OMNI

UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE,
SEPTEMBER 21, 2016


Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace, Justice, and Ecology

http://omnicenter.org/donate/

Looking Ahead:

October
Oct 7th – US Invasion of Afghanistan (2001)
Oct 13th – Indigenous People’s Day (watch for announcements of UAF events)
Oct 9th– Oct 24th – Maine Walk For Peace

November
Nov 6th – UN Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
Nov 11th – Armistice Day: 11 Bells For Peace
Nov 20th-22nd – SOAW 25th Anniversary Vigil at Fort Benning, GA
Nov 25th – UN Day for Elimination of Violence Against Women

December
Dec 10th – Human Rights Day
Dec 24th – Christmas Truce [1914]

OMNI’S NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT

Contents: UN International Day of Peace Newsletter Sept. 21, 2016

What’s Happening in Arkansas for the UN International Day of Peace
Frank Scheide, UN International Day of Peace Week at University of Arkansas
Bob Estes, UN International Day of Peace Week at Little Rock, Arkansas Peace and Justice Center (APJC)

Don’t Miss Swanson’s Call for Peace Action (he is founder of World Beyond War and author of six books for peace, including War Is a Lie, War No More, The Military Industrial Complex, When the World Outlawed War, and Daybreak: Undoing the Imperial Presidency)

David Swanson, What You Can Do to End War on the International Day of Peace
UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE WEEK

Community Invited to Observe International Day of Peace

Sep. 16, 2016
FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. – The University of Arkansas will observe the United Nations’ International Day of Peace, with four days of events for the campus and Northwest Arkansas community.

Wednesday, Sept. 21 is the official Day of Peace, and a panel has been assembled to discuss “Connecting Communities.” Panelists include representatives of the local Black Lives Matter group, immigration reform advocates, tribal communities’ leaders and a variety of religious groups.

The panel discussion is free and all are welcome. It will be held from 4:45-5:45p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 21 in Willard Walker Hall, room 218. A reception will follow the discussion.

This event is sponsored by the U of A Center for Multicultural and Diversity Education and the Omni Center for Peace, Justice and Ecology.

The four-day observance began Monday, Sept. 19 with a presentation at the Temple by Adolphe Nysenholc, author of “War Mother”, a semi-autobiographical play about the Holocaust.
Tuesday, Sept. 20 the Native American Symposium Committee presented a Reader’s Theatre production of “War Mother” at 7 p.m. in Giffels Auditorium. Nysenholic ed his play and his heritage as a Holocaust survivor during a question and answer session after the reading.

The Peace Day observances end with two events on Sept. 22, both presented by the Native American Symposium Committee. From 5-6 p.m. there will be a panel discussion of Kiowa Culture at the Faulkner Performing Arts Center. This will be followed by the 7 p.m. screening of the recently rediscovered 1920 docudrama “The Daughter of Dawn”, accompanied by the Mont Alto Motion Picture Orchestra, in the Faulkner Performing Arts Center.

For the full program:
in our communities.

During Arkansas Peace Week, we plan activities to educate and promote peace and justice and raise awareness of organizations working to build a lasting peace in Arkansas. The lessons learned and relationships formed during Arkansas Peace Week create a foundation for continuing a sustainable peace throughout the year.

Arkansas Peace Week is planned in observance of the United Nation’s International Day of Peace on September 21, and in coordination with the nationwide Campaign Non-Violence Week of Actions.

Please visit our website www.arkansaspeaceweek.com or Facebook Group www.facebook.com/groups/ArPeaceWeek/ for the latest information. Email arpeaceweek@gmail.com or call Bob Estes at 501-666-3784 with questions.

What You Can Do to End War on the International Day of Peace

By David Swanson, telesur


If you want to find peace in your heart, knock yourself out. Seriously, knock yourself out, there's nothing more peaceful. Or if you want to find peace in your family or your neighborhood, or on the sidelines of a football game during the playing of the National Anthem, there may be no better way to do it than to pledge your allegiance to permanent war on poor foreign countries.

A school board member in Virginia once agreed to support a celebration of the International Day of Peace "as long as everyone understands that I'm not opposing any wars."

But what if you want to find peace through the abolition of war? Then what do you do? Well, then you do the long, hard, exciting, fulfilling, nonviolent, community building work that may very well bring peace to everything from your heart to your local police department in the process, but which is aimed at reducing and eliminating the arms trade and militarism.

Have you noticed how outraged U.S. liberals can become when they discover that the U.S. National Anthem has various ties to racism? Imagine! A song that celebrates the mass slaughter of human beings during an inane quest to take over Canada (which instead got the White House burned) -- that glorious treasure might be marred by a cruel and unenlightened ideology!
Did you see the [news story](#) this week about the U.S. government compensating the family of an Italian they'd blown up in a war with a payment of $1 million? What if Iraqis were given that treatment? As many families are gone entirely, let's round down to 1 million victims with survivors left to be compensated. What's a million times $1 million? It's $1 trillion. What the U.S. government spends on militarism in 1 year could treat Iraqis as if they were Europeans. The next year's funding could start in on compensating Afghans, Pakistanis, Yemenis, Libyans, Somalis, Syrians, etc.

There is an educational project needed that you can help with. It involves persuading people that war can't be mended, that it must be ended. You might begin by sitting out a playing of the National Anthem and then explaining to people why. If you don't want to do that alone, do it with a small group. If you don't have a small group, Campaign Nonviolence has over 650 nonviolent war-abolition events of all sorts planned all over the place this week. [Find the nearest event](#).

For more events all over the world, check out our [events page](#) at World Beyond War. There are art exhibitions, ship voyages, anti-nuclear lobby events, protest rallies, vigils, conferences, festivals, and long-distance walks.

Have you ever dreamed of seeing a peace movement, much less a war abolition movement, on television? Now you can. On September 23rd and 24th point your web browser to [TheRealNews.com](#) and hook your computer up to your television screen to see the [No War 2016](#) conference. (Or just watch it on your computer.) Here's the [detailed agenda](#) of what you'll see at what time, and [bios and photos](#) of all the speakers. This event will be three days of making the case for alternatives to war, including activist workshops on the third day, and on the next morning (Monday, the 26th) a 9 a.m. [protest at the Pentagon](#). Come join us!

We will also be delivering to the Pentagon a [petition](#) simultaneously being delivered by U.S. whistleblowers and Germans to the German government in Berlin asking for the closure of Ramstein Air Base. On the 23rd/24th you can also catch a live stream World Beyond War [event](#) from Malaysia. Other events all over the world will be viewing the live stream from Washington, D.C., including this one in [Berlin](#). Protests are also planned on the 26th in [California](#), at [West Point](#), and in [Australia](#).

Wherever you are, you should catch a screening of [Paying the Price for Peace](#) and of [Snowden](#). The [International Peace Bureau World Congress](#) is in Berlin from September 29 to October 3rd. If you can be in [Ireland](#) or [England](#) or [Germany](#), join the big events on October 8th. Keep Space for Peace Week is October 1 to 8, and has events [everywhere](#).

You can always organize your own event anywhere, and World Beyond War will be glad to help you promote it. If you are looking for a tool for studying, teaching, or leading discussions, we're just now publishing the 2016 version of [A Global Security System: An Alternative to War](#). Or use any of [these](#) videos, power points, or speakers.

Want to lobby the U.S. government for something immediately achievable? Call Congress and tell them to
halt the next pending sale of weapons to Saudi Arabia to be used killing people in Yemen. Sign this petition too. There is also an opportunity right now to ban cluster bombs, and after those nuclear bombs.

If you're convinced that activism is best directed at the edges of a broken presidential election system, here's a useful approach: demand that debates, like the one on September 26th, include more candidates, so that the pro-war consensus gets challenged.

Another debate is underway in the world right now on the question of whether "Just War" theory is of any value. Even the Catholic Church, the creator of Just War theory, is debating whether to formally reject it. I've just published my argument on the topic and will be debating a Just War advocate in October. Get involved in this discussion. Ask someone on September 21st, the International Day of Peace, whether they'd like there to be peace everywhere every day. Ask them if they'd like to help make that happen.

Also, you can join a skype call with Afghan peace activists on September 21st.

There is peace in most places most of the time. Adding the last bit of the earth to that peaceful status would not violate any laws of nature. It would only violate the irrational drives and profiting greed of those who oppose peace. This will take more than a day, but we can do it.

Sign the Declaration of Peace.

Find events all over the world that you can take part in.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter.

Support World Beyond War's work by clicking here.

VETERANS FOR PEACE

September 21st International Peace Day

This year, Veterans For Peace is collaborating with Campaign Nonviolence to bring people together across the country and around the world during CNV Week of Actions September 18-25th. We are encouraging members and chapters to take action through demonstrations, vigils, marches and other kinds of nonviolent actions for peace. Together, we will join our voices from around the planet to support a global nonviolent shift for peace!

As determined by the United Nations, the Day’s theme for 2016 is “The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace.” If you are looking for action ideas for your event check out the full list of plans here and be sure to read these action ideas list as well. Let us know about your action by filling out the blue box on the CNV actions page here if you haven't done so yet, or just reply to this email and we'll get you listed!
Veterans For Peace is also a co-sponsor of No War 2016: Real Security Without Terrorism conference, happening September 23rd-25th in Washington DC and hosted by World Beyond War. Find out more details on the World Beyond War website. If you are thinking about attending, please register now! If you would like a packet of tabling materials or if you have any ideas for taking action in upcoming months, please e-mail casey@veteransforpeace.org.

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THIS MESSAGE WAS EXPANDED IN THE SUMMER 2015 NUMBER OF VFP’S NEWSLETTER, “VFP Celebrates International Peace Day” by Michael McPhearson. It was accompanied by an article by Ellen Barfield, “‘International Peace Day,’” a brief but important essay. It is divided into two parts. One: an explanation of the nature and importance of the UN IPD for arousing the world to the struggle against wars, especially that it is a UN initiative; and two: an effort to join to that struggle the even more important struggle to reduce CLIMATE change, especially at this time of the Pope’s visit. Barfield emphasizes “the Pentagon’s massive fossil fuel consumption.” These two extraordinarily urgent, inseparable problems lead her to urge VFP chapters and us all to pay attention to November 6, the UN International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict. For this Day, VFP has a new banner: STOP THE WARS, STOP THE WARMING. --Dick

If you would like a packet of tabling materials or if you have any ideas for taking action in upcoming months, please e-mail casey@veteransforpeace.org.

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Sowing the culture of peace: The International Day of Peace

DAVID ADAMS, CULTURE OF PEACE NEWS NETWORK, HTTP://DECADE-CULTURE-OF-PEACE.ORG/BLOG/

Posted on September 7, 2012

When I went to work in Mozambique on behalf of UNESCO to help develop a national culture of peace program in the early 90’s, my African friends criticized the European notion of building a culture of peace. “No, they told me, you don’t build a culture of peace. You cultivate it.” The culture of war, on the other hand, is built. Empires and their states are built on fear through domination, exploitation, control of information, and the development and use (or threat) of armed force.
Economic enterprises are constructed within this shield. Entire economic systems are built, eventually to be ruled by speculation. As a result the culture of war is not sustainable. Fear is eventually overcome by courage, and the truth eventually will out. Arms production exhausts the economy. And speculation, like a house of cards, eventually crashes. From time to time, these spectacular, unsustainable institutions collapse and leave space for the sustainable processes of culture.

And so human history, human culture, slowly, by fits and starts, makes its way forward. Culture is not a state of being, but a process. It is not static, but dynamic. It is not built but cultivated. As stated in the UN Declaration on a Culture of Peace (UN Resolution A-53-243), it consists of “values, attitudes, traditions and modes of behavior and ways of life.” It is a social, not an individual process. It is not “inner peace.” Instead, it is political in the sense that Aristotle meant when he began his greatest work with “Man is a political animal”, linking the word “political” to “polis,” the city.
The process is not steady. We may plant seeds and fail to see the results afterwards. We may harvest fruit and have to wait for the winter before planting again. But slowly, over time, the culture grows – that is our theme and our hope for the future.

There is a terrible urgency to what we are doing. We know from history that when empires crash, there is great suffering, and there is an immediate cry to rebuild the structures of the culture of war that are stronger than ever – what is known as fascism. If we are not prepared at that moment to make the transition from a culture of war to a culture of peace, we will risk a transition to fascism.

To help us attain universality for the culture of peace we need to continue involving the United Nations in this process. Even though it is now controlled by states with their cultures of war, the time will come when we can reclaim the United Nations, as the Charter says, in the name of “We the peoples….”

UNITED NATIONS AND CULTURE OF PEACE
David Adams, Posted on October 1, 2012
My ten years working in the United Nations system left me with a sweet and sour taste. The sweet side was the universality of the UN, both its staff and mandate, and its great significance for raising the consciousness of the peoples of the world. The sour side was the jealousy of the Member States who make sure that the UN does not encroach on their freedom to rule over their own citizens, as well as people in other countries that they may dominate through neo-colonial relations. This became crystal-clear to me when the United States delegate, during the informal meetings of the UN General Assembly in 1999, opposed the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, saying that it would make it more difficult for them to start a war. In fact, throughout history, war (call it “defense” if you prefer) has always
been the most fundamental “right” of the state. With this in mind, I have been pleasantly surprised by the extent to which the UN system has once again taken up the culture of peace as a priority, as shown in this month’s CPNN Bulletin, just as it was a priority in the Year 2000 when I was the director of the UN International Year for the Culture of Peace. Of course, this does not happen by chance, and great credit belongs to two men who played key roles for the Year 2000, Federico Mayor Zaragoza, who made the culture of peace a priority of UNESCO, and Anwarul Chowdhury, who played the role of midwife at the UN General Assembly, guiding the culture of peace resolution through nine months of opposition by the powerful states. Once again, this last month, these two men motivated and spoke eloquently at the High Level Forum on a Culture of Peace at the UN. As always it was the countries of the South who supported the initiative (see the CPNN article of September 24 and its discussion), but at least this month it was not blocked by the powerful states.

In fact, it is my impression that the powerful states pay less and less attention to the United Nations. When there was a financial crisis a few years ago, the powerful states did not turn to the UN agencies, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, but set up their own temporary system of finance ministers. When it came time for the review of nuclear non-proliferation, President Obama held his own meeting with heads of state in Washington and ignored the UN conference where the only head of state to speak was that of Iran. And the US has pulled out of UNESCO entirely, forcing drastic cuts in its budget.

In fact, the lack of attention by the powerful states may provide the UN system with an opportunity to push the agenda of the culture of peace without their opposition. Let us hope that the UN can take advantage of this.

Of course, in the long run, the UN, or any other institution, cannot mandate a culture of peace. Instead, the culture of peace can only grow from the consciousness, both understanding and action, of the peoples of the world (see last month’s blog below). That’s why the role of the UN for consciousness-raising is ultimately its greatest contribution!

Africa’s Contribution to a Culture of Peace
David Adams, Posted on August 5, 2012
It is not by accident that there is so much news from Africa for a culture of peace (see CPNN bulletin for August). It reflects their cultural history. Like people on other continents, the Africans always had culture of war at a tribal level, but with the exception of the Nile River Valley, they did not use war to create empires until the arrival of the Arabs and the Europeans. And even then the division of Africa into warring nation-states was imposed by the Europeans.

Instead of the authority of empires, pre-colonial Africa was ordered by effective peace-making traditions of dialogue and mediation at the community level, often called the “palabre” (word). They were based on respect for the elders (both men and women) and compromise among the many animist spiritual forces, unlike the supreme authority of monotheism imported by the Arabs and Europeans.
These traditions re-emerged during the freedom struggle in South Africa, both in the Peace Process involving local peace committees and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission which was presided over by Bishop Tutu. And this month on CPNN, we see it re-emerging in the peace process in Somalia and the Gacaca commission in Rwanda, not to mention the work of the Elders, an initiative that was launched several years ago by Nelson Mandela in the African peace-making tradition. We also see it in recent CPNN articles on a culture of peace featuring African women, artists, especially musicians, educators and journalists. Wouldn’t it be great if the commercial media of the North could imitate the media in Africa that are dedicated to news for a culture of peace!

I say that the traditions are “re-emerging” because they were largely suppressed by the Europeans when the conquered Africa. We came face to face with this when I was working at UNESCO and we started working on a National Culture of Peace Program for Burundi. In pre-colonial times, there was a tradition of the Bashingantahe, elders who did mediation and peace-making. But they were systematically assassinated by the colonial power. After all, peace-making is a kind of power since it unites people, and it is difficult to conquer a people that is united. So what we did was to seek out a few Bashingantahe who were still functioning and help them to train a new generation. As far as I know this initiative is still underway almost 20 years later.

I was at UNESCO during the years when the freedom movement of South Africa succeeded in creating a non-racist government, and we wanted to find financing to keep the Peace Process going, since it needed to be independent of the government. Unfortunately, it was not possible to find money and the institutions lapsed. However, the lessons gained at that time are still bearing fruit throughout Africa, and hopefully we will learn from them throughout the world.

In conclusion, we should recognize that the African people, with their unique peace-making traditions, can make a major contribution to the world historical transition to a culture of peace. It remains to be seen how this may take place in the coming tumultuous years. One thing seems certain to me – that it will not take place at the level of state power. We have seen recently that the African elder, Kofi Annan, was unable to apply African peace-making methods to the situation in Syria. He resigned because his advice was not heeded by the Europeans and Americans who preferred a military “solution.” We have seen this before: 20 years ago Mohamed Sahnoun, the Algerian diplomat worked as the UN representative for the reconstruction of Somalia by involving elders, teachers and religious leaders in a true African peace-making approach. His work was ruined by the American decision to “send in the marines.” Like Kofi Annan, he resigned with a public denunciation of the military “solution.”

Once again, we cannot escape seeing that the transition to a culture of peace must involve new democratic structures instead of the nation-state with its “military solutions.”

LOOKING BACK AT THE CLIMATE MARCH
Voices from the People's Climate March: Indigenous Groups Lead Historic 400,000-Strong NYC Protest

As many as 400,000 people turned out in New York City on Sunday for the People's Climate March, the largest environmental protest in history. With a turnout far exceeding ... Read More


In major climate divestment news, the Rockefeller family, which made their vast fortune on oil, has announced it will begin divesting from fossil fuel companies. The heirs of Standard Oil ... Read More

Musician Sting: Why I Am Walking with the Indigenous Bloc in People's Climate March.

The world-renowned musician and activist Sting stops by our three-hour special from the People's Climate March to talk about why he is marching with indigenous activists on the front lines of ... Read More

Bernie Sanders at People's Climate March: To Stop Global Warming, Get Dirty Money Out of Politics.

Speaking at the People's Climate March in New York City, independent Senator Bernie Sanders discusses a potential 2016 presidential run and how getting money out of politics is critical to ... Read More

"This is History": People's Climate March Organizer Bill McKibben on 400,000-Strong Turnout.

Bill McKibben, co-founder of 350.org and a lead organizer behind Sunday's People's Climate March and global day of action, joins us to reflect on the historic protest. "There hasn't been a political ... Read
Socialist Seattle Politician Kshama Sawant: We Need a Radical Militant Nonviolent Climate Movement. Climate activists traveled from across the country and the world to take part in Sunday's historic People's Climate March in New York City. We speak to Seattle City Councilmember Kshama ... Read More →

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.: "The Only Thing We Have in Our Power is People Power." Environmental activist and attorney Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was one of up to 400,000 people joining the People's Climate March Sunday in New York City. "American politics is driven by two ... Read More →

Singer Angélique Kidjo: The Women of Africa Are Paying the Price of Climate Change. As up to 400,000 filled the streets, Democracy Now! did an exclusive three-hour global broadcast from the heart of the People's Climate March in New York City. We air highlights of the ... Read More →

Anti-Coal Climate Activists March with Massachusetts District Attorney Who Almost Prosecuted Them. Earlier this month, two climate activists were set to go on trial in Massachusetts for blocking the shipment of 40,000 tons of coal to the Brayton Point power plant, a 51-year-old facility that is one of ... Read More →

"Climate Change is Now": Former Irish President Mary Robinson and Marshall Islands' Tony deBrum. Among the hundreds of thousands of people who attended the People's Climate March in New York City was Mary Robinson, former Irish president and U.N. high commissioner for human ... Read More →

Pledging Peace on the Global Day of Peace

World Beyond War via WorldBeyondWar.org info@worldbe yondwar.org via sg.actionnet work.org

Sep 21, to me

Tens of thousands of people in 128 countries have signed the peace pledge in the past year, and today, the Global Day of Peace, is an ideal time to add your name or that of your organization.

The pledge reads:

I understand that wars and militarism make us less safe rather than protect us, that they
kill, injure and traumatize adults, children and infants, severely damage the natural environment, erode civil liberties, and drain our economies, siphoning resources from life-affirming activities. I commit to engage in and support nonviolent efforts to end all war and preparations for war and to create a sustainable and just peace.

Sign at http://worldbeyondwar.org/individual

Organizations sign at http://worldbeyondwar.org/organization

Support World Beyond War and look amazing doing it! Click here.

- Find upcoming events near you.

Sign the Declaration of Peace.

Join us on Facebook and Twitter.

Support World Beyond War's work by clicking here.

OMNI’S INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2014
Saturday, September 20, 2014 ~ 10 – 11 a.m. ~ Town Center Plaza, Fayetteville Square
Celebrate international solidarity, nonviolence, and the UN's worldwide appeal for a ceasefire on September 21 with the Flags of Nations around the Fayetteville City Square, September 19-21. Omni Center leaders, members, and friends from civic and nonprofit partner organizations will gather for a brief statement beneath the array of international flags, Saturday, September 20 from 10 to 11 a.m. at the Town Center Plaza.

OMNI’S 2014 PROGRAM: SATURDAY SEPT. 20, 2014, 10:00 A.M., TOWN CENTER PLAZA , FAYETTEVILLE
Program: MC Dick Bennett

Remembering Jacob George

Dick:

I. United Nations

   FDR’s 4 Freedoms: Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Religion, Freedom from Want, Freedom from Fear, the Purposes in WWII

II. UN International Day of Peace, Sept. 21, 30th Anniversary

   Theme "Right of Peoples to Peace": 5th -- Freedom from war!

III. UN Climate Change Summit

   Call to leaders of world

   Connection of CC Consequences and War

IV. Summit March

   People's call to Pres. Obama

   Action: Money equal to New Deal + Marshall Plan

Fran Alexander

V. From Fayetteville to NYC

Gladys Tiffany

VI. Local PJE Actions

Close: Sept. 21 no cheers or whistles

   Resolve to push Obama and Congress for mitigation and adaptation

Memory of Jacob George

FLAGS OF WORLD NATIONS

Here is a website for flags in Adobe .PDF format

http://printerprojects.com/flag/elements/

This is one for free downloads of flags by country

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:SVG_flags_by_country
NEIL YOUNG’S SONG FOR 2016

http://www.democracynow.org/blog/2014/9/19/exclusive_listen_to_neil_youngs_new

Blog: http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
For research purposes, specific subjects can be located in the following alphabetized index, and searched on the blog using the search box. The search box is located in the upper left corner of the webpage.
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Contents of UN International Day of Peace, UN Climate Summit, and March, Sept. 21, 2014

UN International Day of Peace, Fayetteville, AR: Flags and Gathering

March in Support of UN Climate Summit

UN Summit

UN International Day of Peace

UNIDP Google Search

Peace One Day

UN Peacekeepers
END UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE NEWSLETTER, SEPT. 21, 2016

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Dick Bennett

Blog: http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/
For research purposes, specific subjects can be located in the following alphabetized index, and searched on the blog using the search box. The search box is located in the upper left corner of the webpage.
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