

# Temple Adath Israel Bulletin

May/mid-June 2024

Nisan/Iyar/Sivan 5784

# An abundance of Omer opportunities

# FROM THE RABBI'S STUDY



David Wirtschafter

The 49 days between the festivals of Passover and Shavuot are known as the Omer. A blessing is said for each day as we count them off in order. As the rabbinic

commentary goes, the purpose of the Omer is not merely to count our days but to make our days count. Here are a number of worship and program highlights to enrich the next few weeks of our spiritual lives:

MAY 10: Our Views from the Pews speaker will be Janny Scheeline. Janny is an active member of our congregation who works diligently in the Mitzvah Garden and pitches in on culinary events like TAI on Rye. A person who lives with a hearing impairment, Janny was inspired to speak on this particular Torah portion that includes the famous verse "You shall not curse the deaf nor place a stumbling block before the blind." Music for this service will be led by Gabe Robitaille and Jonathan Miller with additional guitar and vocal accompaniment from Jonathan and Levi Bronner, the father and brother, respectively, of Ariana Bronner, who will be called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah the following day.

MAY 17-18: Hadassah Shabbat, with Friday evening services at 7 p.m. at TAI and 10 a.m. Saturday at OZS. You might recall that we had to cancel last year's Hadassah service at Temple due to the weather, so we are looking forward to this

After a low-key start, TAI's new Kabbalat Shabbat is off and running.
The idea behind Kabbalat

The idea behind Kabbalat Shabbat is, as its name means, to welcome Shabbat. The program, which began in March, includes dinner and programming before regular services at 7 p.m. It is family-friendly but also meaningful and appropriate for anyone of any age who wants to find



At the Passover-themed Kabbalat Shabbat in April, Eva was pleased with the results of her macaroon-decorating efforts.

# Kabbalat Shabbat: a new monthly event

See RABBI, Page 4

See KABBALAT, Page 3

# Oh, the places you'll go

# FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK



Rich Ornstein

It's interesting how much being involved at TAI can change one's life. Before becoming more involved, I practiced and participated in Judaism as I saw fit, something I still do, but back then I was more likely to be at TAI for a "food" event than for a religious service. And on vacation, with the rare exception of visiting the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., I don't recall visiting another Jewish site unless you count

lunching at a kosher or kosher-style deli. TAI has changed that part of me.

In April, Angie and I, along with Joy and Simon Fisher, friends we made by participating in Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass activities, took a cruise that included Aruba and Curaçao. As a history buff and someone who enjoys older architecture, I was excited about these stops. While our Aruba visit was nice, it's Curaçao that I will remember fondly, and it wasn't for the reasons I thought. We did the typical tours and had lunch at a wonderful spot where I unwittingly enjoyed a delicious Curaçaon-Jewish entree, *keshi yena*, basically stuffed cheese. But what made this trip memorable was the walk through downtown Willemstad to Mikvé Israel-Emanuel synagogue, consecrated in 1732 and the oldest synagogue in continuing use in the Americas. Would I have visited

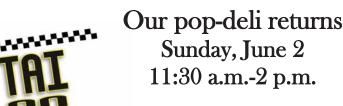


The sand-covered floor at Mikvé Israel-Emanuel in Curação

the synagogue on my own? Probably not, but with Joy leading the way, I followed.

Once there, we visited its museum, which was fine for what it was. What was memorable were two things: the sanctuary floor, which was covered in sand, and talking with Rabbi Martin Hirsch. We had a delightful conversation with him about the small congregation (104 congregants with half living elsewhere), our congregation and the building. After being asked, Rabbi Hirsch explained that the sand on the sanctuary floor was not some cool Caribbean tradition but served two religious purposes: It represents both G-d telling Abraham that his children would be like sand on a beach, and the 40 years our ancestors spent in the desert. The latter resonated with me as Passover was approaching.

That's one of the many ways that my involvement in TAI has changed me for the good. I'm aware I have written many articles — maybe too many — about that. But it has been a wonderful exploratory journey and one I hope some of you will experience. Being involved at TAI doesn't require hours and hours of service monthly. Just a few hours each month can be life-changing. While I currently volunteer more than a few hours a month, those hours are some of the best in my life.



Deli in the Bluegrass

Mersack & Stern Social Hall

We'll be taking advance orders
for chopped liver.
Look for an email when
the ordering site goes live.

# From Pastrami to Poetry: Nourishment for Body and Soul 2 p.m. Sunday, June 2 (after TAI on Rye)

**Educational Suite** 

Poetry, prose, music & open mic With poet Susan Cobin and musical duo Lauren Hill and Jerry Suhl

Presented by TAI Adult Education Committee RSVP by calling the temple office at 859-269-2979.



# FROM THE RELIGIOUS SCHOOL

Elissa Weinstein, Director

Shalom! Sunday, May 5, is the last day of our Religious School year, and what a great year it's been. Our students accomplished so much. The year started off with a fun Yom Kippur- and Sukkot-themed day followed by consecration in the fall. We collected and donated lots of supplies for the Compassionate Caravan, the Hopemobile and the Hope Center Emergency Shelter. Tzipurei Shir, our children's choir, delighted us with song at many of our Family Shabbat services. We helped with the garden, cooked up a storm in the kitchen, created amazing art projects, learned, sang, laughed, made sandwiches and bags for the needy, heard from guest speakers and readers, learned about summer camp opportunities, participated and led services, and so much more.

Our Family Shabbat dinners and services went great, so much so that we rolled out a new Kabbalat Shabbat program in March that has been amazing. In March, our first-/second-graders each presented the favorite thing they've learned this year. The class, taught by Faith McBride-Byrne and Raya Isenstein, did an amazing job. During their class time they learned about Jewish values, learning the Aleph Bet and talking about Jewish holidays. In April, our kindergarten and Pre-K classes also shared the favorite things they've learned this year. Another wonderful job done! Kindergarten is taught by Jamie Schencker and Danit Schachman, while Jessalin Archer teaches our Pre-K. Both of those classes have spent the year working on their Hebrew letters and vowels, learning about holidays and different Jewish values.

Religious School could not exist without our amazing teachers. It's not only been a pleasure watching them teach every week, but also seeing them take such care in molding our children. I would like to thank all the teachers who have made an impact on Religious School this year: Laura Schachman, Jo Stone, Abby Miller, Mark Schachman, Dan Isenstein, Diane Arnson-Svarlien, Jordan



Teacher's aide Danit Schachman helped kindergartner Rama share his favorite lesson at Religious School this year.

Brennan, Amanda Palley, Rabbi David Wirtschafter, Faith McBride-Byrne, Raya Isenstein, Danit Schachman, Jamie Schencker, Gabe Robitaille, and Jessalin Archer. Whether it was an occasional Sunday or every week, these people have given our TAI children a gift. Their hard work and support of Jewish education is exceptional.

While we are looking forward to a nice summer off, plans are being made for the next school year. Keep an eye on your email for Religious School updates this summer.

# KABBALAT Continued from Page 1

more ways to connect with their faith and our community. The idea stemmed from a TAI working group representing young families in the congregation. Chaired by Erik Schwartz, the group's goal was to come up with recommendations for "deepening the role that young

people and families play in all aspects of temple life."
"We already were looking to expand our family Shabbat programming that would appeal to a wider range of congregants and fit their busy schedules," Religious School

director Elissa Weinstein said. "Based on the working group's suggestions and along with Rabbi Wirtschafter and Executive Director Nick Fain, Kabbalat Shabbat was born."

The next Kabbalat Shabbat is set for 5:30 p.m. Friday, May 31, with services at 7. Weather permitting, it will be a block party along the back of the building, spreading out from the patio. Bring a lawn chair, stake out a spot to eat, mingle, participate and welcome Shabbat.

Additional Kabbalt Shabbats over the summer are scheduled July 19 and Aug. 23. The format will continue to evolve as TAI seeks to reach out to the entire congregation.



#### **BAT MITZVAH**

Jonathan and Sarah Bronner invite you to share in their great happiness as their daughter

ARIANA JADE BRONNER is called to the Torah as a Bat Mitzvah

10:30 a.m. Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Temple Adath Israel, 124 N. Ashland Ave. There will be a kiddush luncheon immediately after the morning service.

> Ari also will participate in the Shabbat service at 7 p.m. Friday, May 10.

TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL PRESENTS

# KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY

Food, drinks, games, Derby costume contest

Childcare provided

5 p.m. Saturday, May 4 Mersack & Stern Social Hall

Call the office (859-269-2979) to let us know that you plan to attend.







#### **RABBI**

**Continued from Page 1** 

upcoming service. The speaker Friday evening at 7 will be Dominque Olbert; Saturday at 10 a.m. we will hear from Joy Fisher. Please note: To support strong attendance at OZS, there will be no Saturday study sessions at TAI.

MAY 24: Our musical guest reunites us with an old friend who joined us nine years ago at my installation service. Dr. John Pleasants, right, is the cantorial soloist and choir director at Ames Jewish Congregation, the Iowa community I served on a part-time basis for seven years when we were living in Minnesota. In addition to singing with us at

installation, you might be familiar with John from his rendition of *V'Shamru* which we have used at TAI on numerous occasions. Please join us for a service filled with John's original compositions and personal favorites among melodies we are more familiar with.

JUNE 2: A dynamic double feature: TAI on Rye,

followed by a readings from poet Susan Cobin and music by Lauren Hill and Jerry Suhl. We are calling the afternoon "From Pastrami to Poetry: Nourishment for Body and Soul." Come for a delicious sandwich and stay for a delightful reading and dessert. There also will be 3-minute open-mic opportunities for attendees.

**JUNE 7:** Sisterhood Shabbat. Join us for this annual service led by the remarkable women of our congregation. There will be a pre-service oneg at 5:30 p.m., followed by the service at 6 (note the hour-earlier start time), and dinner afterward.

JUNE 11/13: Tikun Leil Shavout (Erev Shavuot study sessions), hosted by OZS and co-sponsored by TAI with session leaders from both congregations, will be at 7:30 p.m. June 11. This year's theme will be "Blessings and Challenges of Peoplehood." Yizkor and festival service for Shavuot also will be at OZS with co-sponsorship from TAI. Worship on June 13 begins at 9:30 a.m.

Please make the most of these Omer opportunities by attending as many as you can and encouraging family and friends to do likewise.



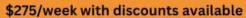
2024 Suluter.



Located at Temple Adath Israel Monday - Friday 9 am - 4 pm

Ages 4-15
For more info, contact:
susan@jewishlexington.org

susan@jewishlexington.or



Ask us about our early registration discounts available until April 1st, as well as UK employee and multiple sibling discounts!

Early and late stay available for an additional fee.

FUN FOR EVERYONE!



REGISTER
ONLINE TODAY:
bit.ly/CampShalom2024

Week II: July 8 - 12 - Nature Week
Week II: July 15-19 - Mission Impossible
Week III: July 22-26 - The Arts
Week IV: July 29 - Aug 2 - The Olympics



# Maggid: Israel Experience

7 p.m. Wednesday, May 8, at Pivot Brewing, 1400 Delaware Ave. Community members tell their stories in celebration of Yom HaAtzamaut. Questions: email Joy Fisher at joy@jewishlexington.org.

#### Night at the Ballpark

6:45 p.m. Thursday, May 23, at Legends Field, 207 Legends Lane. Celebrate Jewish Heritage Month as the Lexington Legends take on the High Point Rockers with a special giveaway. \$8; tickets available at Bit.ly/JFBlegends. For more information, contact Mindy Haas: mindy@jewishlexington.org.

#### 2024 DiverCity Festival

Noon-7 p.m. Saturday, May 25, at Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza, Main Street and North Limestone. JFB will represent the local Jewish community as Lexington celebrate its diverse cultures. Performances, vendors, food, drink. More information: Daniel Baker, Daniel@jewishlexington.org.

#### **Assistance requests**

If you or someone you know needs help with housing, utilities, grocery shopping or other situations, contact Paula Mertens, Jewish Family Services director, at (859) 269-8244 or jfs@jewish lexington.org.

# **News From**





## YAHRZEIT ... These we remember ...



#### May 3

Harry L. Alperin Mary Ann Baumstark Bernard Brill Don Buckholtz Philip Dechtenberg Henry Diamond Sonya Fishman Bernice Herman Lee Wayne Hicks Phillip Hurwitz Oscar Kaston Regina L. Landesberg Max Lattin Marjorie B. Leffler John K. McDonald Isadore A. "Jack" Miller Shirley Rattner Richard N. Rose **Ernest Rosenzweig** Maurice W. Spector Kahlman Stern James Wile Strauss Hattie Weil Thurman

#### May 10

Daniel Adams Irene Caudill Bloomfield Robert Cazden Janet Clawson Carolyn Davis Lawrence Michael Gerson Matilda Coulter Gilmour Emma Roos Hammel Annie Jacobsen Samuel Kahan Amelia H. Marks Morris Mayer Beatrice F. Miller Seymour L. Moskowitz Nathan Mulinsky Barbara Robinson Roth

Kurt Rosenbaum

Joseph Shapero

Isadore Weiss Irvin Young

**May 17** Sol Bederman Robert V. Breck Charles H. Cohen Marie P. Davis Marion Fine Charles Gewirtzman George Gordon Edna Gorfine Dorothy Halleck Marianne Madeleine Haskell Lottie Lattin Yetta Levenson Morris L. Levy Rena Marks Markhoff Harry Markovitz Lena D. Munich Liesel Rein Rose Rozen Fannie H. Scher Beatrice Schumer Herman Straus Renee Boral Trief Joyce Wenneker Lillian Wintner Fannie Torte

#### May 24

Wurmser

Rose Cantor Mae Cerel David P. Davis Emile Elkouby Mildred Emily Frank James Slaughter Frankel Alberta Gerson Jack L. Goldenberg Jane Hart Jack Joffe Sara Joffe Leonard Lipton Robert Ades Mickler Frances Nisman Bobby Morse Payne William Snyder

#### May 31

Erna Terese Abraham Annibale Ida Wides Baker Max Bloom Elsie Bloomfield Lillian Brill Jean Louisa Brown Anita Fleet Eleanor Fried Miriam Graff Rabbi Milton Grafman Craig Jonas Howard Kauffman Daisy Frankel Klein Yetta Kravetz Joseph Leep Julius Marks Jack Martin Bonnie McCrary Joseph Herman Miller Adalin Moskowitz Melvina Newman Rita Mitchell Nichtberger Dorothy Palley **Eleanor Potash** Joseph G. Pressman Stanley Irwin Rose Max Sandler Robert Louis Scher Luvishia W. Stivers Grigori Tabacnic Goldie Walters

#### June 7

**Howard Cherin** Robert Colley Jim Delk Rabbi Julian Fleg Myrtle Fox Jake Friedman Marsha Rudnick Gross Minerva Hamburg Stuart Harris Nathan Herman Lillian Kaplan

Ruth Kuc Marilvn Lieber Constance Loventhal Pearl Roorda Vida Schottenstein Nemat Shakib Yafa Shakib Freda Shraberg Dorothy Silver DeWayne Sparkman Ruby Jewel Sparkman Robert B. Stith **Bob Trammell** Irene Wenneker

June 14 Maxwell Bloom Alan Bloomfield Bill Booker William Clemmons Sr. Alva U. Coyle Dorothy Day Harold Louis Diamond Sidney Greenberg Aaron Hymson Albert Isaacs Sylvia Seligman Levy Joseph Manus "Jay" Liebman Manuel Lowenthal **Elouise Shepherd** Sallye Barnett Slaughter Martin Solomon Irvin Stern Jr.

Ronald Troxtell Maxwell Weinberger Norma Hundley Whitehouse

#### June 21

David Ades Harold Baker William Biederman Javne Bolotin David Carl Dachner David Fine Louis Hustedde Agatha Kling Isaacs Simon Jacobs Emanuel laffe Mae Kahan Alvin Kaplan Bessie Kessler Ruth Kessler Nancy Latouf Barbara Liebman Leslie Ann Lipton Leslie Masover Sarah K. Mickler Sam Nevel Tinya Norris Shirley Elizabeth **Poppas** Morton Rosenberg Benjamin Rubin David Shakib Rabbi HD Uriel Smith Houston Todd Helene Trachtenberg

#### In Memoriam ...

Rabbi William Leffler, husband of Ki Leffler, father of Carrie, Edie and William III

Ira Mersack, father of Rebecca (Joe) Young, Beth (Raymond) Brody and Melinda Mersack (Mark Jacobs), grandfather of Jacob and Max Young, Ethan and Camille Brody, and Isaiah, Eli and Kiva Jacobs

Susan Schueler, sister of Frank (Jill) Ceraulo

May their memories be for a blessing



## **WORSHIP, STUDY SCHEDULE**



### Study groups meet in person with a Zoom option.

May 3

Shabbat 7 p.m.

May 4

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Acharei Mot - Leviticus 16:1-18:30

May 10

Shabbat 7 p.m.

May 11

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

No Torah Study

Ari Bronner Bat Mitzvah 10:30 a.m.

May 17

Hadassah Shabbat 7 p.m.

May 18

Hadassah Shabbat 10 a.m. at OZS No Jewish/Texts or Torah Study sessions

at TAI

May 24

Shabbat 7 p.m.

May 25

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

B'har—Leviticus 25:1-26:2

May 31

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.

Shabbat 7 p.m.

June 1

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

B'chukotai - Leviticus 26:3-27:34

June 7

Sisterhood Shabbat 6 p.m.

June 8

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

B'midbar — Numbers 1:1-4:20

June 11

Erev Shavuot study sessions

7:30 p.m. at OZS

June 13

Shavuot yizkor/festival service

9:30 a.m. at OZS

June 14

Shabbat 7 p.m.

June 15

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

Naso - Numbers 4:21-7:89

June 21

Kabbalat Shabbat 5:30 p.m.

Shabbat 7 p.m.

June 22

Jewish Texts/Kollel 9 a.m.

Parsha 11 a.m.

B'haalot'cha— Numbers 8:1-12:16

#### **KOLLEL STUDY GROUP**

Kollel meets at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating We will discuss selected readings in rabbinic with Jewish Texts. The group explores cultural, ethical and

historical aspects of our 4,000-year tradition. The emphasis is on dialogue and exploration. You may join the group any time.



#### **JEWISH TEXTS STUDY**

literature at 9 a.m. Saturdays, alternating

with Kollel Study

Group. The discussion is always

lively and informative, and you

may join any time.



### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**Executive Committee** 

Thursday, May 16, 6:30 p.m.

Monday, June 10, 6:30 p.m.\*

Thursday, July 11, 6:30 p.m.

**Board of Directors** 

Tuesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18, 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, July 16, 6:30 p.m.

\* Note change from usual day

#### **PARSHA**

Join us each Saturday morning at 11 as we take a look at the Torah portion for the week. Sessions are not held when there is a bar or bat mitzvah service.

#### TAI MISSION STATEMENT

Temple Adath Israel is a Reform Jewish congregation linked to a tradition of welcoming those searching for a community committed to honoring the dignity we all share as children of the one God by embracing these enduring Jewish values: A VODAH (Worship); TALMUD TORAH (Torah Study); TZEDEK (Social Justice); and KEHILAH (Community). Our mission is to inspire our congregants' Jewish engagement and to ensure a vibrant Jewish present and future by nurturing the many generations of our community. We share a commitment to the Reform Jewish foundational beliefs of furthering individual and communal spiritual growth, while recognizing a range of personal philosophies, practices and needs. We are the community center through which our families can celebrate faith, justice, and the blessings of family lives present and future.

### TAI'S ENDOWMENT AT WORK

The cumulative value of TAI's endowment, which supplements the temple's financial needs, grew about 5.08% in the first quarter of 2024. Based on information compiled by Endowment Committee Treasurer Stacey Myers-Wilson, disbursements were made as follows to meet temple needs through March 31:

- \$14,100 from Enrichment Fund; offset operating expenses.
- \$7K from Hineni Fund; offset operating expenses.
- \$3K from Marty Solomon Fund for Jewish Youth Experiences and General Fund Purposes; offset cost of LiveControl.
- \$3K from Bloomfield Family Fund; offset cost of LiveControl.
- \$1.1K from Perpetual Care Fund; care of nine gravesites at Lexington Cemetery.
- \$100 from Maurice, Evelyn and Barbara Hymson Adult Education Trust Fund; programming expenses.

### CONTRIBUTIONS

#### **FLOWER FUND**

**Stacy Bloomfield** in memory of Minna H. Bloomfield and Julian Bloomfield

**Susan Cobin and Randall Roorda** in memory of Arlene Cobin and Mortimer I. Cobin

**Dan Liebman** in memory of Herbert Liebman **Grace Quisenberry** in memory of Melissa Prince Quisenberry

**David Wachtel** in memory of Corinne Wachtel and Sidney Wachtel

**Alan and Elissa Weinstein** in memory of Ord Matek, Lucille Paskowitz and Betsy Matek

#### **GENERAL FUND**

Dianne Bazell and Larry Kant in memory of Chad Hughes, Sybil Stern, Frances Jarvis, Hariett Corren and Ira Mersack Karen Hurwitz in memory of Lillian S. Kaplan Sylvia Grossman Lenhoff for Pesach Pete and Bonnie Sobel in memory of Ira Mersack Jacob Carr, Kim Colley, Joel Kohler and Dawn Paluch, Mixon Ware

# MAURICE, EVELYN AND BARARA HYMSON ADULT EDUCATION TRUST FUND

Mixon Ware

#### MERSACK SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Donations in memory of Ira Mersack:

Alan Bernard, Stacy Bloomfield, Vera Dubilier,
Melinda Dupont, The Gathering Place Board of Trustees
and Staff, Judi Gerwirtzman, Charles Gorodetzky,
Ron Gubitz, Laura Hardesty and the JEC Family Fund,
Odette Kaplan, Ben Kaufmann and Janet Zusman,
Sanford Levy, John and Connie Loventhal, Debbi Masters
and Nick Fain, Pete and Deb Nelson, Ruth Poley,
Ellen Robinson and Jim Condon, The Romeos (Joe Brill,
Garry Hoover, Larry Kant, Howard Kleiman, Lowell Nigoff,
Randall Roorda and Mark Wiljanen), Marsha Rose,

David and Enid Rosenberg, Kim and Rob Rosenstein, Cheri and David Ross, Nat and Judy Sandler, Janet Scheeline, Dale and Elaine Schermer, Lou and Bobbi Shain, David and Pat Shraberg, Gena Sprenger, Jon Steiger, Samye and Darryl Stith, T. Sutherland, Richard Trontz, David and Elizabeth Wachtel, Harold and Claire Weinberg, Dr. and Mrs. Donald Wilson

## SHERMAN E. AND FANNIE H. MILLER FUND

Samye and Darryl Stith

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOL PROGRAM FUND

Pete and Bonnie Sobel in memory of Sybil Stern

#### SKULLER-COHEN-CEREL FUND

**Jan and Jerry Cerel** in memory of Ira Mersack, Robert Cohen, Rose Brazin and Mae Cerel

#### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

**Minna Katz-Brown** in memory of Robert Katz and Doris Krekun

**Debbie Masters and Nick Fain** in honor of Rabbi's work with Addison for her Bat Mitzvah

**Kim and Rob Rosenstein** in memory of Rabbi William Leffler

**Janet Scheeline** in memory of Rabbi William Leffler **Harold and Marianne Sherman, Greg and Bonnie Martin** in memory of Ira Mersack

Paul Joseph, Rebecca and Joe Young

#### SISTERHOOD YES FUND

Odette Kaplan with thanks for birthday Uniongrams

#### TAI BUILDING FUND

Shirley and Jared Bryan in memory of Charles Stern

#### **TIKKUN OLAM FUND**

Lou and Bobbi Shain in memory of Rabbi William Leffler















This Space Available

#### TEMPLE ADATH ISRAEL 124 N. ASHLAND AVENUE LEXINGTON, KY 40502-1595 (859) 269-2979

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