Branches and Twigs

Redlands Branch, AAUW November 2024 http://redlands-ca-aauw.net Issue 4, 11 Issues Annually



The Redlands Branch of AAUW is dedicated to advancing equity for women and girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy.

President's Corner, Heather Abushanab



Two important things happen in November. Toward the beginning of the month is election day and toward the end we will celebrate Thanksgiving. Both events are part of our American identity and somewhat intertwined in meaning for me.

AAUW, AAUW CA and AAUW Redlands branch are non-partisan entities which means these organizations do not support or endorse any political party and generally, we

also do not endorse specific candidates. But this certainly does not mean that AAUW members and AAUW in general are non-political. In fact, many of us would say that AAUW is highly political, since the ways women's interests have advanced in our country have often taken place in the political arena.

AAUW worked to pass the 19th Amendment to the Constitution giving women the right to vote, and AAUW is currently supporting legislation called the Freedom to Vote Act which will improve access to voting as well as ban partisan gerrymandering.

~continued on page 3

November Branch Meeting

Holíday Boutíque & Craft Faír

November Program:



"Homelessness- An Overview"

"Homelessness in Redlands: Challenges & Solutions" is the speaker topic for the Saturday, November 2nd brunch meeting of Redlands AAUW branch. The speaker is David Rabindranath, the City of Redlands homeless solutions coordinator.

Redlands City Council created the Homeless Solutions division in 2022, to address homelessness in our city by partnering with local government and nonprofits to assist chronically homeless people with resources such as shelter, transitional housing, food assistance, outreach services, mental health counseling, and substance abuse treatment.

Rabindranath will give an overview of local homelessness and the city's efforts to provide support through its "Project Home Key" and "Street Outreach" programs.

Project Home Key, made possible by a \$30M grant from the State of California to Redlands in partnership with Shangri-La Industries and Step Up on Second, Inc. in 2022, provides long-term supportive housing units for chronically homeless people in Redlands.

The grant enabled purchase of the former Good Nite Inn on Redlands Blvd and its conversion into 98 studio units for long-term housing of formerly homeless people. ~continued on page 3

November Branch Meeting

When Saturday, November 2, 2024

Boutique opens8:30 amCheck in & Social8:30 amBrunch9:30 amProgram10:15 am

Where University of Redlands CASA LOMA Room

Menu Breakfast Buffet: Scrambled Eggs*, Ham, Potatoes O'Brien**, Assorted Danishes, Fruit Tray**, Coffee, Tea *vegetarian, **vegan

Cost Members and guests: \$25

Reservations Please call 909-362-4955 or email AAUWrsvp@AAUWRedland s.org by Saturday, October 19, 2024. After October 19, reservations will be on a space-available basis. After registering, you will receive a confirmation via email.

Reminder: A reservation made is a reservation paid

Transportation: Call Susan Miller 951-233-1287 or Patricia Stubbs 909-289-9183

Members and guests are always welcome at all branch meetings. There is no cost to attend the program. Chairs will be available.

Branch Meetings 2023-2024

Tuesday, December 3, 2024 Tuesday, January 7, 2025 Saturday, February 1, 2025 Saturday, March 1, 2025 Tuesday, April 1, 2025 Tuesday, May 6, 2025 Saturday, June 7, 2025

		edlands November			2024					
Sun	Mon	Tues		Wed		Thu	Fri		Sat	
			v. 2 brunch Meeting			Branch				
After Oct.19,	brunch reserv	on a space-available basis.			sis.		Meeting			
							1	2	& Boutique opens 8:30	
3	4	5	6	6			8	9		
6pm California Cuisine 1		8:45am Fundraisin g Mtg	1pm Bridge		7pm DEI					
10	11 <u>1pm Sew What!</u> 6:30pm AAUW Board Mtg.	12	13 9am CHAT		14		15	16 9am STEM committee Mtg.		
17	18	19	20		21		22	23	5	
5:30pm California Cuisine 2	1pm Bridge	8:45am Fundraising Mtg	12pm I Am, Therefore I Think		R	om & 7pm leading & e Rainbow		g	9am Hiking	
24	25	26	27		28	HAPPY	29	30		
	1pm Sew What!	7pm Public Policy	1pm Bunko			NKSGIVING			ember 8, 2024	
AAUW Redlands Board Meeting 11/11 6:30 pm Redlands United Church of Christ, 168 Bellevue Ave, Redlands and remotely on teams. <i>~Heather Abushanab</i> Bridge Groups 3rd Monday @ 1pm, 1st Wednesday @ 1pm <i>~Contact Susan Satzger</i> Bunco 11/27 1pm <i>~Patty Ahearn & Lori Powell</i>					PASS STEM Conference: Thursday, January 9, 2025 Redlands STEM Conference: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 FilmFest: Friday, April 25, 2025 I Am, Therefore I Think 11/20 "Discussion Cards" We will discuss issues that are presented through sentence starters. These topics will honor and allow for exploration of our diversity of thought. These thought-provoking topics will facilitate our understanding of self and others-especially. ~Barbara Simmons & Margee Fuller					
California Cuisine and Conversation I11/3 6pm~Kathy Toister					Public Policy 11/26 7pm ~Cassie MacDuff					
California Cuisine and Conversation 2 11/17 5:30pm ~Patty Ahearn					Reading and the Rainbow 11/21 <i>A Calamity of Souls</i> by David Baldacci No RSVP required. Information on the facilitator, host and co-host will be emailed. ~ <i>Valarie Boone & Marianne Baldwin</i>					
CHAT 11/13 9am AKSPL Contemporary Club AK Smiley PL ~ <i>Katherine Gifford 909-798-7565, ext. 4138</i> <u>literacy@akspl.org</u>				Sew What! 11/11 & 11/25 1pm ~Lisa McCarty						
Diversity, Equity & Inclusion / Racial Justice 11/7 DEI 7pm Ellen Gruenbaum's home ~Ellen Gruenbaum & Erica Wilson, & Donita Remington Fundraising Committee 11/5, 11/19 (every other Tuesday) 8:45am on Teams ~Heather Abushanab Hiking Our Hills & Mountains					STEM Initiatives Mt. San Jacinto STEM Conference: January 9, 2025 Redlands STEM Conference: March 4, 2025 Redlands STEM conferences planning meeting 11/16 9am at Kathryn's homr ~Kathryn Brown & Pam Ford Mt. San Jacinto Cornference ~Pam Ford & Betsy Grimes					
11/23 9am Contact Alison or Donita to be added to distribution list. ~ <i>Alison Rodriguez & Donita Remington</i>					~Pam Ford <u>&</u> Betsy Grimes Tech Trek Committee ~Denise Westcott & Donita Remington					

President's Corner: Heather Abushanab

In the area of economics, AAUW advocates for a fair minimum wage and policies that will eliminate the gender pay gap. Frances Perkins was Secretary of Labor and an AAUW member when the first minimum wage was passed in the US. AAUW members served on the 1961 Presidential Commission on the Status of Women and lobbied across the country for the Equal Pay Act of 1963. AAUW supported Lilly Ledbetter in her legal battle with Goodyear which ultimately resulted in the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act of 2009 and AAUW continues to advocate for a nationwide Paycheck Fairness Act.

In the area of education, AAUW provided early research and advocacy which eventually resulted in Title IX, the law preventing gender discrimination in education. Rep Edith Green (OR) who introduced the legislation and Rep Patsy Mink (HI) who co-sponsored the bill were members of AAUW.

As an AAUW member, you are always allowed to express your personal political point of view and to advocate for and endorse the candidates of your choice. In fact, you could be a political candidate yourself! We do have both past and present elected officials as members of our branch.

How does any of this tie into Thanksgiving? Thanksgiving has always been my favorite holiday because it is celebrated by all Americans regardless of their religion, race, age, state of residence, or gender. It is a time set aside for the whole country to give thanks for our many, many blessings. We live in a dynamic and diverse nation which isn't perfect but continues to evolve and hopefully progress toward a truly perfect union. I am grateful to live in this nation where diverse views can be expressed, where my right to vote was secured by previous generations, where my rights as a citizen to equal education, equal pay and equal treatment under the law are upheld by legislation.

On November 5 I will proudly exercise my right to vote and on November 28th I will give thanks for that right. I hope all AAUW Redlands branch members will join me in both endeavors. Heather Abushanab

Branch President

November Program: "Homelessness- An Overview"

Step Up on Second Inc. provides onsite case management and property management services to its residents. In the Street Outreach program, Redlands city contracts with local nonprofits that organize and train teams to engage homeless people in the field—streets, river bottom, parks—and assist in connecting them with available resources, such as shelter, transitional housing, identification card vouchers, and substance abuse treatment.

Rabindranath will provide current updates on these current projects and will take questions from the audience. ~*Eileen Sanborn, Program Vice President*

Donate / Shop the NYMS Holiday Boutique

Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship holds a Boutique Sale at the November branch meeting. Be sure to bring your credit card, cash, or checkbook to take advantage of the wonderful, handcrafted items for sale.

There will be assorted handcrafted holiday items, gift baskets, jewelry, ornaments, baked goods, beautiful totes and pillows, hostess gifts, potholders regular and microwave, bowl cozies, kitchen towels, cookie cutters, and so much more.

All money raised goes to fund the Nancy Yowell Memorial Scholarship for local women returning to school after an interruption to their education.

The sale starts at 8:30 am and sells out fast. See you there!

~Patricia Stubbs

And don't forget, we accept **donation jewelry**, so let us help you clean out your jewelry box. Your cast-offs will be a delight to a new owner!

2023 Jewelry Table





Hospitality Birthday Club

We are wishing these ladies a very **Happy Birthday** in the month of November. Hopefully, you will join us at the branch meeting, so we can celebrate with you in person!



Wendy Birchard Shelley Bodnar Suzanne Cranston Jane Henry Jane Hooper Margo Klein Laura Krenek Sande Meith-Rask Kate Pretorius

Donita Remington Sally Robertson Alison Rodriguez Kari Lynn Scott Marilyn Shankar Joan Smith Meena Spangrud Heidi Taber Sue Young

P.S. If we missed you or you are new, please let us know so we can get you on the list! ~Joyce Katkov & Keller Iuppenlatz

AAUW Community Engagement

YMCA Holiday Home Tour 2024 Volunteers



For the past 19 years, AAUW has proudly supported the YMCA's annual Holiday Home Tour by hosting a

home. As in the past, the AAUW volunteer team has been assigned one of the larger homes on the tour. We invite you to join the fun and volunteer as a hostess on Sunday, December 8, 2024, at the home assigned to AAUW for the day. Two shifts are available: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 12:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to help the YMCA with its major fundraiser. All proceeds benefit the YMCA's Legal Aid Program. Legal Aid Director, Sara Pugh, and her team provide essential legal services to lowincome individuals, primarily women. Your time and effort will support a great cause and leave you feeling fulfilled. A sign-up sheet will be available at the November meeting, or you can send your name, phone number, and preferred shift to Linda Browning or Ann Leonard via email or text.

~Ann Leonard and Linda Browning co-chairs



November is traditionally the month that one reflects on all the things we are thankful for in our lives. I am so grateful for all the new friendships I have

made in our branch. I would like to thank everyone who made our October membership meeting such an immense success! To all the members who brought guests and the women who hosted them, thank you so much. We had ten amazing women join our branch! They are a diverse group of women with so much to offer our branch. I am so grateful for the knowledge Kay Dobbertin and Amy Bisek shared with me to make this event such a great success. I deeply appreciate all the help and guidance you two have given me these past few months.

AAUW Community Engagement

YMCA Holiday Pantry Bakeshop - Call for Bakers

AAUW members have another great way to support the YMCA's Legal Aid Program—by baking homemade treats for the YMCA Holiday Pantry! Many of our



members have generously contributed in the past, and we hope even more will join us this year.

All baked goods are donated, and the money raised goes directly to support the Legal Aid Clinic. The more homemade treats we provide, the more funds they can raise! The YMCA is asking for volunteers to donate four dozen or more baked items (or the equivalent). Please drop off your homemade cookies, fudge, nuts, candy, or other specialties at the YMCA on Thursday, December 5th or Friday, December 6th. No need to package them—just bring your treats in a disposable container, and other volunteers will handle the rest. If you are interested in baking, please email Ann or Linda and they will give you the contact's email. You can learn more about the Y Pantry at https://ymcahometour.org/pantry.

Let's help make this year's Holiday Pantry a sweet success!

~YMCA Holiday Pantry Bakeshop Linda Browning and Ann Leonard co-chairs



If there is someone in our AAUW Redlands branch who would benefit from a sympathy, get well, or similar type

greeting card, please contact me at the email below and I will send a card on behalf of all of us at AAUW.

~Joyce Katkov, Hospitality VP

New Member Hospitality Table

We welcome you and look forward to getting to know you! If you plan on attending a branch meeting and don't already have an acquaintance or friend to sit with, we would love for you to join us at the Hospitality table which will be labeled for your convenience.

Our greeters will also be able to direct you to the table location. We look forward to seeing you! ~Joyce Katkov & Jan Negron Hospitality VP Membership VP

New Branch Members from the Hemet-San Jacinto Branch

Our branch is excited to welcome new branch members from the Hemet-San Jacinto branch of AAUW. The HSJ branch struggled to regain their footing after Covid, and sadly had to close. In the dissolution process, HSJ branch transferred their remaining general funds to Redlands branch and gifted us with funds held by AAUW CA for prepaid Tech Trek camperships that were not used during the Covid years. Those funds will now be used by Redlands branch for our Tech Trek camperships. We are grateful to Korine Bronson and Diana Becerra for working with our branch leadership on a Memorandum of Understanding which allowed us to take ownership of these funds, and we welcome them and anyone else from the Hemet-San Jacinto area to participate in our branch activities. Through an interesting set of unexpected circumstances, our Mt. San Jacinto College STEM conference will be including girls from the Hemet school district this year, which is an exciting opportunity for our former HSJ members to participate in the AAUW mission in their area. Welcome!



How Does the Book Club Work?

Do you love to read and getting to know other AAUW members? If so, consider joining the Reading and the Rainbow book club. Members can attend either the 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm meeting on the fourth Thursday of each month. Those who cannot come in person can join the 7:00 pm session online.





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Each meeting averages a group of about 10 - 12 members and requires *three volunteers*. The *host* provides drinks and a space to meet in their home, the *cohost* brings a simple snack and a dessert, and the *facilitator* leads the book discussion.

We meet yearly in May to select the next year's books to read. Each member has the opportunity to come to the book selection meeting to propose a book for the club to read the following year. Our leaders compile the list of recommended books, and then the entire book club votes via email.

Contact a Reading and the Rainbow book club leader, Valarie Boon or Marianne Baldwin, to be added to our email list and receive the updated book club calendar each month.

~Marianne Baldwin & Valarie Boone



AAUW Fund

AAUW has provided over \$146 million in funding to women and community organizations since 1888. In 2023-24, the AAUW Funds awarded **\$6.3 million** to **285 fellows and grantees.**

The American Association of University Women is a leader in the fight for gender equity in higher education and economic empowerment for women.

The AAUW Fund is the largest source of funding for graduate women.

The application deadline is November 15. For more information on the six categories of grants and fellowships, visit

https://www.aauw.org/resources/programs/fellowshipsgrants/current-opportunities/

Branch STEM Initiatives On Track for 2025

The STEM Initiatives Committee has been meeting already this year to plan our major work for the year. We hold two STEM Conferences for 8th graders girls and we interview and select 7th grade girls for Tech Trek which is a camp in the summer. Here is a quick introduction.

On January 9, 2025, we will hold our conference at Mt San Jacinto College, serving about 300 girls. On March 4, we hold our conference at the University of Redlands, serving just under 600 girls. At each of these conferences, students will be exposed to STEM concepts and careers in workshops with professional women on a college campus. When you note the number of girls attending, you know immediately that we need your help! The girls attending the conference at Mt San Jacinto College will be coming from Banning and Hemet. The girls attending the University of Redlands conference will be from Beaumont, Redlands, and Yucaipa .

2025 Summer Tech Trek camps will be offered in virtual formal and as residential camps. The middle schools we serve for Tech Trek are Nicolet in Banning, San Gorgonio in Beaumont, Park View in Yucaipa, and Clement in Redlands. These camps get girls involved in all kinds of STEM activities. At residential camps they also experience life on a college campus.

Please consider getting involved with these terrific endeavors. You can be a Guide or Host at one or both of the conferences. You might like to be part of the planning for the conferences. You might like to help read applications for Tech Trek. Or you might like to donate to any/all of our STEM Initiatives. Our next STEM Initiatives Committee meeting will be on Saturday, November 16 at 9:00 a.m. We will meet at Kathryn Brown's home, 216 E. South Ave., Redlands.

Questions? Ask Kathryn Brown, Pam Ford, Betsy Grimes or Denise Westcott. page 2 for contact information.

Remembering Lilly Ledbetter April 14, 1938 - October 12, 2024

2013 news article submitted to the Redlands Daily Facts

Lilly Ledbetter is featured speaker for AAUW-March 5, 2013

Lilly Ledbetter worked at Goodyear Tire and Rubber for nearly 20 years and had no idea she had been underpaid until she was ready to retire in 1998. Ledbetter took her fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court and lost. The justices said in a 5-4 decision in 2007 that she should have complained when she received her first unequal paycheck – but she didn't know she was being paid unfairly at that time.

The U.S. Congress reversed that ruling two years later with the passage of the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act. The act was the first act signed by President Obama in 2009.

Ledbetter's case of gender discrimination against Goodyear was supported by AAUW. Since the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, she has steadfastly supported AAUW's mission of "advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research."

Kathy Toister & Lilly Ledbetter March 5, 2013



Ledbetter will highlight her relationship with AAUW at the AAUW's Redlands Branch dinner meeting on March 5, 2013, at 5:15 P.M. in the Casa Loma Room at the University of Redlands. At 7:30 P.M., following the dinner meeting with AAUW, Ledbetter will speak at the Memorial Chapel about her experiences. She will sign copies of her book *Grace and Grit: My Fight For Equal Pay and Fairness At Goodyear And Beyond.*

Jane Roberts, AAUW Redlands Legal Advocacy Chair, and Kathy Toister, 2013-14 Redlands branch president, invited Lilly to come to Redlands to speak at our Redlands branch meeting and at the University of Redlands.



Redlands Branch Direct Fundraising

AAUW Redlands branch does amazing work! Two STEM Conferences serving 900 girls each ye ar, multiple Tech Trek Scholarships, awards for Speech Trek, scholarships to High School graduates, NYM scholarships, and 3 college women sent to NCCWSL are all funded through our branch. How is that even possible? We have some branch fundraisers which help. The Bridge Scramble and FilmFest both raise money that can be used for any of our AAUW missions. The Holiday Boutique also raises money earmarked specifically for NYM scholarships. But these fundraisers produce less than half the money needed to cover all our mission and outreach activities. The rest of the money comes from direct fundraising: grants, sponsorship, and donations.

If you have experience writing grants, or just a passion for AAUW's mission that you would love to share, joining the direct fundraising team could really help our branch.

A few months ago, I heard a presentation by Char Burgess, an AAUW member and fundraiser extraordinaire for the University of Redlands. She told us a story of being asked by UofR to raise funds to replace the trees on the UofR commons which had to be removed because of disease. They wanted her to raise \$250,000 and just to make it a bit more challenging, she needed to do it in two weeks. No event-based fundraiser could be planned in two weeks, nor would it raise that amount of money. Instead, Char used a direct fundraising approach. She found donors who were emotionally invested in the UofR and its campus, and Char asked them to please give. And they did. She got the entire amount needed in the time frame allotted.

Similarly, I was recently at a Redlands Service Club Council meeting where various organizations come together to share what they are doing in the community. Two different organizations recently received large checks from Stater Bros Charities to help them carry out their work. These organizations explained to Stater Bros how they would use the money and Stater Bros felt it aligned with their mission and gave them the funds.

These two examples make it clear that AAUW Redlands branch can use direct fundraising more effectively. Most of our direct fundraising to date has been directed towards our STEM Initiatives. We want to expand these efforts without taking away from money that is already earmarked for STEM. We have a small core group working on this activity. They identify businesses, organizations and family foundations that have money to give and figure out the best approach to ask for the money. It is exciting work which will allow our branch to expand what we currently can do. If would like to join in this vital AAUW work, please contact Heather Abushanab to be added to the Team!! (HeatherAbu@AAUWRedlands.org)

AAUW Community Engagement



At the VIBE Health & Wellness Festival on September 29, volunteers provided information about AAUW Redlands and invited community members to attend our October membership meeting.

AAUW was represented by Marianne Baldwin, Susan Bentley, Kathryn Brown, Varonica Dixon, Kay Dobbertin, Pam Ford, Susan Miller, and Jan Negron.





Redlands Branch Honored at League of Women Voters, 49th Annual Citizens of Achievement and Civic Engagement Ceremony



Front Row L/R: Susan Burnett, Twillea Evans-Carthen (LWVSB Committee Chair), Heather Abushnanab (President of AAUW), Kathy Ervin (President of LWVSB), Cassie MacDuff, Ellen Timothy, and Nan Neighbours. Second Row L/R: Amy Bisek, Kathryn Brown, Ellen Gruenbaum, Sheron Bealer, and Kay Dobbertin.

reprinted from the awards' program

League of Women Voters of San Bernardino honored the American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Redlands the Civic Engagement Award at their 49th annual Citizens of Achievement and Civic Engagement awards ceremony on Sunday, October 6, 2024, at the Sterling Natural Resource Center in San Bernardino, California for their dedication in advancing women and girls through education, empowerment, and advocacy.

AAUW Redlands branch is best known for its STEM Initiatives, which include two annual STEM Conferences for eighth-grade girls hosted at a local college. STEM Initiatives sends selected rising eighth-grade girls to Tech Trek, a weeklong summer STEM camp held at various colleges across CA.

AAUW Redlands branch is committed to education. As such the branch has a robust partnership with University of Redlands, Crafton Hills College, and San Bernardino Valley College whose students participate in the branch at a subsidized cost.

AAUW Redlands branch is committed to empowering women. The branch uses its main fundraiser, FilmFest, to amplify the voices of women in films by bringing a set of short

films by and about women to Redlands each spring.

AAUW Redlands branch is committed to advocacy for women and uses its public policy committee to keep their members aware of important legislation affecting women at the national and state level. The committee takes part in CA Lobby Days and holds public forums that include voter education and voter registration. Congratulations to the members of AAUW Redlands Branch!

Twillea Evans-Carthen Award Committee Chair and Emcee





Two of our Redlands members, *Ellen Gruenbaum* & *Twillea Evans-Carthen*, previously received the League of Women Voter's *Citizens of Achievement and Civic Engagement Award.*



Branch Officers:

President: Heather Abushanab, **Co-Vice Presidents-Elect:** Amy Bisek & Kathryn Brown, **Communication Vice President:** Keita Wangari, **Co-Hospitality Vice Presidents:** Joyce Katkov & Keller Iuppenlatz, **Program Vice President:** Eileen Sanborn, **Membership Vice President:** Jan Negron, **Secretary:** Nan Neighbours, **Treasurer:** Sue Ferguson, **At-Large Board Members:** Twillea Evans-Carthen, Lisa McCarty, Ellen Timothy **B&T Submission:** The deadline for the **December newsletter** is **November 10th.** Send your articles to the editor via email to **news@AAUWRedlan ds.org**

Happy October Birthdays

Patricia Stubbs, Diane Shimota Amber Costa, Ellen Cope, Susan Bentley, Erica Wilson, Veronica Phillips, Joyce Katkov, Valarie Boone, and Deborah Seibly



October Branch Membership Meeting





Thank you Deborah for the wonderful, fun photos





OCTOBER MEMBERSHIP Meeting Recap

Our AAUW branch membership brunch was a great success with 114 people present including current members and 21 guests. Showcased were sign-up tables explaining all the ways we make a positive impact in our community, with committees that advance equity and education for women and girls, plus interest groups that keep us active and engaged. Three of our members, Twillea Evans-Carthen, Ellen Cope, Sheron Bealer shared their stories as they spoke on the topic, *Perspectives on AAUW Membership*. Announcements of October activities were made. (For details of the meeting, please see the attached minutes that accompany this email).



November 2024

AAUW Redlands Branch P.O. Box 7678 Redlands, CA 92375-0678

Branches and Twigs Issue 4 November 2024





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