We understand the importance and significance that this work holds and we were hoping to donate it to y'all."

The creator of this piece, Peter Robert Keil, is a German artist and sculptor born in Germany in 1942. After the death of his father during World War II, Keil and his mother settled in a working class Berlin neighborhood where he discovered an interest in painting and Expressionism. Keil continues to exhibit internationally and a large body of his work is held in a permanent collection in Heidelberg.

As the website for the Keil Collections says, "An encounter with the work of Peter Robert Keil can by no means leave the viewer indifferent. Keil's pictures challenge with their direct, impulsive technique, their spontaneity and emotionality."

<https://www.keil-collection-heidelberg.de/>

Art made during the Holocaust, and that reflects upon the Holocaust, is an important part of our collection and our mission. We are thrilled to welcome this painting to our collection and look forward to sharing it with our visitors.

And kudos to the manager and staff at Thrift-A-Lot—where proceeds benefit the non-profit Transgender Resource Center of New Mexico—for recognizing the importance of this work of art and donating it to an appropriate venue. We hope that our readers will support them. Learn more at thriftalotnm.org.



Always Remember Dachau, Peter Robert Keil



Shanghai Immunization and Vaccination Document for Werner Gellert (1947)

From 1933 through the late 1940s, Shanghai, China was home to communities of German, Russian, and Eastern European Jews fleeing persecution. Thousands of refugees sought safety in Shanghai, one of the few places during the Nazi era that did not require a visa for entry. Though protected from Nazi cruelty and murder, the refugee communities were forced into ghettos with inadequate housing and rife with illness. Starvation, typhus, and yellow fever were only some of the dangers that faced the refugee community. Among the survivors of the ghetto was NMHM founder Werner Gellert. The Gellert family fled Germany after Kristallnacht and, after many attempts to find safe harbor, landed in Shanghai where they would spend the duration of the war.

Vaccinations were an important part of survival in Shanghai and were required for travel across international borders. Werner's original International Certificates of Inoculation and Vaccination is part of NMHM's permanent collection and helps tell the unique and complex story of the Jewish community that survived the Holocaust in Shanghai.

The Herald
-published four times a year by staff-

NMHM board president speaks of programs, projects, and progress

by Raye Cohen

We are now looking in our rearview mirror at Leon Natker, our former executive director who resigned recently to take a position in Oklahoma City, and moving forward even while managing many jobs. We appreciate the year that Leon led the museum. There is much to show for that time. NMHM is now a professional museum with a totally revised exhibit space and new installations. The Holocaust exhibit includes covering testimony from New Mexico Holocaust survivors. There's a new Native American Exhibit, *Colonialization: Racism and Resilience*; Phase 2 of the African American Experience with *Am I Not a Man, Reconstruction and the KKK*; an expanded video for the revised exhibit, *Genocide of the Christian Minorities in the Ottoman Empire*, and the *Chinese Exclusion Act*.

It is essential to keep moving forward whether it is fundraising efforts or education programming. Not only has Covid-19 challenged our ability to raise funds, but it has also kept our doors closed most of last year and probably well into this new one.

That said, we are hard at work and poised to step into our future as a leader fighting for initiatives to eliminate hate and intolerance and create equity for all. We participate in local, statewide, and regional efforts by urging New Mexico legislators to strengthen the hate crime law and by working with a national taskforce which

would require Holocaust education in every state. Additionally, NMHM now has the capability to deliver our

education programs into classrooms online not only in Albuquerque but also across the state.

We are piloting a K-5 program, *Stand Up! Count on Me!*, in one fourth and two fifth grade gifted classes in Las Cruces.

Through the exploration of literature and art

making, this elementary school program is committed to empowering students to practice empathy, kindness, and understanding while valuing inclusion

and celebrating the diversity of others.

Students are introduced to the upstander concept and vocabulary. To become an upstander elementary students learn that acts of kindness, no matter how small, do make a difference in helping to make their classroom, school, community, and world a better place for everyone.

We were in 16 classes with our middle school program, *Stand Up! Be Counted!* last fall and will be working in 11 or more classes this spring. This arts integration program's goal is to help students, especially at-risk students from underserved communities, improve academic skills, increase their social-emotional intelligence, and develop resilience, creativity, and problem-solving

skills, necessary for students to see a path forward for themselves. Using Holocaust education as the foundation, we teach students that by not acting, by being bystanders, bad things happen. We help them acquire strategies, enabling them to act for themselves or support others who cannot support themselves. By empowering marginalized students, our goal is to help them take control of their lives and encourage their commitment to learning. Our high school program, *Behind the Lens: Student Portrayals of a Troubled World* is now in its fifth year. This is a program mainly for high school students.



This upstander quilt was designed by fourth graders, Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School.

(see President speaks, page 6)

Far too many goodbyes said, unsaid

In December, our first ever executive director got a job offer he couldn't turn down. And so we bid farewell to Leon Natker as he made his way to Oklahoma City and the First Americans Museum (famok.org). He meant a great deal to NMHM (see page 5 for more on Leon's contributions).

More recently, our favorite volunteer coordinator "really" retired. Larry Malick, we are sorry we won't be seeing you anymore as a co-worker, but we will still be seeing you!

Our accountant/bookkeeper Richard Roy got away from us on October 30 at the age of 82. A native of New Hampshire, Richard had a successful career in that section of the country as a comptroller, a treasurer, a vice president of finance. In Albuquerque, he was director of finance at the Jewish Community Center, and after he retired, we snagged him to help us which he did for seven years. Not only did he support us, he also volunteered at Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center and Bear Canyon Senior Center where he untangled the latest technology for the centers' members who attended his classes. His family wrote, "Richard had a very positive effect on those who knew him with his generosity, honesty, and work ethic."

We would agree and add that we also will remember his wonderful sense of humor.

And more sadness: longtime supporter and former board member Jerry Small also died (see pages 3 and 8 for memories).

While our doors are closed to the public and most of our volunteers are waiting out the pandemic, at least one of them left town. We congratulate Nicolas Estrada who is serving an internship in Washington, DC in the office of Ben Ray Lujan (see next page for his comments).

President speaks of progress

(continued from page 5)

Our educators first explore the history of the Holocaust and help students recognize historical patterns such as labeling and segregating of the "other" and the human responses that allow hate to escalate.

Bringing relevancy to the past, we then ask students to create 3-to-5-minute films addressing a cause that a young individual, an upstander, speaks or acts in support of what was right then or is right now.

In addition, NMHM will restart our adult education programs online as events

that you can sign up for and support for a modest cost.

Without your financial support, our work cannot continue. We need you to help us make that happen. In the world we now live in, our mission is more important than ever. We have always relied on the generous support of our donors to keep our doors open. Please give generously now and save the date for our first online fundraiser on Sunday, April 18.

NMHM/ADL partnership addresses education

Current research shows that understanding and knowledge about the Holocaust continues to fall while antisemitic and hate incidents continue to rise.

In response, the ADL Mountain States Region and the New Mexico Holocaust Museum are involved in a partnership to broaden the educational reach of both institutions to students and families in New Mexico.

*Holocaust
Remembrance
Day
January 27, 2021*

The United Nations General Assembly designated January 27 as International Holocaust Remembrance Day, a global memorial that honors the millions of victims of Nazism. The date is the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

The UN urges every member state to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides. The lessons of the Holocaust have never been more relevant.

Eliminating hate and intolerance one mind at a time

Former volunteers, upstanders all

Nicolas Estrada, Intern, U.S Senate
Student, UNM
Political Science & Sustainability Studies

Hi everyone! My name is Nic Estrada and I'm a second-year student at the University of New Mexico, where I study Political Science and Sustainability Studies. My first experience with the New Mexico Holocaust Museum was in October 2019, when I visited with one of my Political Science classes. This visit was truly moving—I was taken aback by the dedication of the staff and volunteers that worked with my group, as well as by the museum's call to be an "upstander." Soon after my visit, I applied to volunteer at the museum and, before I knew it, I was working Friday desk shifts and managing the museum's brand-new Instagram account.

I still look back fondly at those cold Friday mornings. I did my best to answer visitor's questions and even had the opportunity to introduce some of my friends to the museum. Even when things were slow, the time seemed to fly by, thanks to the company of Larry, John, and Thien-Nam.

I had hoped to further help the museum with group tours, though Covid-19 had other plans. Although my time as a regular volunteer was cut short, I still was able to help with a few remodel projects and occasionally add posts to our Instagram account.

This semester, I am taking part in a UNM program sponsored by former US Senator Fred Harris. As a participant, I have been granted an internship with Senator Ben Ray Lujan and have been provided a shared apartment in Washington, DC. Even though Covid and the threat of domestic terrorists have partially shut down the city, I have been able to visit some monuments and spend time exploring with my fellow interns.

As an intern in Senator Lujan's office, I hope to improve the lives of my fellow New Mexicans, both through direct assistance and by helping the office enact legislation. I am most interested in social justice, environmental justice, and human rights issues, though I am excited to help with whatever I can.

To all of the amazing volunteers and staff at the museum—thank you. You all have shown me, by your teaching and example, what it really means to be an upstander



Haley Zachary, Lead Epidemiologist
Communicable Disease & Tuberculosis Program
El Paso County (CO) Public Health

I began volunteering at the Holocaust Museum my junior year in college after visiting for the first time

with my UNM class on War Crimes and Criminal Tribunals. Being able to help others understand the past and the implications it has on our current state was important to me, so along with Kendra Poole, another volunteer, we created the Rwanda exhibit, *The Tolerated Genocide*, which to this day remains one of my proudest accomplishments

A dozen years later I am a Communicable Disease Epidemiologist at El Paso County (CO) Public Health leading the Coronavirus Response. I am a strong believer in the One Health Model, which highlights the interconnectedness of our world with health.

Although I still believe it is fundamentally important to learn, acknowledge and understand the past, I think it equally important to actively apply what we have learned to our current world.

Christin Moreland, Divinity Student
Pittsburgh (PA) Theological Seminary

I had the pleasure of greeting and helping direct guests at the museum from January 2018 through June 2019. And I always was happy to accept "other duties as assigned," especially researching and writing articles for *The Herald*.

Currently, I am in my second year at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary working on a Masters of Divinity. If all goes as planned, I should graduate in May of 2022. It's been a bit of a struggle the past year, as the campus has closed and all classes are virtual. I've been keeping my classmates (and myself) entertained by drawing Zoom "backgrounds" on a dry erase board behind me every week.

There hasn't been a lot of extra time to volunteer, but I have an internship with two



small congregations in the Pittsburgh area. I'm learning a lot, and plan to continue engaging in interfaith dialogue in my future studies.

I'm back in Pa., but I miss the Albuquerque sun and the blue skies.

Journeys with Jerry, a generous & gentle man

by Lyn Berner, managing director

Journeys often start with a road trip. Three specific ones come to mind almost immediately. With my sister, Judy, piloting her SUV, the three of us headed for the outskirts of Santa Fe to go through and procure items from the library of a genocide scholar whose widow was happy to donate the collection. We almost wore ourselves out packing boxes and loading them into the vehicle, three times. But we still had the energy, at least one or two of those times, to stop at the diner for shepherd's pie and then the "upscale" outlets to shop at Eddie Bauer.

That wasn't my earliest encounter with Jerry. We sat beside one another as guests of mutual friends at an ADL tea. Neither one of us had an association with the museum at that time, and it appeared we had nothing in common. It seemed our paths may never again cross.

But, boy, did they!

I visited the museum in 2004 to see the Oskar Schindler exhibit from the US Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), and soon was invited to become a board member. A little later, I jumped at the chance to be the museum's first staff person. And then, our paths converged, mine and Jerry's.

The founders were determined to bring from the USHMM another exhibit: *Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals, 1933-1945*. This was a costly venture. The committee chair became unable to function, and Jerry jumped into the breach, helping to raise \$45,000 to make the event happen.

I'm not sure I really did much for that committee, but Jerry never failed to thank me in public for my support in the effort, or in any other effort for the museum.

Eventually, he joined the board. Together we wrote successful grants which gave us funds to increase our impact on education. With funding from Bernalillo County, we created *The History of Genocide*

with reproducible materials for teachers on every exhibit in our museum at the time. The creator of our logo, and more, Rick Bickhart, was recruited to design the materials and chose, as usual, not to accept payment. Our museum first bonded with the Cindy and Slomo Silvan Foundation (supporters to this day) in 2013, and with funds from that grant managed to upgrade our library, now the Silvan Library and Study Center.

It wasn't all museum, either. Jerry and I had a friendship as well. Of course, there were always Christmas eve parties and other events and dinners at his house. He and Lily came to my house for my birthday celebration one year. Potz, dog of the house, attacked Jerry's Lily who had found a buried dog biscuit. Thankfully, another dear friend Marc, a

veterinarian, was in attendance and declared both dogs unharmed.

When Jerry learned I had a sewing machine he urged me to tailor his wardrobe by trimming the tails off his lovely silk shirts and hemming them so he could wear them over the belt instead of tucked in. We are going to call that enterprise "unsuccessful."

It didn't end our friendship, though. The last time I called Jerry, not all that long ago, he sounded genuinely pleased to hear from me, and I was genuinely happy to hear his voice.

My connection with the museum and Werner and Frankie Gellert has been and still is one of the most important chapters in my life. I am so honored Jerry was such a great part of it.

He will be missed, not forgotten.

Jerry, the lifesaver

(continued from page 3)

museum's founders. We also strongly agreed that the root cause of all intolerance is group hatred, and that Werner and Frankie fully understood that, and in order to prevent genocide it is essential to fight group hatreds in any form. Jerry soon arranged a special visiting exhibit from the USHMM. It covered the full scope of Nazi persecution of homosexuals. He and his circle worked hard to make it a huge success.

Jerry could also be opinionated, and once he had dug in on his position, no amount of arguing or pleading could bring over points that I now consider to be inconsequential and didn't keep us from maintaining a warm, caring relationship.

I developed aortic heart disease. A short time later the same thing happened to Jerry. We both had valve transplants

and shared our experiences. I marveled at his recovery.

The most important remembrance I have occurred late one afternoon, more than 10 years ago. The museum had effectively closed and I was at the front desk, dimly aware that I was quickly slipping into severe insulin shock. I tried to call 911 but was unable to do so. Insulin shock is sometimes manifested as having a surprising awareness of one's physical peril, yet absolutely no power to do anything. Jerry approached from the back of the building and announced that he was leaving. I could only mumble and he instantly asked in alarm, "Are you all right?" I recall being able to nod my head "no," he instantly called an ambulance and I knew he had saved my life. He stayed with me until the episode passed.

Jerry, knowing you enriched my life and indeed saved my life.

NEW MEXICO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM AND GELLERT CENTER FOR EDUCATION

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