The Living Stones Project

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e Courageous Brothers
ting Britain in Times of War

Engineering Bravery:
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Kindertransport: The Inspiring
Herta and Walter Kammerling
An Artistic Genealogy
Illuminating a Life:
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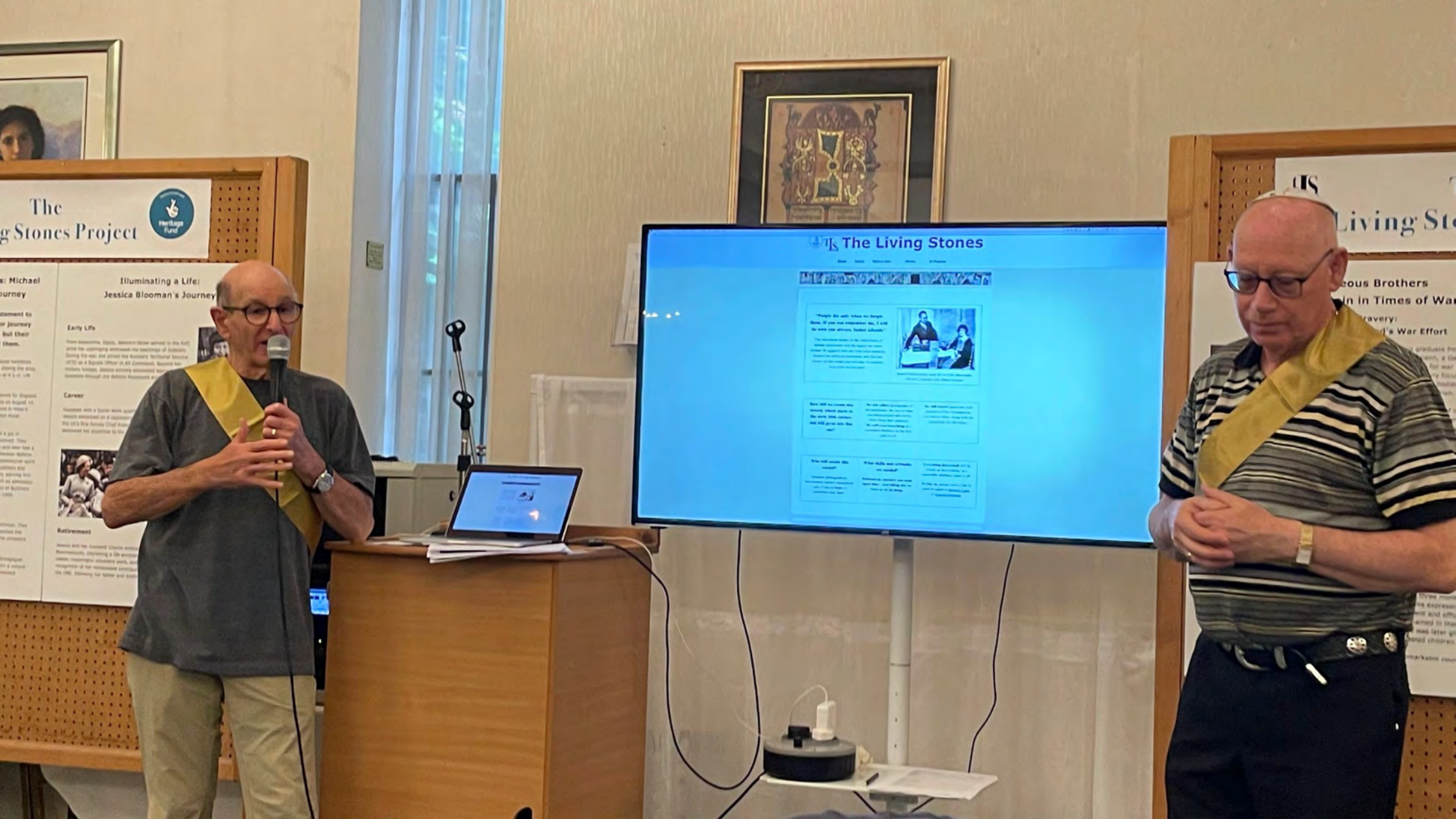
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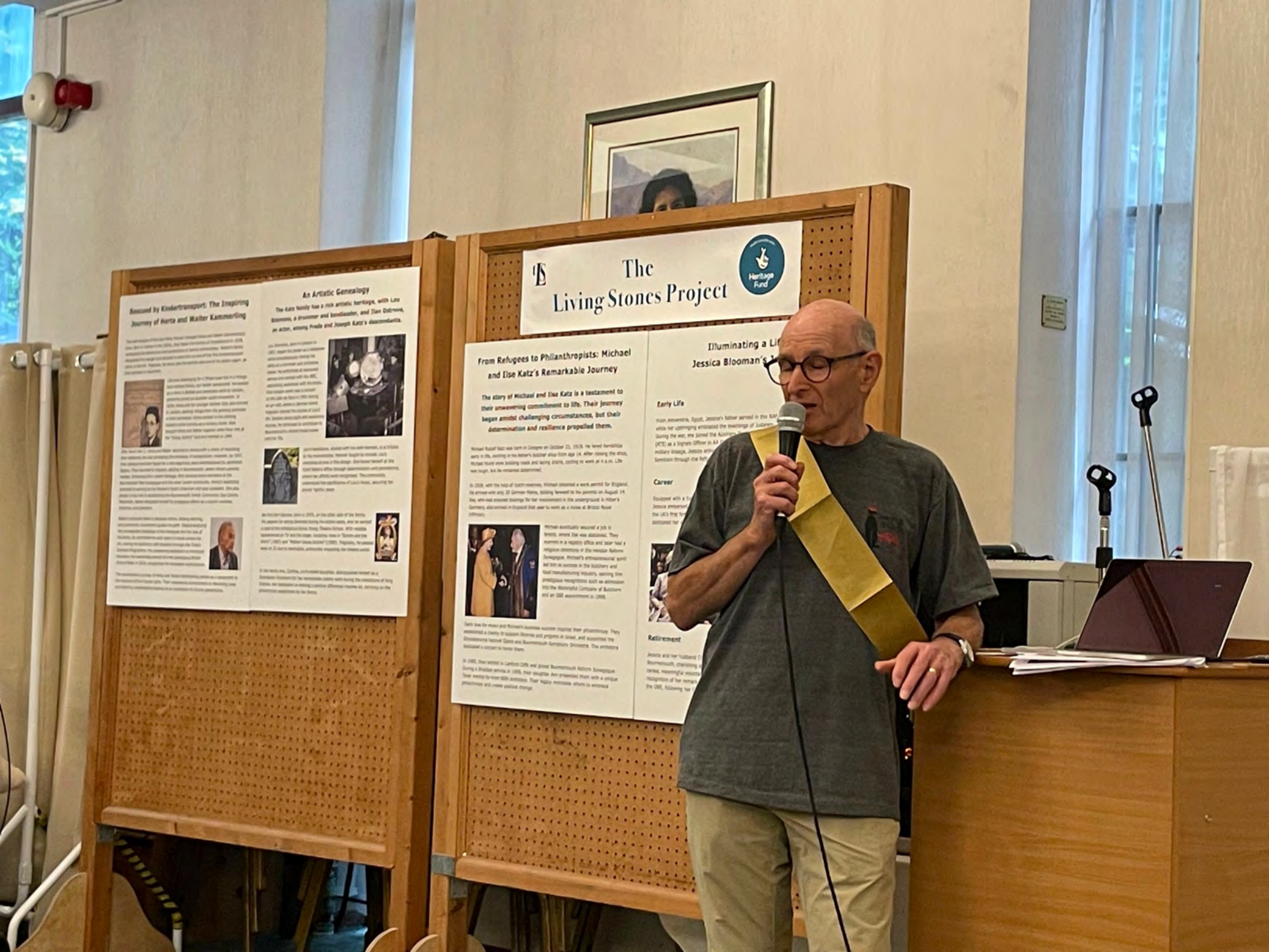

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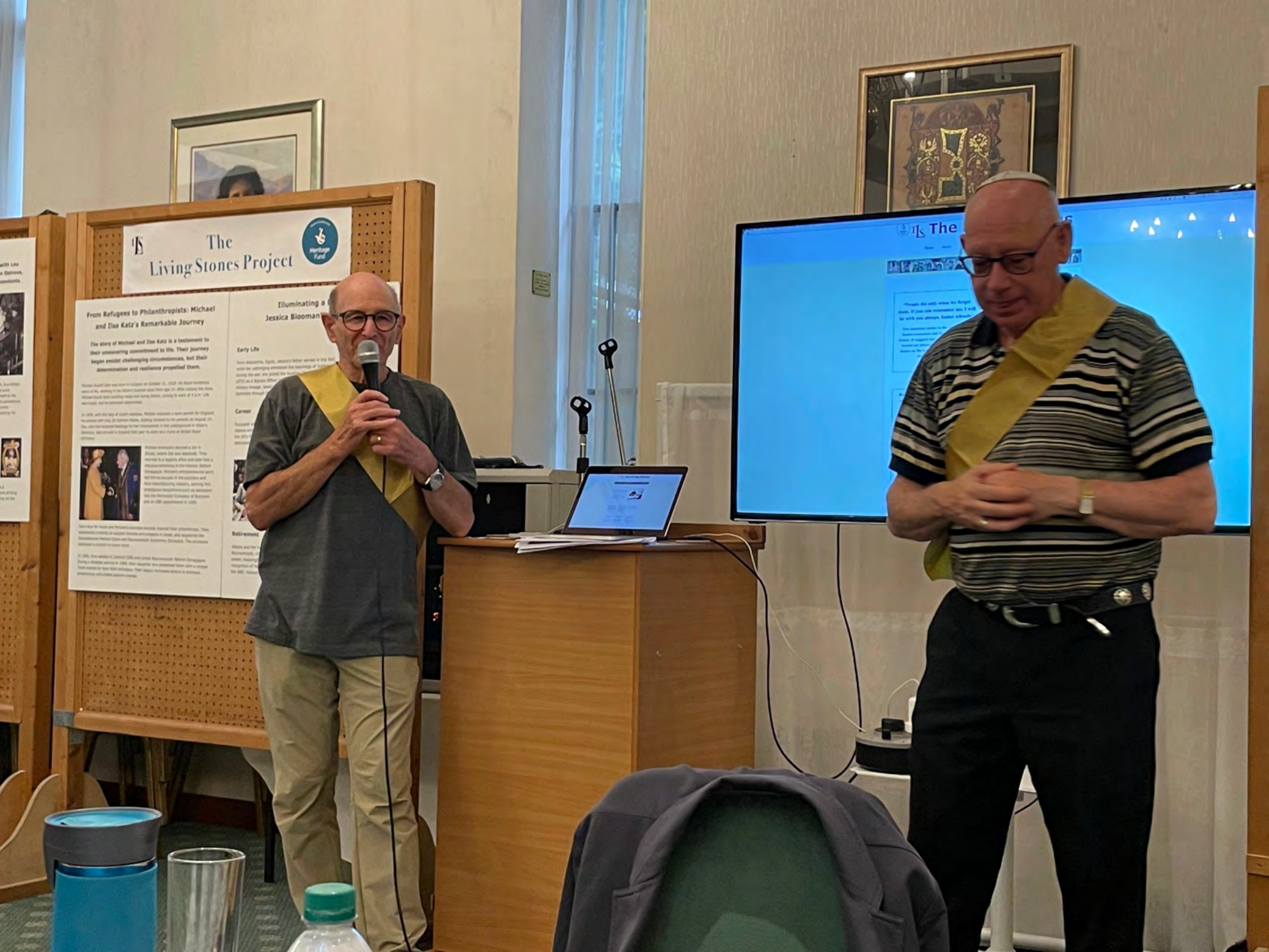
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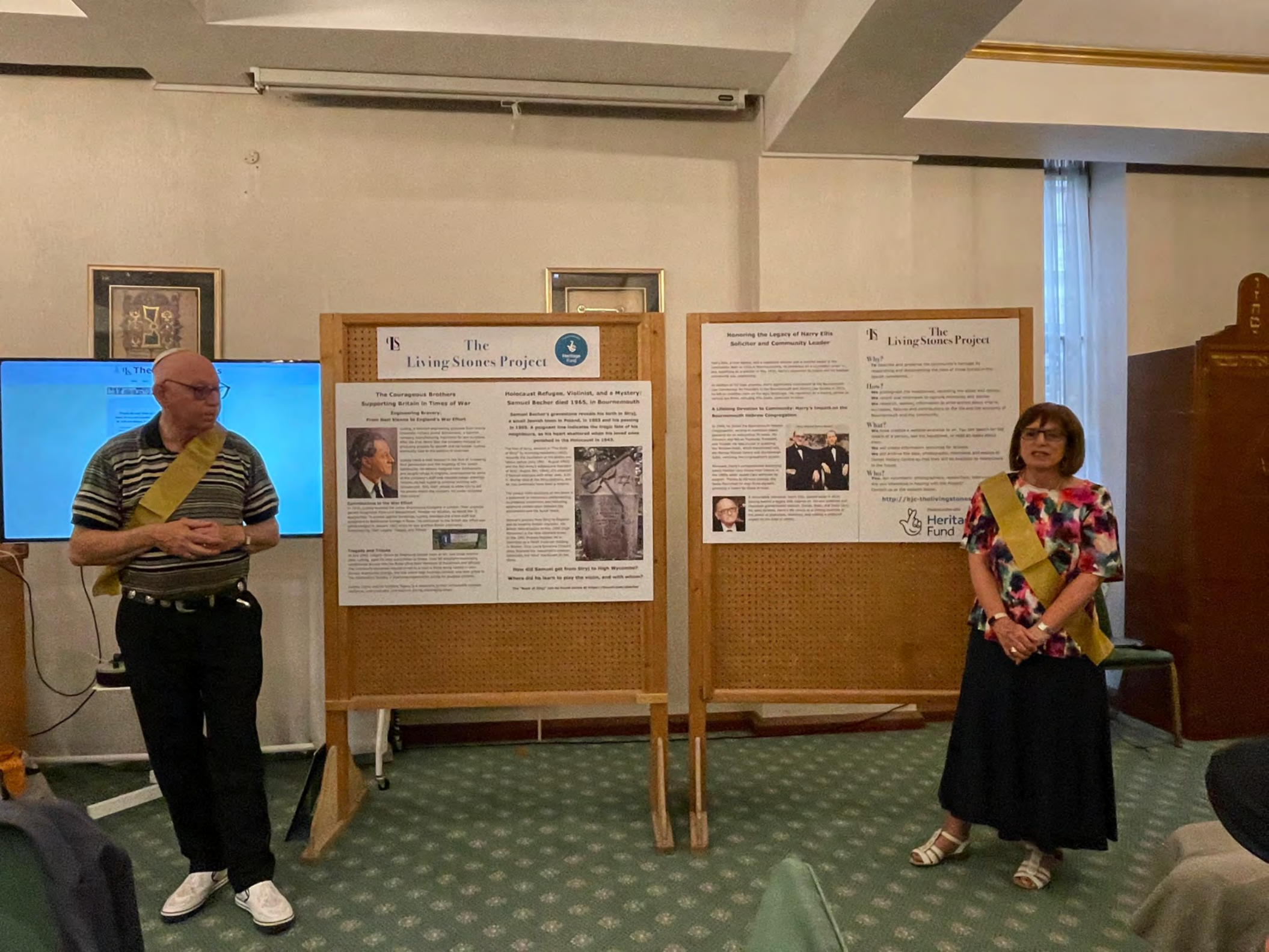
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Life was challenging for a fifteen-year-old in a foreign land without family, but Walter persevered. He worked on a farm in Belfast and eventually went to London, where he joined an Austrian youth movement. In 1939, Herta and her younger brother Otto also arrived in London, seeking refuge from the growing darkness in their homeland. Herta worked in the clothing industry while training as a nursery nurse. Fate brought Herta and Walter together when they met at the "Young Austria" club and married in 1944.

After World War II, Herta and Walter returned to Vienna with a vision of rebuilding their shattered city and combating the remnants of antisemitism. However, by 1957, they realised that their hopes for a new beginning were overshadowed by persistent bigotry. They returned to England, settling in Bournemouth, where Herta's parents resided. Embracing their Jewish heritage, they became active members of the Bournemouth New Synagogue and the wider Jewish community. Herta's leadership extended to serving as the Women's Guild's chairman and later president. She also played a vital role in establishing the Bournemouth Jewish Community Day Centre. Meanwhile, Walter dedicated himself to synagogue affairs as a council member, chairman, and president.

Walter's profound belief in personal choice, lifelong learning, and community involvement guided his path. Despite enduring the unimaginable hardships of the Holocaust and the loss of his family, he committed his later years to travel across the UK, sharing his testimony with students through the Trust's Outreach Programme. His unwavering dedication to Holocaust education and awareness earned him the prestigious British Empire Medal in 2019, recognising his invaluable contributions.

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The Katz family has a rich artistic heritage, with Lou Simmons, a drummer and bandleader, and Ilan Ostrove, an actor, among Freda and Joseph Katz's descendants.

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Lou's headstone, shared with his wife Hannah, is a tribute to his musicianship. Hannah fought to include Lou's cherished drums in the design. She found herself at the Chief Rabbi's office through determination and persistence, where her efforts were recognised. The community understood the significance of Lou's music, securing his drums' rightful place.

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In 1939, with the help of Dutch relatives, Michael obtained a work permit for England. He arrived with only 20 German Marks, bidding farewell to his parents on August 14. Ilse, who had endured beatings for her involvement in the underground in Hitler's Germany, also arrived in England that year to work as a nurse at Bristol Royal Infirmary.

Michael eventually secured a job in Bristol, where Ilse was stationed. They married in a registry office and later had a religious ceremony in the Hendon Reform Synagogue. Michael's entrepreneurial spirit led him to success in the butchery and food manufacturing industry, earning him prestigious recognitions such as admission into the Worshipful Company of Butchers and an OBE appointment in 1999.

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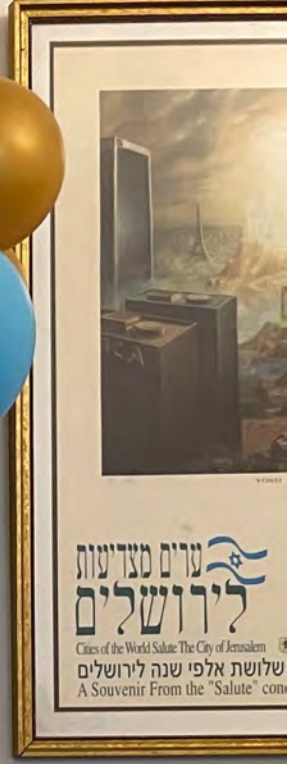

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