

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue November – December 2009 - Released on November 02, 2009

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1. Upcoming Events & Attractions --- **Mark your Calendar!!**

Chinese New Year Celebration: Sunday February 14, 1:30-5:30PM

Girl Scout Convention Center at Cattlemen and Proctor in Sarasota.

Please save the date on your calendar.

Third Annual China Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections

Where: Argosy University (5250 17th Street, Sarasota, FL 34235 near I-75 & Fruitville)

When: December 8, 2009 (6:00 pm)

Registration is free, but you must register in order to attend the meeting. Limited to first 200 people.

Map:

http://maps.google.com/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=5250+17th+Street,+Sarasota,+FL+34235+&sl=37.0625,-95.677068&sspn=40.324283,91.054688&ie=UTF8&hq=&hnear=5250+17th+St,+Sarasota,+Florida+34232&ll=27.347717,-82.462478&spn=0.022147,0.04446&z=15

More information about the 6 pm -9 pm event can be accessed at <http://www.argosy.sarasota.edu/education/ChinaTownHall.html>. The national speaker at 7 pm will be Dr. Kurt M. Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. A second authoritative speaker (to be determined) will speak on site at 8 pm (following the national program).

You can also **watch a video of the 2008 China Town Hall meeting** (the national program) at the bottom left of page at <http://www.ncuscr.org/programs/cth>.

To register for this free event, you must provide the following info: Names of attendees, address, phone number and email address(s) and email the info to relliott@argosy.edu. You must include **China**

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Sponsors

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **Feng Shui advisor-practitioner, Gigi Freeman**, member of GCAA since 2005, now available for consultations for those interested. Gigi has been practicing Feng

Town Hall in the subject area of your email for it to be delivered to the right mail box.

Saturday Chinese Feature Film Series

Where: Ringling College of Art and Design: Goldstein 5 – see more detailed instruction below.

When: as shown in the following schedule. Please note that show times are variable.

Admission is FREE, thanks to Dr. Carolyn Bloomer.

November 14

1:30 pm **The Peacock** 孔雀 / Kongque
Director, Gu Changwei, 2005. 142 min.

Divided into three separate narratives, this beautifully photographed film traces the sad lives of three siblings as they emerge into adulthood in a small town in the 1970s and 80s. The eldest son is obese and mentally damaged, an outcast. The middle child, a daughter, is energetic and persistent in pursuing her goals, yet constantly meets failure. The youngest, shy and quiet, is deeply ashamed of his older brother and breaks away from the family.

December 5

1:30 pm **Peking Opera**
China Intercontinental Communication Center, 2003. 30 min.

This brief program introduces various aspects of producing Beijing Opera, including make-up, musical training, movement training, costumes, and set design.

2:15 pm **Fleeing by Night** 夜奔 / Ye ben
Directors, Hsu Li-Kong, Yin Chi, China/Taiwan, 2000. 119 min.

An exquisite film set in Tianjin in the 1930s involving a triangular relationship between a young woman, her fiancé (a cellist who has been studying music in the US), and a male Kun opera lead. The three develop a deep and complex friendship that takes many twists and turns as it endures across many years and hardships. Won Best Film at the Aspen Gay and Lesbian Film Festival -- but its transcendence of gender issues has captivated both gay and straight audiences with its artistry and complexity.

Series is designed by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer to support her

Shui for more than 20 years under the guidance of her Chinese-Filipino-Spanish father who was knowledgeable in Feng Shui principles. She has a certificate from the New York School of Feng Shui where she studied Classical Feng Shui focused on the Compass School and Form School. Feng Shui aims to balance the environment in your home or office, very much like an "acupuncture of your living or work space" to achieve harmony in your life, promote prosperity, success, good health, and good relationships. Gigi has lived most of her life in Asia and Mexico; she moved to Venice, Florida in 2004 with her Cuban-Canadian husband, Larry. You may call her at (941) 484-3917 or (941) 932-1642 for appointments.

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **J&K Kitchen & Bath, 4141 Tamiami Trail S.** Sarasota, FL 34231
Phone: (941) 922-6981
Mobile: 646-831-8181
email : jk58inc@hotmail.com

The new owners, Mr. KongBiao Ni and Ms. JinXing Yang, started their business in January 2007 They warmly welcomes GCAA members and friends with a 20% discount. If you are planning a remodeling or building a custom home, put J&K to work for you. They are also hiring sales staff. If you are a good salesperson

Cultural Beliefs course *Modern China*, and is co-sponsored by the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and the Sarasota Chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. For more information contact: cbloomer@Ringling.edu.

Location: Films will be screened on the campus of Ringling College of Art and Design in Goldstein 5, located on the south side of Martin Luther King Boulevard southwest of the Selby Gallery, in area #26 on the campus map available on line at <http://www.ringling.edu/fileadmin/pdf/CampusMap.pdf>. You will need to enter Goldstein 5 from the east side of the building. Security officers are alerted to the possibility of film attendees looking for Goldstein 5 -- so do not hesitate to ask them for directions, or use one of the numerous security call-boxes on campus. The screening location will be moved to the new Academic Building (#31) on the South Campus as soon as that facility becomes available.

Monthly Social:

<http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org/gcaa/event.html>

Our December Monthly Social will be held on Sunday December 6th at 5:30PM at Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699) 4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota. At the southeast intersection with McIntosh in Sarasota. Please come early at 4:30PM and join our volunteers in their planning for our Chinese New Year Celebration which will be held on February 14, 2010 from 2P to 5P at the Girl Scout Convention Center at the NW intersection of Proctor & Cattlemen in Sarasota. Mark your calendar now!

2. Association News and Activity Reports

We bid a fond "farewell" and give our sincere thanks to our Treasurer TongXiang Deng who has relocated to Tampa. Please do come back, TongXiang, visit us and join in our activities and programs!

Taking over as our new Treasurer is Marilyn Sylvestre, CPA, who is also a professor of accounting. Thank you, Marilyn, for your volunteer spirit!! Marilyn joined GCAA on the day we held our Dragon Boat Festival and she immediately pitched in to help on the serving line. What a trooper! Marilyn is a FCC parent with two teenage daughters attending Pine View School. This issue of the Newsletter features a poem by one of Marilyn's daughters.

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration on October 4, 2009

and have computer skills, please call Ms. Yang as soon as possible.

GCAA acknowledges with sincere thanks the generous support and sponsorship of the **Marco Polo Restaurant** in our past annual CNY and MAF festivities.

The Marco Polo International Buffet & Grill is located at 549 US Highway 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34292 in Bird Bay Plaza (near Big Lots), just south of the bifurcation of Business 41. Tel: 941-412-3988. When you visit the restaurant for their wide selection of seafood (including crawdad, oyster and crab) and Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese and Italian food, please say hello to the owners: Mr. & Mrs. Lau and let them know GCAA appreciates their support.

Job Wanted

FCC parent of 2 adopted girls seeks employment. Extensive experience as award winning graphics artist and designer and creative ad director for Fortune 500 clients as well as small businesses. Also all around handyman. Willing to do anything to support my family. Please call 941-266-1882 or email JFlyer2@aol.com. Thanks.

Recommended Services

GCAA celebrated the 2009 Mid-Autumn Festival (MAF) on October 4 at Twin Lakes Park. The traditional holiday is best known for the legend of a beautiful woman, Chang Er and a type of delicious confectionary, Moon Cake. It falls on the fifteenth day of the Eighth Month in the Chinese lunar year, when the moon is full and at its most radiant state during the whole year. So it is easy to remember this holiday as the full moon day between September and October.

It was one of the good times when we got together and enjoyed one fine Florida afternoon in a communal fashion. We were also lucky to have an obligingly cool October day (or was our sense of the temperature cooled down by our fond memories?). About 100 members attended this MAF event. While it was a joyous occasion for old friends to get reunited and exchange their stories, we were also delighted to have some new members joining GCAA. A warm welcome especially to the students at New College who are members of the China Club. The kids had the most fun, as is always the case, in playing competitive games, having their faces painted, and posing for pictures. On top of all that, we had also enjoyed delicious Chinese food. Our members brought their favorite entrées to share with our fellow members and as usual, we finished up all the delicious food.

We would like to thank all our volunteers (including students from New College) for their great effort in making the event fun and successful. Special thanks go to May Thomas for the lovely MAF decorations, Nancy Milholland for kids' games, Gigi and Irene for face painting, and China 1 restaurant for its generous donation of food.

3. Census 2010, and its Enormous Importance to the Asian American Community

Drs. Edward and Suzanna Lin attended a two-day Census 2010 Summit held in Tampa in August this year. Dr. Edward Lin is also a Director for 80-20 Initiative which is an organization working to achieve equal opportunity and justice for all Asian Americans (AsAm). Here is their report:

Contrary to misconception, the 2010 Census is **especially important** to Asian Americans (AsAm) and directly impacts our lives and our future.

Every 10 years, the US government is required under the constitution to conduct a census count of the persons (**NOT** of citizens, since census has no relationship to citizenship) in the US. This crucial information is used:

Certified Inspection for Hurricane-Resistant Home Discount

If you have purchased a hurricane resistant home or made structural improvements to your home (hurricane shutters and straps, reinforced trusses, etc.) to render it hurricane resistant, you may be entitled to substantial discounts from your homeowner's insurance carrier. However, a written inspection report by a My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspector, architect, engineer or general building contractor is required. Our GCAA member and FCC parent, Jamie Milholland is one of a few My-Safe-Florida-Home-certified home inspectors in our area. Dr. Lin saved a significant amount on his homeowner's insurance and recommends you look into whether or not you may qualify for similar savings. Give Jamie a call at 941-362-4862.

Stitches

Looking a good local seamstress for all your alteration needs, or looking for some embroidery work to be done? Well, look no further! Sara

- 1) to distribute \$400 BILLION EACH YEAR in federal funds to state and local government for construction, services and other contracts.
- 2) to make decisions about what community services to provide such as transportation, education, ethnic and minority services, etc.
- 3) to determine congressional seats to states. The greater the population, the more congressional representation and federal dollars back to our community.
- 4) in the enforcement of equal opportunity laws such as **Executive Order 11246** that affect your employment and promotions;

According to Census 2000, 266,256 Asians were in Florida, out of 10 millions in the U.S. After Census 2000, Florida jumped in Asian population ranking from 23rd in 1990 to 8th highest in 2000. Now, Florida's Asian population is projected to exceed 400,000, with a national count of over 15.2 million.

In Census 2000, Florida's final mail response rate was 63%. This low response rate has directly hurt our state and community by sharply undercutting our share of federal revenue. **An undercount not only reduces our congressional representation, it also means fewer roads, hospitals, schools, and smaller federal dollars. It results in flawed planning from incorrect data. Participation in the census is required by law and is everyone's civic duty.** For Census 2010, the government is spending \$300 million in advertising to encourage participation in the Census. **Let's all do our part to ensure a correct count.**

In 1965, President Johnson signed **EO11246**, requiring equal employment opportunity and promotion in the workplace. This law has resulted in enormous career advancement and social progress for Blacks, Hispanics and women in the past 44 years. However, **it has NOT been enforced for AsAms.**

80-20 Initiative, the largest AsAm PAC, has toiled on AsAms' behalf for 10 years and succeeded in obtaining written commitment from President Obama to finally enforce this law and remedy other inequities.

Under EO11246 (which does NOT work on and is not a quota system), any entity (from hospitals to universities, city governments to corporations) with 50 or more employees and receiving directly or indirectly \$50,000 or more in federal contracts, must demonstrate that there is no "underutilization" of ethnic minorities and women in its hiring pool. Underutilization is defined as "having fewer minorities or women in a particular job group than would reasonably be expected by their availability."

Therefore, under EO11246, IF AsAm were evenly represented across the hiring pool, then approximately 5% of its jobs

Malave, a FCC parent and magna cum laude graduate of Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising can help. Stitches is a home owned business that has been in operation since 1998. She also offers sewing camps for children at various times throughout the year. Call 366-4406 with any questions or for an appointment.

First National Travel

I have a top notch travel agent I'd like to recommend:
Toni Liang of FNTC (FIRST NATIONAL TRAVEL)

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530 0840 or 800-
888-0208

FAX : 678 530
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Email:
toni.liang@att.net

Who to contact about what

General info and past issues of Newsletters:
www.GulfcoastChina.com

across all ranks should have been made available to AsAm—or the funding will cease. That means not just 5% AsAm in clerical and lower level positions, but also top managers, directors, vice presidents, department heads, tenured professors, top military officers, federal judges, etc. In reality, because of variable representation in hiring pool (higher than 5% in science, technology and law and lower than 5% in clerical), the actual representation will vary accordingly. To learn more, go to:
<http://www.dol.gov/esa/OFCCP/regs/compliance/aa.htm>

When EO11246 is enforced, over 800,000 AsAm will shatter the bamboo ceiling with enormous socioeconomic as well as political ripple effect across our community. This is yet another reason why we need to participate fully in Census 2010.

Instead of AsAm facing the daunting task of suing their employers individually for discrimination, the might of the Government will put the burden instead on employers to prove that it is in compliance with EO11246 across its ranks.

Census questionnaires will be due by Census Day, **April 1, 2010**. If you don't return your completed questionnaire by mail by the due date, it is likely that your household will be visited by census takers between April 2010 and July 2010. After literally knocking at your door, the census taker will try to get the same information from you or another member of your household as you could have provided by completing the form. To avoid this, complete the form promptly upon receiving it in the mail. It'll also save our government the high cost of following up on incomplete or uncompleted forms.

The Dept. of Labor has voluminous data that shows gross underutilization of AsAm in the work place. The numbers have been analyzed by DOL statistician Ronald Edwards. Here is one of the latest proof of inequity, this time in the scientific arena. The chart below shows a salary survey that is published in the September 2009 issue of *The Scientist*.

seAmerican.org for updates

Info and articles to be included in upcoming issues of Newsletter
Editor, Jing Ma
jing_ma@hotmail.com

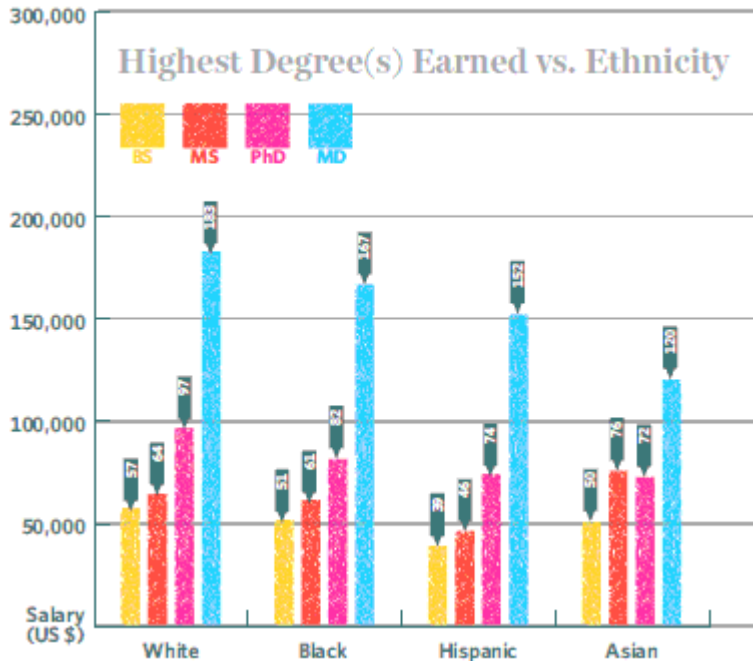
Matters relating to GCAA programs
Jason Guan
guanguoming@yahoo.com, 941-379-4180

Matters relating to membership and how to join
VP of Membership, May Thomas
Co1076@yahoo.com, 941-322-9220
Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung
elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

Matters relating to monthly socials
Irene Leung,
Secretary irenel@post.com, 646-251-7714

GCAA website
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org
Barry Zhang,
WebMaster: bzhang@comcast.net
Asst. WebMaster
John
Zhu juntaozhu15@yahoo.com

Questions about monthly Chinese movie series:
Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer,
cmbloomer@comcast.net (941) 351-0995



The reported average salaries for Asian Ph.Ds and MDs are the **lowest** when compared with all other Americans. That for Asian MS-holders happens to be the highest. That contradiction leads to a question of whether the data are reliable.

80-20 communicated with The Scientists. We found that the combined sample sizes in the 3 categories of BS, MS and MD in the Asian survey is only a puny 150 persons. That means that those 3 reported numbers are statistically quite uncertain.

However, the sample size for Asian Ph.Ds is 480 which is statistically large enough to say that Asian Ph.Ds in life sciences definitely have the lowest average salary. Why are Asian Ams in the "lowest" categories so often, in spite of having the highest educational attainment? **Do we not owe it to ourselves, our children and our nation to rectify this inequity? Become a dues-paying member of 80-20 today and do your part to support our fight for equality.**

Although many AsAms have achieved economic prosperity, our participation in the decision-making processes in this nation, whether it is in the courtroom, boardroom, or either chamber of Congress, is still disproportionately low. Only this year did we get the first Chinese American in congress, Rep. Dr. Judy Chu of California. There are many things we can do to improve this situation, and trying to get as accurate a count of Asian Americans as possible in the upcoming 2010 Census

Other issues:
 Dr. Sean Kuang,
 President xkuang1@lsu.edu, 941-538-8525

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 Your email address will be promptly removed from the list of ALL GCAA newsletters and other electronic notifications.

is certainly one of them.

You can find more information about the 2010 Census at the following two governmental websites:



Asian Americans are still woefully underrepresented in many professions. In 1988, only 0.8% of federal judges were Asian American when our ethnicity represented 2.73% of the total U.S. population. In 2009, despite a near doubling of the Asian American population to 5.2%, AsAm federal judges comprise a mere 0.93%. This actually represents a big **decrease** in the proportional representation of Asian Americans in the federal judiciary. This is especially damning considering that nearly 6% of AsAms are in the legal profession and many are respected legal scholars. Out of 863 federal judges, not ONE is on the appellate court, although through 80-20's intervention this year, Judge Denny Chin who currently serves on a New York District Court has been nominated to serve on the Appellate/Circuit Court. For more info, visit: <http://80-20initiative.blogspot.com/2009/09/table-to-remember.html>

[In other news...](#)

On October 22 2009, the Senate approved the FY 2010 Department of Defense Authorization Conference Report, which contains the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act, by a vote of 68-28. The act will allow federal authorities to pursue hate crimes cases when local authorities are either unable or unwilling to do so.

This ground-breaking legislation protects those who are attacked due to their race, color, religion or national origin and

also enables federal prosecution of bias-motivated crimes based on the victim's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender, or disability.

According to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund, APAs (Asian Pacific Americans) are often vulnerable to hate crimes, and the Associated Press found that APA students say they are often beaten, threatened, and called ethnic slurs by other young people. School safety data suggest that the problem may be worsening.

4. Feature Articles and Helpful Information

Swine Flu: Eight myths that could endanger your life

The following excerpt is from *New Scientist*. This article may have useful information on the H1N1 virus that you may not know.

The second wave of the swine flu pandemic is now under way in the northern hemisphere. Case numbers are climbing fast and in some places vaccination has begun.

So what's the big deal? The virus hasn't evolved into the monster [that some feared](#) and most cases are mild. Were all those [pandemic warnings](#) just [scare-mongering](#)?

The Butcher family of Southampton, UK, wouldn't say so. In August, their daughter [Madelynne](#), 18, became sick and short of breath after returning from a holiday. Two weeks later, she died in hospital.

Neither would the Parker family of Baltimore, Maryland. In September, their healthy 14-year-old daughter Destinée started having trouble breathing within minutes of arriving at school. She was rushed to hospital. A week later she was dead.

There has been complacency-mongering, too. This pandemic is very far from the worst-case scenario, but it is not normal flu either. Many more people than usual will catch flu this year. The vast majority will be fine but some of us, including young, otherwise healthy people, will die. You can help protect yourself and your family by learning the [latest on swine flu](#), from how to spot a serious case to the facts about the vaccines.

[You can see detailed information about each of the following "myths" by clicking (while pressing the "ctrl" key on your keyboard) on each of them.]

MYTH 1: The symptoms are like regular flu. You've got it if you've got a fever

MYTH 2: This is just mild flu. The death rates are even lower than for normal flu

MYTH 3: You're safe as long as you're healthy. Only sick, weak people get really ill

MYTH 4: I'll be OK if I just eat organic food, take vitamins, wear a mask, wash my hands a lot and drink plenty of fluids

MYTH 5: It's OK now because we have a vaccine. In fact, we have several

MYTH 6: The vaccine isn't safe. Why take the risk to prevent mild flu?

MYTH 7: This virus won't get deadlier - that isn't in a germ's interests

MYTH 8: Once this pandemic is over we'll be safe for another few decades

You can also find useful information on how to deal with the H1N1 virus at GCAA's own website, <http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org/gcaa/index.html> (near the bottom of the page).

Poem from an Adoptee

November is National Adoption Month and we are proud to feature a poem written by Meilyn, a Pine View student and daughter of Marilyn Sylvestre, CPA, who is our new treasurer.

Adoptee's Odyssey

I was born on *Selfless Island*, the one shaped like a baby, into the birthing mother's hands.
But my dear young mother could not treat me as her own,
So she gave me to a place where she knew that someone would.
Giving away her flesh and blood, hurting herself to prevent hurting me, a selfless act indeed.

I was sent to *Commitment Island*, where the land meets the river, the rich fertile valley it is.

My mother was so kind in opening her arms to me, embracing her new daughter

Following through with the demands of the Chinese government

Mind set and determined on adding another person to love in her life.

But the sudden switch of islands was met by resistance
By none other than me, refusing to bend to the will of the waves and water.

I washed up upon the *Island of Plane*, shaped like a whale,
Here I discovered to flow with the current, letting it lead me where it may.

When I followed the path of the river, I was on the West side
Having travelled from East to West, left to right.
A boat weaving its way through an intricate maze of paths.

I made my way to *Pugsy Island*, shaped like a bone,
Where I received a bundle of brown and white,
With fur as smooth and soft as running water if one could freeze it

As it flowed from the tap and onto one's hands.

I floated down Responsibility River, which winded through the land,

Like a gymnast's ribbon curling through air.

Unbeknownst to me, Pugsy had yet to be trained

If I failed to stop often enough, a little present would be waiting for me

Upon the ship's smooth deck

A gentle glass of water is smoothly broken by the hull of the ship

As elementary years breeze by, driving me forward.

Pushy, overzealous mothers attack the ship once the rapids of teen years strike

Like piranhas after meat, biting and refusing to let go,

Whilst avoiding the mood rocks submerged in the water.

Friendship Island, like two separate islands, joined by a single strip of land

Like a pair of hands being held together, never letting go, never giving up

As a friend does after an argument—hold fast and strong, keeping it together

Allowing others to join in your show and tell.

College Island looms ahead as sailors shout "land ho"
Multiple docking points sprinkling the edge

Prepared to drink boats into their port
And lead them to the heart of the land
Just to spit them back out years later
Into the tumults of life.

Here I am, my old life gone, but a new one ahead
Unsure of my final destination, unsure of my direction, East or
West
Unsure of the place I would hold in life.

The Chinese Consulate-General in Houston Plans to Visit Miami in November 2009

As of October 31, 2009, the Chinese Consulate-General in Houston has not updated its initial March 2009 notice about its plan to visit Miami to accept passport and other applications. When its update does come out, we will post the detailed information at the GCAA website.

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