



The Searchlight

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbia, Missouri

2615 Shepard Blvd., Columbia, MO 65201 • 573-442-5764 • <https://uuchurch.net> • Volume 58, Issue 3, September 2018

September Worship

10:30 a.m. Sept. 2
9 and 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 9

Sunday, Sept. 2

10:30 a.m.

“The Work of Love”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

It is one of my favorite phrases to say that the purpose of our church is to “do the work of love.” But what *is* the work of love? Join us on this Labor Day weekend to consider the many ways that we serve our deepest calling in this life.

Sunday, Sept. 9

Two Services Resume

9 and 11 a.m.

“An Altar in the World”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

As we begin our work with this month’s theme of Sanctuary, join us to consider what it is to create and experience sacred space in the world and in our lives. How do we set aside times and places for reflection and depth?

Sunday, Sept. 16

9 and 11 a.m.

“Making Amends”

**Rev. Molly Housh Gordon
and DRE Jamila Batchelder**

Later this week, our Jewish neighbors, members, and friends observe the high holiday of Yom Kippur, the day of atonement. We will take the opportunity, in an interactive service for all ages, to contemplate what it

means to make amends, how to apologize well, and the importance of creating a community that continually recommits to our promises.

Sunday, Sept. 23

9 and 11 a.m.

“A Shelter for Every Storm”

UUCS Sanctuary Team

Join the UUCS Sanctuary Team as we explore the meaning of creating an *expansive* sense of what it means to offer sanctuary in these challenging times. Together, we will consider how claiming our identity as a sanctuary congregation relates to creating deep connections, radical welcome and courageous love, not just for our immigrant friends and guests, but for ourselves as members of this sanctuary community. (See also Page 4.)

Sunday, Sept. 30

9 and 11 a.m.

“Peace Must Be Dared”

Rev. Molly Housh Gordon

German theologian, pastor and anti-Nazi dissident Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: “There is no way to peace along the way of safety. For peace must be dared. It is itself the great venture and can never be safe.” Join us to explore the mingling ideas of safety and risk in these times and in our lives.

2018-19 Theme

Loaded Words

“Speech has power. Words do not fade. What starts out as a sound, ends in a deed.”

– Abraham Joshua Herschel

I believe that one of the central tasks of Unitarian Universalism is to wrestle with big ideas. We are not a people to let a thought lie, but rather we turn them upside down and around and examine every inch. We know that words and ideas have formative power in our world and that we must contest in the public sphere for language that is precise and powerful and true. To do this, we must first do our own grappling.

This year, we will be going deep each month with a “loaded word,” exploring what we think we know about language we may use every day or reject out of hand. Some of these words are already complicated for us, as people with many experiences and beliefs seeking meaning together. Some of them might feel easy to us... too easy, and might be calling us to challenge our assumptions. All of them, I hope, are ripe for deeper examination.

Our loaded words this year are: Sanctuary, Evil, Sacrifice, Faith, Solidarity, Power, Salvation, Surrender, and Obligation. Join us to wrestle with them all together.

See you in church!

Rev. Molly

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All-Church Picnic/Potluck

Reviving the tradition of a kick-off to the church year, the All-Church Picnic/Potluck will follow the 11 a.m. worship service on **Sunday, Sept. 9.**

Meat and veggie hamburgers, hot-dogs, buns and condiments will be provided. Bring a side dish, dessert or beverage to share.

Everyone is welcome!



Adult Religious Education @ UCC

Mark your calendars with a recurring event to join us for an exciting new Adult Religious Education offering!

Starting Sept. 11 on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 to 8 p.m., you can count on at least two options for a thought-provoking class. Our first 10-week semester you can attend either *Class Consciousness in Unitarian Universalism* or *What Moves Us: UU Theology*. Registration is not required, and you are welcome to come to some or all of the sessions. Childcare will be provided.

We'll kick off this exciting new program with a **Potluck Dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 11,** followed by classes at 6:30.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
@ UCC

TUESDAYS
6:30-8PM
UU CHURCH OF COLUMBIA

10 week fall semester begins September 11
with

Two Exciting Options!

join us for
Class Consciousness in Unitarian Universalism
or
What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology

CHILD CARE PROVIDED!

UCC Mission Statement

In the spirit of courageous love, we forge a community of radical welcome and deep connection that moves us together to heal the world.

President's Perspective

Setting goals while having a little fun

By Barbara Rupp, 2018-19 President

The full Board of Trustees and Rev. Molly met all day Saturday, Aug. 18, for our annual retreat. It was a time for new board members to learn more about the work of the board and a time for everyone to get to know each other a bit better. The day proved to be a wonderful combination of fun (we survived a break-out room in Columbia and worked together well enough to get out of the room!), some spiritual inspiration from Rev. Molly, some goal setting for the year, some singing and, of course, we just had to enjoy some good food together.

I'm happy to share that board members were in full agreement regarding our priorities for the coming year. We still have work to do on prioritizing our goals, but it seems fair to share with you some of what's on our worksheet. First, we hope to assist the Building Needs Task Force (see interim report on page 7) in any way possible to further their work on assessing building needs. You will be hearing more directly from the task force in the coming weeks as they ask for input from some members of the congrega-

tion. Second, we felt that it was time for us to review the board policies to determine if any changes are needed. We will begin reviewing segments of our policies starting at our September meeting. Third, we're hoping to come up with some ideas and plans to encourage better linkage between the congregation and the board, including specific opportunities for members to chat informally with board members. These are not our only goals for the year, but they will certainly keep us busy in the coming months.

I hope to keep you informed of our progress in the coming months. Meanwhile, if you have any comments or concerns, or if you are interested in learning more about the work of the board, please do not hesitate to contact me. You can email me at ruppb@missouri.edu or you can call me at 573-424-3331.

“May you be well; may you be safe; may you be peaceful and at ease.”

– Metta Institute

UUs with Disabilities

Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Team

As with other marginalized populations, the needs and experiences of people with disabilities can be unmet or overlooked. With this in mind, the Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry (AIM) Team conducted a survey last fall to assess the current state of accessibility and inclusivity of persons with disabilities within our congregation. A total of 79 individuals, or 30% of our 264 members at the time, completed the survey, which was available online, as well as in regular and large print.

We discovered that 13% of our church identify as having at least one disability, which is a little less than the national average of about 20%. Physical and visual disabilities had the highest frequency, with mental health/emotional as the next most common. Over 20 survey takers expressed desire for an elevator, but we learned about other needs as well. Several participants live with light or chemical sensitivity, or allergies, and experience migraines or allergic reactions at our church. Multiple individuals have difficulty hearing in the sanctuary and the greeting area. When it comes to invisible disabilities, including those relating to mental health and autism, some individuals feel supported, while others would like members to be more accepting and understanding.

While some information, like the many calls for an elevator, may be unsurprising, these results shed light on the different experiences of a significant percentage of our congregation. We invite you to learn more about disabilities and radical welcome at one of our events this year!

– Gretchen Maune, Co-Chair, AIM Team

Forum – September 2018

9 a.m. Sundays

The UU Forum, an adult discussion group open to the public, meets on Sundays from 9 to 10 a.m. Conversation and light refreshments are offered along with the discussion. Forum coordinator: Bill Clark, 573-474-4510.

Sept. 2: Wayne Anderson will discuss his “Travels into Our Past, Volume Two.” He will focus on several of the programs that have re-enactors, who help us on our journeys into what our world was like earlier.

Sept. 9: The nation’s rejection of and hostility toward homosexuality is reflected in the history of the University of Missouri-Columbia. Wayne Anderson as a staff member at the Counseling Service was in a position to watch the evolution of attitudes from total rejection as students were charged with “crimes against nature” to the more modern acceptance of homosexuality as an alternate but normal form of sexuality.

Sept. 16: Nobel Prizes have been awarded to 892 individuals, of whom 201 or 22.5% were Jews, although the total Jewish population comprises less than **0.2%** of the world’s population. Given the degree of anti-Semitism in the 20th century resulting in the Holocaust, how could this be?

Sept. 23: Wayne Anderson has visited a number of sites where the Native American Clovis People left artifacts telling us about their lifestyle – sites, in California, Colorado, Missouri, Florida and Ohio. Thirteen thousand years ago, giant creatures lived in Missouri. This was a world in which a normal human would have seemed diminutive. Despite their lack of size, how did they not only survive, but become the rulers of this giant domain?

Sept. 30: Our relationship to the Native Americans was fraught with dishonesty and deception. Wayne Anderson has visited over 70 Indian sites and museums across the country and will focus on the Cherokee to show how even a cooperating tribe that made a serious attempt to become like us was doomed to failure.

UU Life Writers – Fall 2018 “Our Stories... Our Voices”

UU Life Writers begin again – to write marvelous life stories starting on Saturday, Sept. 15, 2018 at 10:30 a.m. in the Centering Room downstairs at the church.

Historians study the past in order to understand the present and, perhaps, predict the future. Writing memoir helps us understand our past and present – and, maybe, our future – as a thoughtful, spiritual exercise. In this group we write and share.

One does not have to be a published or accomplished writer – just someone who would like to explore their life through writing. This is not a critique group – only positive feedback is given! However, constructive feedback can be given in a one-to-one situation if requested.

Please bring paper and favorite writing tools. We will meet on the following dates:

- Sept. 15 and 29
- Oct. 6 and 20
- Nov. 3 and 17
- Dec. 1 and maybe 15

For more information, send an email to Fran Reynolds at freynolds@centurytel.net.

Sunday, Sept. 23 Worship and Special Event ‘A Shelter for Every Storm’

With the UUCS Sanctuary Team

The UUCS Sanctuary Team invites you to join us between services on Sept. 23 as Rev. Molly leads us in a dedication of the new shower that we have built through your donations, with the significant work of volunteers. Light refreshments will be served.

At 10:30 that morning, we will be celebrating the fact that we now have made our building even more accommodating should a person or family need the shelter of our church as they pursue legal remedies relating to their immigration status.

The UUCS Sanctuary Team wishes to thank everyone who has helped make this possible.

Ministry Teams News

CROPWALK (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) on Sept. 23

The Columbia CROP Hunger Walk season is under way. This year we honor Edith Prince, longtime church and community volunteer, who initially started the Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry.

Our global portion fights hunger through the many programs of Church World Service. This year our global effort focuses on Timor, Indonesia, and Timor-Leste. Our theme is “Veggies, Eggs and a Side of Hope.” With simple but innovative strategies to help small farmers increase the variety and quantity of nourishing veggies and raise healthy chickens to produce meat and eggs, CWS is bringing hope to a very impoverished part of the planet. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5tma-1q3Qrg> to learn more.

Locally our walk helps support five special programs:

- Loaves & Fishes Community Meal
- Fifth Street Christian Church Feed the Community program
- Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry
- Latter House Food Pantry
- Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture’s Planting for the Pantry program, which supplies fresh produce to the Food Bank’s Central Pantry.

Email Allie Gassmann at alliegassmann@socket.net for more information.

Honduras Ministry News

The Honduras Ministry Team has been sending \$400 monthly to the health clinic in El Pital. The majority of these funds are donated by several individuals on the team in the name of our church.

We received a thank-you letter of profound gratitude from the nurse who staffs the clinic. Through our UUCC donations, the clinic has been able to provide aid to the people of eight different communities in the Cangrejal River Valley. The clinic was able to manage Leishmaniasis and flu outbreaks and remain open during the political crisis when no public agencies were functioning and the clinic was without any sort of medicines or supplies other than what they were able to purchase from our funds. Our contributions also are vital for everyday needs that we take for granted such as bandages, antibacterial ointments and asthma medications. To read the letter and the translation, please see the Social Action Team bulletin board in the greeting area.

The Honduras Ministry Team thanks the whole UUCC community for your ongoing support of our friends in the Cangrejal River Valley!

‘The Struggle for Disability Rights: Yesterday and Today’

**12:30 to 2 p.m. Sept. 23
in the Sanctuary**

The Accessibility and Inclusion Ministry Team will sponsor a program titled “The Struggle for Disability Rights: Yesterday and Today” in the sanctuary at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 23. The program will feature a showing of “Lives Worth Living,” a 2011 documentary about the Disability Rights Movement.

The film will be followed by a discussion of how people with disabilities and their allies are still struggling for their rights today. A light lunch and childcare will be provided. The program is expected to end about 2 p.m.

The documentary is universally designed with closed captioning and audio description. Director Eric Neudel described the film as follows:

“Echoing footage of Martin Luther King marching in Selma, we see protestors climb from wheelchairs and drag themselves courageously up courthouse steps; we watch as quadriplegic activists maneuver their chairs in front of public buses that are not equipped to accommodate them.

“The film ends with the dramatic battle for the Americans with Disabilities Act, one of the most important pieces of civil rights legislation in America’s history. The thousands of individuals who came together to change attitudes and laws demonstrated the power of humanity, cooperation, and self-determination, and what can be accomplished against seemingly insurmountable obstacles.”

Read more at <http://www.pbs.org/independentlens/films/lives-worth-living/>.



Green Sanctuary Team News

The Green Sanctuary Team is changing its meeting time and date. If you are interested in getting involved, please join us at 7 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month. We will be meeting at the home of Allie Gassmann, 1700 Princeton Dr., starting on Thursday, Sept. 13.

Join us as we work on becoming a Green Sanctuary congregation and plan outdoor activities and environmental and spiritual opportunities with an ecological theme.

Our next opportunity for some hands-on fun and learning will be our Stream Team quarterly water quality monitoring at 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29. This is a whole-family, wet-feet opportunity to learn to measure stream flow, identify and count invertebrates, and evaluate water quality, in our sampling spot accessed from the Grindstone Nature area parking lot. Contact Peter Holmes or Carole Simon for more information.

Fun in the Forest

**UUCU Third Annual Campout at Bergfried
Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Team
Oct. 12-14, 2018**

***Fall colors, campfires, s'mores,
singing, hiking, music, games,
and an outdoor Sunday Service***

Eliot Chapel, our sister UU church in Kirkwood, Mo., owns the 600-acre Bergfried retreat facility near Hermann, Mo. We had fun there the past two years and expect even more fun this year. It is a great experience for children, and it gives our members and friends a chance to make deeper connections with each other.

You can come and camp out or stay in the cottage or one of the two bunkhouses (first come, first served). The cottage has water, electricity, a double bed, two twin beds and three portable twin floor mattresses that can be used on the screen porch. There are two bunkhouses, one with four beds and other with five. The bunkhouses are rustic but do provide a bunk to sleep on.

The cost will be a small donation to cover food and hire of the campsite.

Please sign up by clicking the button near the top of the home page of UUCU website (<https://uuchurch.net>). When you sign up, please indicate in the comments box if you are willing to help organize the campout – we will need plenty of help.

Email Peter Holmes at pfolmes63@gmail.com for more information or to volunteer.

UUCU Caring Ministry

This ministry is based on the belief that we are all inherently worthy of care and meaningful connections with others. Join us in:

- Supporting with a card or phone call
- Sharing a ride to church
- Providing a meal or other help
- Helping with memorial services



We need many hands and caring hearts! Contact Meredith Donaldson by email at mjdonlsn@gmail.com or call the church office at 573-442-5764 to volunteer.

Buildings Needs Task Force – Interim Report

(presented at the May 6, 2018 Annual Congregational Meeting)

A Building Needs Task Force (Gretchen Maune, Larry Lile, Matthew Bossaller, Connie Ordway, Kevin Fritsche) was appointed by the UUCB Board of Trustees in 2017 and charged with the following objectives:

- Discern the desires of the congregation regarding changes to and/or expansion of our current church facilities;
- Research practical solutions to meeting these desires, including the possibility of relocating or adding satellite location(s);
- Present to the Board at least three well-researched options for meeting the congregations' aspirations regarding our facilities.

What follows is a brief summary of our progress to date. **Task force members welcome your questions and feedback.**

Membership Growth

Our membership has grown by a rate of ~6% per year since 2013 (i.e., shortly after the start of Rev. Molly's ministry). We believe that it is reasonable to expect our membership to expand to nearly 350 within the next decade. Our current facility could not well-serve a congregation of that size.

Acute/Immediate Buildings Needs

There seems to be a consensus among our members that the installation of an elevator in the space set aside for this during the previous building expansion is a TOP PRIORITY. In addition to an elevator, there are a few other facility modifications that could improve accessibility, which would be modest in cost and should be implemented as soon as it is practical to do so. There exist several deferred maintenance items that have been pointed out to the team, but the most obvious and frequently mentioned one is the need to replace the carpeting throughout the building.

Top Building/Space Limitations

Our sanctuary is often filled to capacity, despite the addition of a second Sunday morning service. An expanded sanctuary space would help accommodate projected growth in membership.

Currently, the space that serves as an entry and welcoming space (i.e., "Greeting Area") is too small to accommodate the number of people that gather there on most Sundays.

At the present time we do not have suitable office space for our current staffing levels. As we grow in members, we anticipate more staff, which will only make the shortage of office space more problematic.

Meeting room space can be at a premium, particularly on Sunday afternoons. Storage space is at a premium both upstairs and downstairs.

Expansion and renovation of the upstairs kitchen to a "commercial" kitchen or the inclusion of a commercial kitchen in a new facility/expansion project would be highly desirable.

On-site parking is limited. Guidelines suggest that we should consider expanding our 43 spaces to about 60 or 70.

Next Month: Read about possible options being considered to meet these needs.

UUCC Book Discussion – Sept. 14

The UUCC Book Discussion Group will meet at 5 p.m. Friday, Sept. 14 at The Neighborhood with Abe and Joan Eisenstark.

The Neighborhood is located at 3003 Falling Leaf Lane. We will each bring our own dinner.

Also bring a book you have read to discuss briefly.

If you have questions, call Pam Springsteel at 573-445-0642.

Kaleidoscope – Sept. 29

The Kaleidoscope pagan group will gather for M'bon, the Second Harvest and the Equinox, at 6 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 29.

Once again the Earth stands for just a moment in perfect balance, then, as always, falls to the side once again, this time into darkness.

Gather with us at the church. We will join in ritual, followed by a potluck and friendship. All are welcome, no matter what their personal paths.

UUCC provides Loaves and Fishes meal on 3rd Sundays – Sept. 16

UUCC provides the evening meal at Loaves and Fishes on the third Sunday each month.

Please sign up on the church website to prepare food for this meal and/or to help set up, serve, and clean up.

Serving meals at Loaves and Fishes is a project of our Social Action Team.

If you have questions, email Diane Suhler at drsuhler@ccis.edu.

Conversations, Etc. – Sept. 12

All women who are free on the second Wednesday of the month (Sept. 12) at noon are invited to join us at church.

Please bring a brown bag lunch. We will enjoy the good company of friends. We hope to see you there!

If you have questions, call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6325.

Mindfulness Meditation – Sunday mornings

Join us for Mindfulness Meditation at 9:30 a.m. Sept. 2 and at 10:05 a.m. on Sundays thereafter in the Centering Room or at the Fire Circle.

Meditators of all levels of experience are welcome. This is mainly silent meditation with some instruction, if needed, and with brief selected readings from eminent teachers.

For more information, contact Peter Holmes at 573-239-7789 or pfholmes63@gmail.com.

Men's Group

The UUCC Men's Group meets on the second, fourth, and fifth Saturdays of each month at 8 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Executive Center. The group is open to all men. There are no fees and no reservations are necessary.

The agenda is an open discussion of whatever is on the minds of those in attendance – and breakfast!

For more information contact Wiley Miller at 573-864-8574 or millerwi@missouri.edu.

'Dinners for 8' now accepting signups

The UU Dining Group is beginning the 2018-19 "Dinners for 8 Groups" early this year. Our first dinners, which take place in UU homes, will be in September. The theme will be Italian food. There will be a new theme each month.

We will have three in-home dinners in fall/winter 2018 and three in-home dinners in winter/spring 2019, but we need to know of your interest so we can identify the hosts and assign the persons responsible for preparing the entree, the salad and vegetable dishes, the dessert and the bread.

The hosts and hostesses invite eight Dining Group members to their home and prepare the appetizers and drinks. We have substitutes who will come when needed and sometimes act as hosts.

It's never too late to join the Dining Group. Just email Linda Lou Brown at brownlindalou@icloud.com or call Melinda Farhangi at 573-445-6325. We will email or snail-mail a packet of information to your home.

Dues are \$12.50 per person. Couples and singles are welcome. Make checks payable to UUCC with "Dinners for 8" on the memo line. You may bring the dues check or cash to the first dinner or drop it in the offering plate.

Dues are used for the December hors d'oeuvres party at the church the first week of December and for the "Spring Finale" potluck entree and drinks at the church in April.

Bon Appetit, and let us hear from you!

Reflections

In the month of September we will be exploring the theme of sanctuary at UUCC. I am reminded of a time when my daughter was little, and having trouble sleeping and night fears, calling me in again and again to sit with her in her dark room. Amid all of my exasperation, I had this moment of realizing the beauty that the simple act of my presence created a complete sense of well-being and safety for my child, feeling her body relax into sleep, knowing that I was her sanctuary.

I still frequently feel exasperated as a parent by my children's near constant demands for my attention, but I try to remember to return to that feeling, our sacred gift as parents to create sanctuary for our children, and hopefully in so doing, giving them the ability to create it for others. How can you explore sanctuary with your children this month?

- Build a pillow fort together and snuggle in it.
- Volunteer at an animal shelter.
- Volunteer with City of Refuge.
- Talk to your child about the sanctuary work our church is doing and what it means to be a sanctuary church.



Jamila Batchelder
Director of Religious Education
dre@uuchurch.net
573-442-5764
Office Hours: Wed. 10 a.m.-noon
and by appointment

R.E. Registration!
We need children registered so we can plan for the year! This year, if you have no changes to your information from last year, registration is very simple: Follow the link below, complete the required fields marked with asterisks, and click the "Registration Information Unchanged" box midway down the page.
<https://uuchurch.net/online-re-registration/>

A New Year in Religious Education!

We begin an exciting new year in religious education at UUCC. We will be using some fantastic new curricula as well as doing our wonderful Coming of Age Program for 7th and 8th graders. We have reconfigured the age groups of our classes to accommodate the Coming of Age class, adding the 5th-6th grade Adams class. Make sure you know which class your child is in, and please, make sure your child is registered!

Spirit Play: Our 9 a.m. multi-age Montessori-inspired classroom will be learning about the seven principles .

Potter Class: Our pre-K class will be using our new "Rainbow Connection" curriculum to learn about how our seven principles create a loving community.

Schweitzer Class: Our K-2nd grade class will be using the new "Wonderful Welcome" curriculum to learn about what it means to be a people of welcome.

Thoreau Class: Our 3-4th grade class will be using the new "Spirit of Adventure" curriculum designed for active learners. They will learn about famous UUs and how their beliefs inspired them to explore, discover and change the world.

Adams Class: Our 5-6th grade class will be using the new "5th Dimension" curriculum to explore the philosophical questions raised in the Twilight Zone series (created by UU Rod Serling).

YUUTs: Our 7-8th grade class will take part in our year-long Coming of Age program in which they will work on articulating their own theological beliefs and explore who they are becoming as they enter adolescence.

YRUU: Our high school youth group will meet from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. with a curriculum of their own design that will include discussions, workshops, service projects and plenty of fun activities.



September Schedule
Sept. 2: Service Sunday: learning about worship
Sept. 9: First day of R.E.
Sept. 16: Yom Kippur inter-generational service
Sept. 23: Regular R.E.
Sept. 30: Regular R.E.

THE SEARCHLIGHT

The Newsletter of:
Unitarian Universalist Church
2615 Shepard Blvd.
Columbia, MO 65201-6132

Return Service Requested

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Unitarian Universalist Church of



Columbia, Missouri

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Submissions:

Email to uuchurch@uuchurch.net
or mail to Church Administrator.

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