



# UUU NEWS

A BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER OF

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST  
SOCIETY OF ONEONTA

September 28, 2016

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## MINISTER'S MUSINGS

### WE NEED YOU!

The Unitarian Universalist Society is an amazingly active and social congregation! Besides the Sunday worship service and religious education programs (which, themselves, require the work of dozens of volunteers), there are a plethora of other activities going on throughout the week. Committees meet to plan and conduct the various ministries of our church. Groups gather to explore, learn, and socialize-- doing their part to help build the beloved community. Individuals tend to our physical space and to our members in need. We truly are an active community that relies on the contributions of many volunteers on a daily basis to conduct our many ministries. We truly need you!

If you have been looking for a way to get involved here at UUSO or are looking for a way to contribute in a meaningful way to our mission, I urge you to consider these areas where we are in need of people to join in the shared ministry.

**Finance Committee** -- The Finance Committee is responsible for the day-to-day financial operations and health of the the congregation. Members of the committee meet one Sunday a month to review our procedures and address any issues related to our financial practices. They also work with the Treasurer to create the yearly budget. There is a ministry of money-- without which, we could not do any of our other ministries. If you have balanced a checkbook, you have the skills required to join this committee. (They are really in need of someone to take notes at their monthly meetings.) The chair of Finance is Kay Stuligross.

**Endowment Committee** -- The Endowment Committee is responsible for our current endowment fund. They also award grants every year from that fund to support groups and projects that further our ministries or support our principles in action. They meet monthly to monitor the endowment fund and to plan for the grant award process. They are also working on setting up a new endowment fund that will be specifically designed to support the work of our congregation. Financial expertise is not required-- though it would certainly be a be bonus. The chair of Endowment is Grace Smith.

**Membership Committee** -- The Membership Committee facilitates our welcoming of people to the congregation and assists with the path to becoming a member. This committee is down to 2 members... and could really use some help. They meet every month to divvy up tasks of welcoming visitors and to plan the membership classes we offer every year. Primary qualifications to be on the Membership Committee are being friendly and welcoming. The chair of Membership is Laura Reyda.

**Stewardship Committee** -- The Stewardship Committee is responsible for our annual stewardship drive, when we gather pledges for the new year and ensure we have money for our shared ministries. We are trying something new this year for stewardship; so it is a great time to get involved and help shape the coming year. This a ministry of generosity. If you are comfortable talking about money and believe in

(Continued on page 6)

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

The RE year officially started on September 18th with a rollicking match of *Quidditch* (a popular, fast paced, make-up-the-rules-as-you-go, outdoor game) based on J.K. Rowling's *Harry Potter* books. UUSO Youth Group member, Ben, deftly handled the complicated leadership of the game and a fun time was had by all. We also enjoyed ice cream sundaes.

Sunday school classes began on September 25th. This was a big transition for some of the children from the Nursery who are now attending their very first RE Explorers classes. They bravely took the plunge and seemed to enjoy their new teachers, classmates, and classroom. The Explorers class is for those in Kindergarten through third grade. They will be learning about stories from the Bible from a curriculum called Super Heroes: Bible People. They will look at how we all have qualities of super heroes inside us as they become familiar with some of these important stories from Judeo-Christian traditions.



Hogwarts Oneonta students are in fourth and fifth grades. It isn't necessary to know about (or even like) the Harry Potter book series by J. K. Rowling to appreciate this class. It is about the magic that is inside all of us to make a difference in our world. They will learn about Unitarian Universalist values and principles through the lens of a wizarding world. The class began on September 25th by dividing into two groups (known as Houses). In future lessons, participants will examine values and decide on the most important qualities they would like their Houses to represent.

Oneonta Jedi Academy is for those in sixth through eighth grade. This class is a beginning coming-of-age class that will prepare students for next year's UUSO traditional coming of age program: (Coming of Age Spiritual Trek, aka COAST). They will learn about themselves, look at UU principles and values, and practice Mindfulness through the lens of the Jedi world of George Lucas's *Star Wars* series. *As with the UUSO Hogwarts curriculum, it isn't necessary to know about (or even like) Star Wars to appreciate this class. They have begun to look at important personal qualities in their lives. This coming Sunday, they will examine the meaning of myth and the hero's journey as interpreted by Joseph Campbell.*



UUSO's Youth Group, YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists), has been on a break for a couple of years due to demographics. Teens gathered last Sunday to plan their year together with much enthusiasm. Their first priority was to fix up their "outdated" Youth Room. They will be painting and decorating and literally "choosing the curtains."

All RE classes are open and welcoming to guests at all times. Participants are encouraged to bring friends. It is OK to miss classes but more participation brings the most rewarding experiences.

Please contact me at any time with questions or comments about the program. Here's to a great year ahead!

Susan Ryder  
UUSO Director of Religious Education

## SAWDUST FROM THE BOARD

During our September 21 Board of Trustees meeting, we passed a Bulletin Board Policy (published in the next newsletter), offered to provide food for the leadership workshop on the assessment of our ministries, finalized liaisons given necessary changes listed below, voted to transition the Mali Task Force to the Mali Committee with plans to lift up the ongoing work of this group at the Congregational Meeting, agreed to request that the Anti-Racism Task Force consider objectives to propose as additions to the Long Range Plan, and charged Grace Smith, Donna Behrendt, and Sandy Smith with the task of assessing the functional use of the spaces within our buildings. We also discussed the upcoming NYSCU convention on Oct. 23 for which we have 6 delegate slots open to any member of our congregation. Finally, we considered how we might better hear the voices of our members whom we honor as our “elders”.

### Current Board Liaisons:

Suzy Beddoe: Endowment, Worship, Music  
 Keith Wilcox: Fundraising, Social Action  
 Paul Carter: Religious Education  
 Sandy Smith Stewardship  
 Stan Maricle: Website  
 Karen Palmer: Anti-Racism Task Force  
 Kate Seeley: Membership, Personnel  
 Jeane Bennett-O’Dea: Mali, Memorial  
 John Bagby: Properties, Design  
 Lynn Beken (staff) will act as Finance liaison

Our next Board meeting is Wednesday, October 19, 6:30pm in the Sanctuary. Members and friends of UUSO are invited to observe. Board members are always happy to listen to your concerns or suggestions and a Trustee and member of the Committee on Ministry will be present at the “Sounding Board” table after the service on October 16.



Karen Palmer, President  
 UUSO Board of Trustees

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### Notice of Congregational Meeting

The October Congregational Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta will be held October 23, 2016 at 12:00 Noon in the Sanctuary at 12 Ford Avenue. Child care will be available during the meeting.

This meeting is for the purpose of approving the final budget for 2016-2017 and for the renewal and approval of Task Forces of the UUSO Congregation.

To propose a Social Action Task Force, a description of the purpose, goals, and names of participants and supporters must be presented at the meeting for Congregational approval.

This notice comes to you in compliance with Article 4.2.1 of our Bylaws.

April Linton Gates, Moderator

# UUSO MONTHLY MEETINGS • OCTOBER

Oct 2	12:00 PM	Green Sanctuary Team	OBH
Oct 4	6:00 PM	Social Action Committee	67 Church St.
Oct 9	12:00 PM	Mali Task Force	OBH
Oct 15	10:00 AM	Anti-Racism Task Force	OBH
Oct 18	12:00 PM	Finance Committee	OBH
Oct 17	7:00 PM	Endowment Committee	OBH
Oct 19	6:30 PM	Board of Trustees	CM

CM: Chapin Memorial Sanctuary/12 Ford Ave. — OBH: Olympia Brown House/16 Ford Ave.

## UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Dining for Women



The Oneonta Chapter of Dining for Women will have its next potluck dinner on Sunday, October 9 at 6:00PM in the UU Sanctuary. The featured organization this month is The Tandana Foundation. The project being

funded teaches literacy and numeracy to women in Mali who want these skills when they sell their goods in the market. They will also learn business and leadership skills. The featured speaker will be Shirley Ferguson, who has been to Mali and visited the school that the UU Society helps support.

All are welcome at the monthly meetings. Bring a dish to pass if you would like. For more information, call Linda Wilcox at (607) 433-2985.



**THE TANDANA FOUNDATION**

### Bowling for Columbine to be shown on Wednesday, Sept. 28 at UUSO

How did US militarism feature in one of the first school shootings in the U.S.? Michael Moore's Classic Bowling for Columbine explains this and other things in the inaugural session of the Last Wednesday's film series Against Militarism this Wednesday, Sept. 28<sup>th</sup>. Vegetarian meal at 6, film at 7 with discussion to follow. Reservations are requested by contacting the UUSO office at [uuso@uuso.org](mailto:uuso@uuso.org) or (607) 432-3491. Childcare is available on request.

*Privacy Policy:*

*People who publish articles in the UUSO newsletter and include contact information need to be aware that the newsletter is posted to the web and therefore that their contact info may be available via internet search engines.*

# UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Workshop on Drone Warfare and What We Can Do--Sat. Oct. 1st

There are many things most local people don't know about the militarized drones launched from Hancock Air Force base, but the good news is there are many effective things we might do locally to bring this deadly military policy to a halt. Join the Social Action Committee and Up-state Coalition to Ground the Drones and End the Wars on Saturday October 1st for a workshop from 1:00PM to 4:00PM followed by middle eastern food to honor cultures harmed by drone Warfare. At the end of the day there will be an option to participate in a protest against drone warfare downtown. To sign up for the workshop contact the church office at [uuso@uuso.org](mailto:uuso@uuso.org) or 432-3491. Childcare is available on request to church office.

## Joys and Sorrows..

**Our condolences to Susan Ryder and Jim Mills.** Susan's mother, Helen Shirley, died earlier this month after a long struggle with illness. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped Susan during this time and supported the Religious Education program at UUSO.

**Our thoughts and prayers are with Bob Pickhardt at this time.** Bob has received a terminal diagnosis of cancer. Earlier last week, he fell and also broke his femur. After much discussion with this doctors and his family, Bob has decided not to seek further treatment and is entering hospice care. While he is currently at Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown, he is expected to go home by the end of this week. Bob would appreciate notes and cards, but is asking people not to visit him at this time.

**Our condolences to Kathy Henry and the family of Paul Girsdansky.** Paul was a Unitarian Universalist that lived in the Cobleskill area. For personal reasons, he never joined UUSO. While in the hospital, Paul was visited by Suzy Beddoe, acting as a chaplain. He asked for a visit from a UU minister. I was able to visit him once in the hospital before he was released home for hospice care. On Wednesday, as I was headed to see him in his home, he died. One of Paul's regrets was that he had never joined this UUSO community. I told him that he was a part of it now, and so I share news of his death here. He was a journalist and then a school librarian. Details for a memorial service will be posted when they become available.

### *A Note from Susan Ryder, UUSO Director of Religious Education*

Dear Members and Friends,

I thank you for your many kindnesses and support through this difficult time in my life. As some of you know, I have been helping my mother through her journey towards the end of her life since last spring. She died on Sept. 18. I am glad that she is no longer suffering and I miss her very much.

I am grateful to be a part of this caring community. You all hold me up in so many ways. This means much to me personally as well as to my family. It has also meant that our Religious Education Program has been just fine and started the year full of enthusiasm and joy. Our minister, staff, and many volunteers have stepped in to help with my duties in order to start our fall classes so they have all the fine qualities we have come to expect.

My heart is full of gratitude for our UUSO community as well as for the opportunity to work with our questioning, creative, and spirited children and youth. I learn so much from all of you.

Sincerely,

Susan Ryder

# UUSO NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

*(Continued from page 1)*

the mission and vision of our congregation, you are the right person for the Stewardship Committee. The chair of Stewardship is Karl Seeley.

**Fun Team** -- Earlier this year, I created the Fun Team to help us coordinate and host the many fun, social activities we do throughout the year here at UUSO. Pizza and Games, Secret Valentine, Summer Picnics, Potluck Dinners,-- the list is long and varied. If you have a fun event you would like to help make happen, this is the team for you. This is a ministry of fun and community-building. There is no current leader of the Fun Team, so if you are interested, please contact me (Rev. Craig).

**Ushers/Social Hour Hosts** -- Every member of the congregation is asked to serve as an Usher and help Host social hour once per year. Both of these roles are imperative on Sunday morning. It is a Ministry of Hospitality. Ushering is a simple and fun way to get to know people in the congregation. Hosting social hour is easier than you might think and we offer reimbursement for purchases. If you haven't signed up for a date on-line, please contact our Office Administrator, Evelyn Warren, to get your dates. If either ushering or hosting a social hour is not your thing, then please consider volunteering in some other way to help out the community. This shared ministry only works if everyone does their part.

This is just a short list of opportunities to get involved. There are other committees and programs that would love to have more people leading or participating. Join a Small Group Ministry group! Help out with Religious Education classes! Offer an Adult Learning program! Fill the pulpit one Sunday morning! Your experience at UUSO will be so much richer for your having gotten involved-- and our religious community will be so much richer for your presence and engagement. Ours is a shared ministry, and we need each other.

Cooperatively,  
Rev. Craig

## Coffee Hour and Ushering Volunteer Schedule Sign Up

It's that time of year again! If you sent the office an email specifying which dates you'd like to sign up for, you've likely already received notification this week letting you know that you've been inserted into the schedule. If you haven't received an email from Sign-Up Genius, please sign up for your choice of dates for hosting coffee hour and ushering here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090e4fa9af2babf49-coffee>

These are available on a first come-first serve basis. If you don't pick a date, your name will be put in a pool. You'll get assigned wherever there's room, which might not be an ideal date for you. If you do not have email, please call the UUSO office during business hours and the office administrator will help you get signed up.

Remember: Coffee hour need not be a big affair. Something to nibble on is all that's needed. Fruit and a cracker of some sort, and a juice. Get reimbursed up to \$16 by filling out a Request for Funds slip.

# UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM

## Who do you think you are?

JEANE BENNETT-O'DEA SUNDAY SERVICE 10/2



Unitarian Universalist Society of Oneonta

### *Children to Classrooms at 10:30*

Zen Buddhism focuses meditation around the question, "Who am I?" Let's take a look at the question and why it matters.

Music by: Michael Frye Hunt & Kathy Shimberg

Worship Associate: Kevin Schultz

Coffee Hour Host: John & Jenny Bagby

Ushers: Suzanne Miller & Walter Vom Saal

Chancel Table: Donna Behrendt & Alice Siegfried

Sound system: Paul Carter

### *\*Start Together Sunday*

Our Unitarian Universalist celebration of the Jewish holidays of Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a time to forgive one another and our selves, to remember our dead, and to re-dedicate ourselves to a vision of the good and the true.

Music by: Music Director Tim Horne

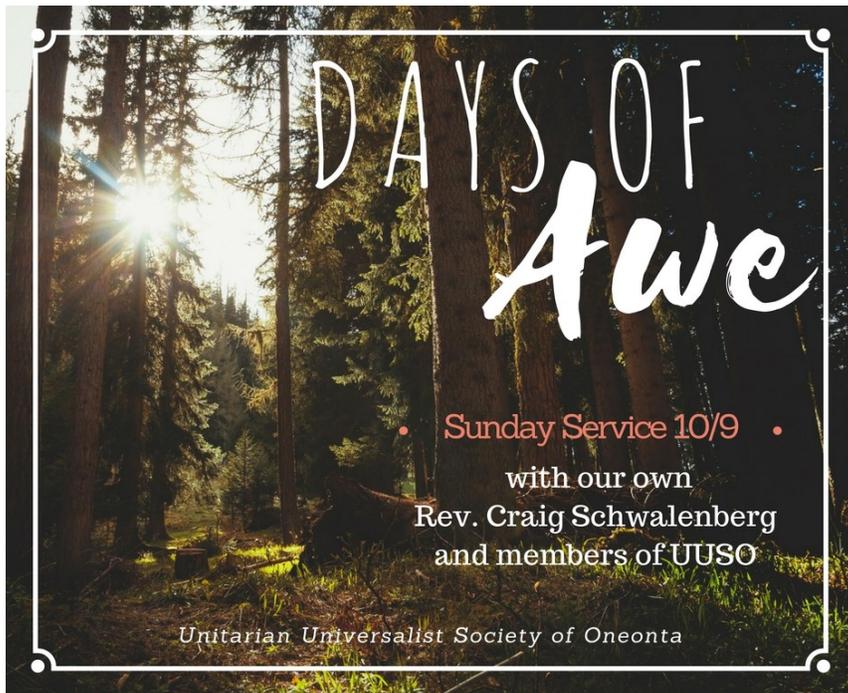
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey

Coffee Hour Host: Suzy Beddoe & Alice Blu

Usher: Jane Bachman

Chancel Table: Memorial Committee

Sound System: Scott Segar



October Change for Change recipient: Habitat for Humanity Otsego County. Habitat for Humanity is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

# UUSO UPCOMING WORSHIP SERVICES

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT 10:30AM



### Children to Classrooms at 10:30

Uncle Ben Parker said, "With great power comes great responsibility." We each have great power; how shall we use our power responsibly?

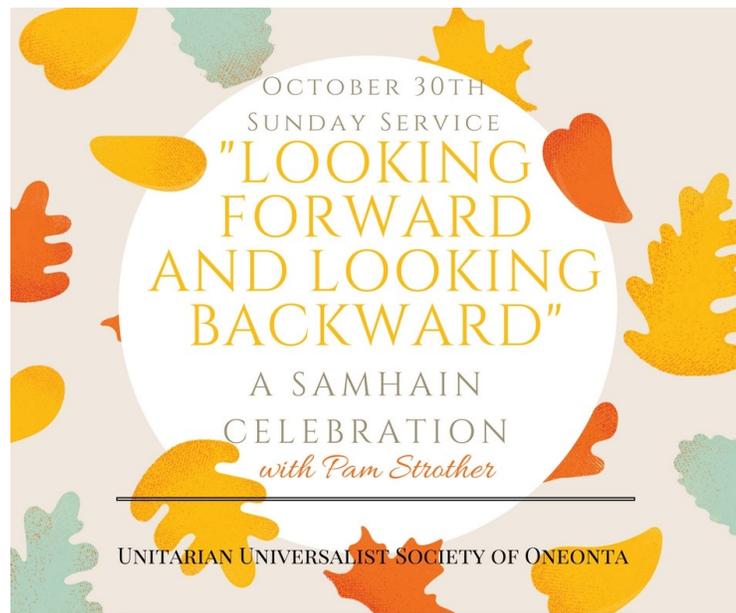
Music by: Music Director Tim Horne  
Worship Associate: Rich Stelling  
Coffee Hour Host: Alice Siegfried & Dotty Hudson  
Ushers: Julia Gregory & TBA  
Chancel Table: Julia Gregory  
Sound System: Beth Small

### \*Start Together Sunday

#### (Congregational Meeting at Noon)

Two modern day, future prophets said, "Be Excellent to Each Other" A worthy message and goal as we work together building the Beloved Community.

Music by: Music Director Tim Horne  
Worship Associate: Shelly Hilts  
Coffee Hour Host: TBA  
Ushers: Sandy Smith & Susan Turell  
Chancel Table: Alice Blu



### Children to Classrooms at 10:30

Samhain, the Pagan New Year is a "time out of time" when past and future are carefully considered. Let us join together to celebrate this ancient passage.

Music by: Music Director Tim Horne  
Worship Associate: Cathi Wiltsey  
Coffee Hour Host: TBA  
Ushers: John & Beth Rafter  
Chancel Table: Pam Strother  
Sound System: Julian Pecenco

# October

Sunday Worship Service 10:30AM  
Chapin Memorial Sanctuary  
12 Ford Ave, Oneonta, NY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
OBH: Olympia Brown House—16 Ford Ave	CM: Chapin Memo- rial Sanctuary— 12 Ford Ave	Green: Off- Site				1 IPM Drone Workshop/ CM
2 12PM Book Discussion/ OBH 12:30PM Green Sanc- tuary/OBH	3 8AM Exercise Class/CM	4 8AM Exercise Class/CM 6PM Social Action Cmte/67 Church St.	5 10AM Small Group Minis- try/OBH  IPM Policy Cmte/OBH	6 4:30PM Trans Support Group/ CM Loft  6PM Building Use/CCS/CM	7 8AM Exercise Class/CM	8
9 5:30PM Dining For Women/CM	10 Newsletter Deadline 9AM  8AM Exercise Class/CM	11 8AM Exer- cise Class/CM 10:30 Database Cmte/OBH 6:30PM Small Group Ministry/OBH	12 1:30PM Small Group Minis- try/Off-Site 5:30PM Affin- ity Group/ OBH	13 4:30PM Trans Support Group/ CM Loft 5:30 NAACP/ OBH 6PM Building Use/CCS/CM	14 8AM Exercise Class/CM	15 10AM Anti- Racism Task Force/OBH
16 12PM Mali Task Force/ OBH 12PM Finance Cmte/OBH	17 8AM Exercise Class/CM  7PM Endowment Cmte/OBH	18 8AM Exercise Class/CM	19 10:30AM Small Group Minis- try/OBH 6:30PM Board of Trustees/ CM	20 4:30PM Trans Support Group/ CM Loft  6PM Building Use/CCS/CM	21 8AM Exercise Class/CM	22
23 12PM CON- GREGATIO NAL MEET- ING	24 Newsletter Deadline 9AM  8AM Exercise Class/CM	25 8AM Exercise Class/CM 6:30PM Small Group Minis- try/OBH	26 5:30PM Affin- ity Group/ OBH 6PM Documen- tary Series/CM	27 4:30PM Trans Support Group/ CM  6PM Building Use/CCS/CM	28 8AM Exercise Class/CM	29 10AM Begin- ner's Medita- tion with Swamiji/CM
30  BUILDING USE— RUMMAGE SALE PREP/ CM 10/30-11/4	31	<p>For the most up-to-date information on events and building reservations, and to view those not included here, please see our calendar on our website at: <a href="http://www.uuso.org/church_calendar">www.uuso.org/church_calendar</a></p>				

**THE UNITARIAN  
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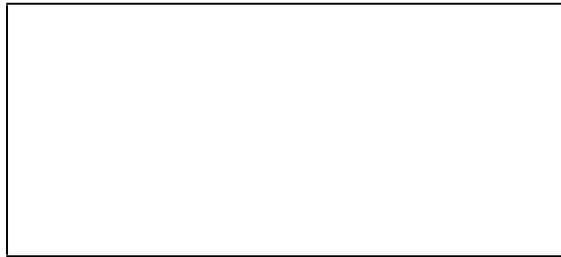
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## UUSO DEADLINES:

**UU News Articles:** Deadline for Oct. 12th issue is Oct. 10th.

**Order of Service Announcements:**

Wednesday a.m. before the Sunday Service

**Verbal Announcements:**

Contact Worship Associate by Friday before Service

## Green Sanctuary Corner

### Winterize Your House



Here are some inexpensive solutions to help keep your house warm this winter.

**Cover your air conditioner.** If you can't remove a window unit, cover it inside and out to prevent cold air from entering your house.

**Caulk.** Small spaces and gaps around wires, windows and pipes create drafts which cut the efficiency of your heating system. Similarly use draft blockers – foam plates that fit behind electrical outlets to reduce drafts that enter through those spaces.

**Install heat reflectors.** If your house has individual radiators, install these thin sheets behind a radiator to reflect the heat away from the wall and back into the room.

**Perform regular maintenance.** If you have a forced air furnace, make sure to clean or change the filter about once a month. Have your furnace professionally cleaned and tuned about once a year.

### UUSO Board of Trustees

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