

the Beacon -

Sunday Services at 10:30 AM

www.uucgt.org

Email: office@uucgt.org

Vol 58 Issue 4

April 2021

April Services

DATE	SERVICE PARTICIPANTS	TITLE
4.4.21	Rev. Cathy Harrington Coordinator: Amanda Mangiardi	The Road to Emmaus
Easter: Renewal, and being able to give back again.		
4.11.21	Rev. Cathy Harrington Coordinator: Andi Kramer	The Care and Feeding of a Minister
<i>David Hassing' from the Board will speak about community needs. Understanding the dynamics of the relationship between a settled minister and the congregation.</i>		
4.18.21	Lay Led Service Coordinators: Mary Van Valin and T. Michael Jackson	Earth Day and the Long Culture of this Land
<i>Our Earth Day service will feature a teaching by JoAnne Cook, an Anishinaabe attorney, former tribal judge, former Tribal Council Member, and Vice Chair of the board at FLOW, and a member of the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The inherent worth of every person, our interconnected web of existence, and the proposed 8th principle will provide a foundation for the service. Coordinated by T. Michael Jackson and Mary Van Valin.</i>		
4.25.21	Rev. Cathy Harrington Coordinator: Pam Hendrick	The Eternal Immigrant: A Brief History of US Hispanics
<i>Edwin Murillo & Rev Cathy Harrington With the disturbing rise in racial violence, understanding America's history is critical in our pursuit of racial justice & equality.</i>		



Our Earth Day Service on April 18th can be an opening to greater public consciousness of Native sovereignty and cultural rights, a step toward equitable relationships.

This month's guest is Edwin Murillo.

Dr. Edwin Murillo is Associate Professor of Spanish in the Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures Department at the University of Tennessee-Chattanooga. He has also been a professor at Penn State University-Berks. He received his doctorate in Romance Studies from the University of Miami. Most of his work focuses on Latin American Existentialism and his articles have appeared in *Hispanófila*, *Critica hispánica*, and *Hispanic Journal*, among many others. His poetry, written in Spanglish and Portuñol, has appeared in various international journals. At UTC, he teaches Spanish language, composition, and literature courses, as well as creative writing in Spanish. His short-story collection *Midnight Vallenato* is available through Floricanto Press.

Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 14
7:00 PM

Beacon Editor: Amanda Mangiardi 610-417-0730

Please send submissions to jomangiardi@hotmail.com by the 24th of the month



MINISTERIAL SEARCH TEAM



On this April Fool's Day, we are thinking seriously about new beginnings. Our dedicated Stewardship Team was wise to choose *New Beginnings* as the theme for this year's pledge drive since it represents the prevailing attitude at UUCGT as we slowly but steadfastly recover from the injurious effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Much like the return to values for which our country strives, UUCGT has in its sights a wonderful new beginning. We have learned a great deal about what we value during the past year, and we now look forward to making strides toward higher goals for our congregation in partnership with a new settled minister.

We hope to present to you, some time next month, a plan for **candidating week**. This usually happens toward the **end of April or first of May**. It is a time for congregational leaders, staff, and members to spend time with the candidate who acts as minister during the week. The week culminates with a congregational vote on calling the candidate to be our settled minister.



How might all of this happen given that personal contacts will still be limited? That is part of the work that remains before us, in partnership with the board. In the meantime, we look forward hopefully to the quickly approaching day when we can utter the words we all await so eagerly: "We have a candidate".



WE SHARE OUR GIFTS

Bernice's Roof is Snowless

Mary Van Valin

It's April 6th this fine Sunday morning
And I lift my gaze to Bernice's roof.
Since December, it has been
A constantly changing snow sculpture.

But today, on this sunny dawn,
That old roof is bare.
Yesterday, lingering snow,
Today, the most beautiful empty roof.

Speaking of empty,
This is a winter that has almost
Emptied all of us out.
We have been tested.

But this morning?
The energy, the unstoppable energy
Spring brings
Has won this day and we aced the test.

Our sentence has been served,
They released us, we're free!
It's time for the reunion
with old friends
The snow drops, the crocuses,
and daffodils.

Bernice's roof is snowless,
Bring on the call of the redwing blackbird!

Color, warmth, and new life awaits
Bernice's roof is bare.





The Program Council met on March 12, 2021 with 10 members attending. Betsy Hammerberg convened the meeting and Chris Walter served as chair and scribe since Rick was skiing with his daughter.

The minutes from the February 12, 2021 meeting were approved and will be sent to the board.

Judy Myers discussed the rational for grouping the various committees into 4 entities with the latter 3 being connected to Program Council:

1. **Governance**
2. **Beloved Community**
3. **Spiritual Growth**
4. **Involvement**

There is absolutely no Change in Committee structure. This presentation simply looks better and makes sense.

Judy also presented the preliminary results of the OutReach Survey which have been compiled by Carol Ritter. Purpose of Survey was to try to develop a rough idea of what Outreach Policy should be for UUCGT. We do Outreach, but there is no Policy for it. The Board is working on this.

Individual members then shared various aspects of their individual committees. **Stewardship** had achieved 47% of its goal of \$300,000 with 68 pledges turned in.

- **RE** is being innovative and trying to keep parents and kid involved.
- **Board** is moving forward with Reopening Task Force, RE Outdoor Space, Stewardship encouragement and Discernment.
- **Sunday Services** is rolling along, needs replacements for several who have dropped out, and is coordinating substitutes for Betsy to run the Sunday Services Zoom meetings in summer.
- **Congregational Care** is sending cards when needed under Joanie Jackson's guidance.
- **Landscaping** will have spring clean-up Sunday Workshops in May.
- As **Interim Minister**, Cathy has been involved with many committees, running a variety of workshops and classes and will be attending a conference in April to learn about congregations who need Interim Ministers.
- **LDC** has a good slate of candidates for next years leadership positions.
- **Community Needs** has good news - more funds this quarter; Having speakers at services has helped.
- **Wed. Happy Hour** is ongoing - had a going away send off for Erin Nolan who is headed to Puerto Rico.
- **Memorial Garden** had no activity this winter.
- **Social Justice** is trying to get reinvigorated and organized.
- **Membership** is having two new members join March 21.

Rick Walter—Chair Program Council





The Stewardship Team initiated our **New Beginnings Pledge Drive** for fiscal year 2021 - 2022 on February 14 asking members and friends to show their love for UUCGGT by pledging generously. We developed a new Brochure explaining what our needs are and why we need to raise \$300,000 to fully support our many programs and activities. Some of these programs are the traditional Ministry, Sunday Services and Congregational Care. Additionally our Music; Child, Youth and Adult Religious Education; Our Whole Lives (OWL), Anti-Racism; Soul Matters; and Writing Workshop programs and classes are **ever-expanding**.

The [New Beginnings Brochure](#) developed by the Stewardship Team reminds us of our mission:



March 21 was technically the end of our Pledge Drive. Thanks to the 82 pledging units that returned their pledge forms by Wednesday, March 17, we have a pledging total of \$161,484* which is 54% of our goal. Ideally we would have received all of your pledge forms by now, pledging support for our entire program for the 2021-22 Fiscal Year that begins in July. If you haven't yet pledged we would **love to hear from you**. If you need a pledge form contact the office or any Stewardship Team member. **Update: As of March 31st 93 "Pledge Units" have pledged over \$211,000 dollars. That is almost 75% of our goal!*

We know that the pandemic has affected people very differently, with many experiencing great financial hardship, and others finding themselves with additional resources because of money saved that would have otherwise been spent on travel, eating out, etc -- all those social things we have been deprived of over the last year. If you find yourself with a little more to give this year, **this is a year** when **that little more** would make a very big difference to your congregation.

If you've already pledged and want to increase your pledge, you can do that by sending a note to Guy at the office. Or if you prefer to not imply a long term commitment at a higher pledge level, but find you have extra funds available, you can make an additional donation to help refill our bank account which is somewhat behind our expenses for this year.

The Stewardship Team is **very appreciative** of the financial support that the Congregation has pledged to date and looking forward to our many **New Beginnings** this year. With your help, we are hopeful and confident that our \$300,000 goal can be met. We will continue to keep you informed of our progress via Flash and Beacon articles.

With Gratitude from your Stewardship Team:



Voting is one of the foundations of our Democracy. It is an obligation and an honor to vote! It needs to be taught to each generation, it needs to be made exemplary and it needs to be immensely respected. One must vote, with thought and consideration for the future. That is what I taught my kids as I took each of them with me into many voting booths to see what I do. They too must do it. And they do!

And NO one can take that right away! Let me quote the Black Minister Senator from Georgia, Raphael Warnock: "A vote is like a prayer for the world!" He said about the sacredness of the vote: "the people have spoken."



To try to suppress voting in certain areas, because the people who vote there may vote differently than you, becomes a giant social justice infringement on civil rights!

When Black People were enslaved in our country, they did not have any rights and certainly no right to vote. After the Civil War, the 14th Amendment, ratified July 1868, made African American citizens with "equal protection under the law." The 15th Amendment, ratified Feb. 1870, gave African American males the right to vote. And they did vote! Many became office holders during Reconstruction.

Jim Crow is not a real person but a made up caricature depicting all the horrors white people surmised about Blacks. There was a big backlash against their freedoms and the white landowners wanted their economic security and their power of control back. So Jim Crow Laws were passed and enforced, in some cases returning Blacks almost to the status of slavery. If they couldn't pass the laws, they got their control by intimidation, force- and lynching!

President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which outlawed discriminatory voting practices. It literally made the 15th Amendment into law.

It should be noted that Native Americans, although granted citizenship and the right to vote with the 15th Amendment, it wasn't until the Synder Act of 1924 that gave them the real right to vote.

And let's remember, the 19th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote, was passed in 1919 and ratified by the states into law, Aug. 1920.

Unfortunately in June 2013, the Supreme Court gutted the Voting Rights Act. They made it so States could make their own Laws without reference to the effect on minority voters. And that began a new wave of voter suppression laws and discriminatory gerrymandering. Due to the *big lie* saying this last election was rigged and stolen from the rightful winner, there has been over 165 suppression laws introduced in 33 swing states!

The majority in our country feels that voting is very fair and there has been no evidence of fraud. Over 60 court cases before Democratic and Republican appointed judges have been thrown out, stating no evidence of fraud. The drummed up idea of fraudulent voting is the excuse for the increase in voter suppression laws. This *big lie* is the reason for the insurrection on the Capitol, which was an attempt to stop the count of supposedly fraudulent votes.



Remember our Voting is a privilege, a right, an honor, an obligation. Our votes and words, need to be counted and heard. No votes should be discarded as fraudulent when there is no evidence of fraud! These attempt at voter suppression should be against the law. H.R.1, the "For the People Act," needs to be passed in the Senate as in the House. This bill makes it easier to vote, not harder; addresses gerrymandering and campaign finance; protects our elections and much more. Learn more and write or call your Senators to urge them to pass it; remember the Senators from Michigan are for it, so please thank them! And itch in to help preserve our Right to Vote. The UUA works with fair voting as do these two out of many worthy organizations.

ACLU <https://www.aclu.org/>

Brennan Center for Justice <https://www.brennancenter.org>

And: Join a meeting of the SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTION TEAM following the Service Sunday April 11:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81124348986> !

Emmy Lou Cholak
sjatcmi@gmail.com



OUR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

We have passed the one-year mark of online RE, and it has certainly been... interesting.

Like everything over the past year it has been a series of ups and downs and has challenged our creativity, resilience, and adaptability.

I feel proud of what we have accomplished under these circumstances, though, including: Weekly engaging RE sessions for elementary kids with Claire; Bi-weekly Anti-Racism sessions for middle- and high schoolers led by Alison; Weekly Time For All Ages sessions in the main worship with Betsy; monthly Soul Matters packets mailed to families; and Summer Fun Kits delivered to families last June.

When we are able to safely gather in person again (and it can not come soon enough), I know that our sharpened resourcefulness, versatility, and appreciation for community are going to make our RE program even stronger.



Religious Education
Betsy Hammerberg
dre@uucgt.org

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Start Date Change for Upcoming Anti-Racism Workshop

There's still time to sign up for the anti-racism program UUs are raving about!

WHAT: Reading & Writing Whiteness, using Robin Diangelo's "White Fragility"

WHEN: 6 Wednesday evenings, starting April 21, 6:30 - 8 p.m.

WHO: YOU!!! Along with thoughtful people committed to becoming to this work.

Adult Education
Alison Ernst
awa2write@gmail.com



Congregational Care



"Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers"

- Byron Caldwell Smith -

Such is life. Sometimes, just when we think everything's fine, the showers of misfortune occur. We're glad when someone offers to share her/his umbrella or give us a lift.

To provide that lift is the Congregational Care Team's mission.

If you know of someone in our congregation who is experiencing stormy weather, either emotional or physical, please let one of us know. Although we can't provide food or make visits during the pandemic, we try to contact everyone who could use our emotional support.

Thank you to those of you who continue to call, email, or send cards to UUCGT members and friends. By letting them know that you are thinking of them, you are bringing a little of Smith's "soft laughter of April suns" into their lives.



Our sincere condolences to the family of Anne Olney who passed away on February 25th. Anne and her daughter Jennifer joined UUCGT in March of 1973. She was an active member, involved in religious education, pastoral concerns, and quilting. She also served as our librarian. Her 90th birthday would have been on March 31st.

Millie Putz



THE BEACON

Interested in submitting something for publication in the *Beacon*?

Please send all submissions to Amanda Mangiardi

by the 24th of the month.

Let me know if you have any questions!

jomangiardi@hotmail.com. 610-417-0730



SUNDAY SERVICES COMMITTEE

Friends, your Sunday Services Committee needs new members!

If you are interested in helping our Minister design and deliver wonderful services for our congregation, or if you have questions, please contact co-chairs:

Amanda Mangiardi, 610-417-0730 - jomangiardi@hotmail.com

Pam Hendrick, 609-674-6993 - pamela.hendrick@stockton.edu

A Few Notes

As spring moves us forward I thought I would offer a happy look back at some of the beautiful music created by our dedicated UU musicians since the beginning of the year:

The UUCGT Virtual Ensemble:

- [Woyaya](#)
- [Building a New Way](#)
- [Like a Mighty Stream](#)
 - [Can You Hear](#)
 - [Building Bridges](#)
- [When Our Heart is in a Holy Place](#)
 - [Turn the World Around](#)
 - [Over My Head](#)

Small Ensembles and Solo Performances:

- ◆ [Hope](#) by Amanda Mangiardi
- ◆ [Circle Round for Freedom](#) by The UU Ukers
 - ◆ [If Not Now](#) by The UU Ukers
 - ◆ [Lean in Toward the Light](#) by The UU Ukers
- ◆ [Moonlight Snowflakes](#) by Amanda Mangiardi and Paula Ward
- ◆ [The Parting Glass](#) by Shelley Burnes, Cindy Edmonson, and Mary Anne Rivers

Director of Music
Renée Herman Russell
musicatuuucgt@gmail.com

LET'S LAUGH!



**"He'll need time to adjust —
he was a Unitarian."**



UUCGT Board Meeting Summary



The topics discussed at the March Board meeting were a combination of Operations, preparing for the annual meeting and addressing any remaining areas to help ensure a smooth transition for our new minister.

Our annual meeting is set for June 6, 2021 after our service.

Stewardship Campaign Progress

Our annual pledges are coming in slower than anticipated. We were still hopeful we'll be able to support the staff who run the programs we love, but are starting to think of alternate ways to move forward given that the pandemic is likely negatively impacting our member level of comfort with longer-term financial commitments.

Staff

The Staff committee updated the language in the Employee Handbook to reflect that staff working 15 hours/week or more are eligible for pro-rated benefits in alignment with UUA guidelines. The Board approved the changes. Our Music Director is now eligible, and the Board approved her pro-rated benefits retroactive to January 1, 2021.

Congregational Outreach Survey

Judy Myers has sent specific Congregational Outreach Survey reports to various committees to reference in their work (e.g. Stewardship, Ministerial search). The next steps are to write a summary for our annual meeting and share the survey results at the Programs meeting.

Re-opening Task Force

The Reopening Task Force asked us what success looks like, and our response was a hybrid in-person/remote model with strong technology solutions to support this experience effectively. In addition, Rev Cathy and Renee are referring to UUA guidance to better understand best practices for how to manage limited seating scenarios and room configurations to maximize the number of in-person people our sanctuary can safely support.

UUCGT Website Updates and Maintenance

Mary Anne Rivers reported that we are finalizing a contract to revamp our website starting this month. Chris Lautz has volunteered to take a Webmaster class, and thus be trained to make ongoing updates to the new website. Thank you, Chris!!

Endowment Fund Dispersals

Karl Keinath shared that we can disperse up to \$2,248 from income made on our endowment investment fund. The Board approved the recommendation of the Endowment Committee to disperse \$2,100: \$700 each to those in need, the ministerial search committee, and washing all of the windows outside of our church building.

We met for a second time on March 24 as a working session to make progress on a couple of key items needing more discernment. We worked on bylaw changes to simplify the structure and more closely align with how we actually operate; these recommended changes will be available for review and put in place once the final language is approved by our congregation at our annual meeting. We also revisited how to better connect our committees with the mission of our congregation in our policy governance model. We focused on ways to improve board and minister engagement with committees in a way that also empowers committee members to achieve their mission-aligned goals. This discussion will continue at our next board meeting.

Our next Board meeting will be held on April 14 at 7pm on Zoom.



Financial Summary

As of February 28, 2021

(66.7% of fiscal year)

	Current Year (2020-2021)		Prior Year (2019-2020)	
Budgeted Income Received YTD	\$184,224*	67.9%	\$223,734*	85.0%
Budgeted Expenses Paid YTD	\$186,168	67.4%	\$170,755	64.8%
“For Those in Need” YTD	\$ 9,256		\$ 8,037	

***Income for 2020-2021 is less than 2019-2020 due to an accounting change that recognized prepaid pledges for 2020-2021 in the 2019-2020 fiscal year. Approximately \$32,000 in excess income for 2019-2020 is on the balance sheet in our operating account and can be used to offset future losses, should they occur.**

Budgeted income includes the total of all pledged and unpledged donations and miscellaneous income including building rent, etc. “For Those in Need” collections are in addition to Budgeted Income Received and are disbursed quarterly to worthy causes, including Congregational Care, Tuesday Community Lunch and other Community needs outside our congregation. The percentage reflects the portion of the total amount of income or expense budgeted for the fiscal year.

Please note that we have had a slight fall off of current year pledge payments and a significant fall off of rental income during March 2020 through February 2021 due primarily to the Coronavirus pandemic. We need your help. If you can, send your pledge payments and “for those in need” contributions to the office or contribute on-line at uucgt.org.

If you want more detailed information, you can look at our website, click on Board, then on Board Packet, then on Monthly Comparison. Questions can be directed to your Finance Committee which includes Dusty Culton, Nancy Doughty, Karl Keinath, Mike McDonald and Jim Walworth.



Unitarian Universalist Congregation
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6726 Center Road
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

the BEACON

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UUCGT Calendar

All events and programs take place at UUCGT unless otherwise noted

**The UUCGT building remains closed but the office is staffed:
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Tuesdays through Fridays**

Meetings and classes take place via Zoom. **Zoom links** for all open meetings can be found in the [UUCGT online calendar](#).
Or call the UUCGT Office, 231-947-3117

April 2021

01	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
01	Thu	Creative Writing w/Alison Ernst	1:30 PM
01	Thu	Congregational Care Committee	2:00 PM
01	Thu	Stewardship Team Meeting	5:00 PM
01	Thu	<i>There is no VE rehearsal tonight!</i>	
02	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	1:00 PM
02	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
04	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
05	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
05	Mon	Ministerial Search Team	2:30 PM
05	Mon	Men's Group	5:30 PM
06	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
06	Tue	Sunday Service Coord's/Comm.	1:30 PM
07	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
07	Wed	Staff Mtg: no Rev. Cathy Office Hours	12:00 PM
07	Wed	Staff Resources Committee	4:00 PM
07	Wed	(Virtual?) Supper Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
		- check the weather, check with Mike & Sandra!	
08	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
08	Thu	Creative Writing w/Alison Ernst	1:30 PM
08	Thu	Stewardship Team Meeting	5:00 PM
08	Thu	Zoom VE Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
09	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	1:00 PM
09	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
11	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
11	Sun	Social Justice Action Meeting	12:00 PM
12	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
13	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
13	Tue	Sunday Service Coord's/Comm.	1:30 PM
13	Tue	Finance Committee Meeting	3:30 PM
14	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
14	Wed	Zoom Office Hours w/Rev. Cathy	12:00 PM

14	Wed	Virtual Supper - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
14	Wed	BOARD of TRUSTEES Meeting	7:00 PM
15	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
15	Thu	Creative Writing w/Alison Ernst	1:30 PM
15	Thu	Congregational Care Committee	2:00 PM
15	Thu	Stewardship Team Meeting	5:00 PM
15	Thu	Zoom VE Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
16	Fri	Rehearsal for Sunday Service	1:00 PM
16	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
18	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
19	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
20	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
20	Tue	Sunday Service Coord's/Comm.	1:30 PM
20	Tue	Leadership Development Committee	3:00 PM
21	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
21	Wed	Zoom Office Hours w/Rev. Cathy	12:00 PM
21	Wed	Virtual Supper - Mike & Sandra McDonald	5:30 PM
22	Thu	Soul Matters Group w/Alison Ernst	10:00 AM
22	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
22	Thu	Creative Writing w/Alison Ernst	1:30 PM
22	Thu	Stewardship Team Meeting	5:00 PM
22	Thu	Zoom VE Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
23	Fri	Tech Rehearsal for Sunday Svc	1:00 PM
23	Fri	Vespers Candlelight Svc (sign in 7:30)	8:00 PM
25	Sun	RE Children & Youth	9:45 AM
25	Sun	Sunday Service 10:30 AM	Sign in @ 10:00 AM
26	Mon	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
27	Tue	Community Lunch, Friends Church	10:30 AM
27	Tue	Sunday Service Coord's./Comm.	1:30 PM
28	Wed	Stretch & Strengthen	11:15 AM
28	Wed	Zoom Office Hours w/Rev. Cathy	12:00 PM
28	Wed	Healthy Congregations	4:00 PM
28	Wed	Supper/Happy Hour - Virtual or in-person?	5:30 PM
29	Thu	Soul Matters w/Alison Ernst	10:00 AM
29	Thu	Peacemakers Needle Workers	1:30 PM
29	Thu	Creative Writing w/Alison Ernst	1:30 PM
29	Thu	Stewardship Team Meeting	5:00 PM
29	Thu	Zoom VE Rehearsal with Renée	7:00 PM
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