

# TEMPLE BETH EL

FALL RIVER, MASSACHUSETTS



96th Year

April 2024

Adar II/Nisan 5784

No. 8

## Regular Service Schedule - In Person and Via Zoom

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....	8:00 am
Friday Evening Services .....	5:30 pm
Shabbat Morning Services.....	10:00 am

Please welcome our newly elected Temple President,

### *Richard “Rick” Schwartz*

Rick has been a member of our Board of Directors for many years and has worked closely with Steve Silverman, our outgoing president, particularly with regard to building maintenance issues. We look forward to his leadership in the years ahead, and thank him for taking on this vital role at this critical time for our Temple community.



### *The “Mad Hatters” of Purim*



A message from our Spiritual Leader,  
Cantor Shoshana Brown  
“From Purim to Passover”

As I write this column, on the 16<sup>th</sup> of *Adar*, just two days after Purim, I am still feeling a little bit of a “glow” from our extremely *heimish* TBE Purim celebration. In the Torah, the upcoming month, the month of *Nisan* (the month of Passover/Pesach), is called the “beginning of the months” – in other words, the first of Nisan was the original “New Year” of the Jewish calendar.

No one is sure how the first of *Tishrei*, in the fall, became known as *Rosh Hashanah* (literally, “head of the year”), but, as the name of this holiday is not found in the Torah (it is called there *Yom T’ruah*, a “day of blasting” of the *shofar*), it is likely that its designation as a “new year” was something that came about after the destruction of the Second Temple, when the leadership of the religious life of the Jewish people passed over from the *Kohanim* (the priests) to the Sages (the “Rabbis”), sometime after 70 CE.

In any case, in the Second Temple era (pre-rabbinic) Jewish world, when *Pesach* was still thought of as a holiday that came in the middle of the month known as the “beginning of months,” *Purim* (which also is not mentioned in the Torah, but pre-dates the fall of the Second Temple) may have been seen as the holiday marking the season of the *end* of the year. (For some reason, it seems that human beings see the end of the year as a propitious time for partying and the imbibing of alcohol.)

This makes a certain amount of sense to me. First, there is the new life that emerges in the spring (in the northern hemisphere): trees bud, plants emerge, birds sit on their nests – and in the agricultural world of the Israelites, the new lambs, calves, and kids were born. As we read in the Song of Songs during the week of Passover:

*For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone.  
The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come,  
And the voice of the turtledove is heard in our land. (2:11-12)*

For the second year in a row, Mark and I have been teaching a spring semester class at Salve Regina University called “Engaging the Jewish Experience.” Thus I have been thinking a lot about the Jewish holidays lately. What do Purim and Pesach have in common? How are they different? What is the difference in their moods, their messages?

We think of Purim as a “drinking” holiday: the Rabbis of the Talmud taught that adult Jews are *obligated* to drink enough on Purim that we cannot tell the difference between the phrases “cursed be Haman” and “blessed be Mordechai” (Babylonian Talmud, Megillah 7b). Purim has a topsy-turvy character. We don’t know if the story of Megillat Esther ever happened, but we *do* know that diasporic Jewish communities have been threatened with annihilation *many* times throughout our history. This holiday highlights both our *vulnerability* in a world in which God seems not to intervene

in history (God’s name is never mentioned in the Megillah), and also the necessity for human beings to be *courageous*, to take our chances in standing up to enemies and would-be dictators.

But how is this different from *Pesach*? At the seder, the Rabbis taught, we are obligated to drink four cups of wine. Also, we tell the story of our ancestors’ having stood up to the dictator, Pharaoh, when we were living in Egypt. In both cases, the old Jewish line about Jewish holidays, “they tried to kill us; we won; let’s eat!” is applicable.

But the feeling is totally different. Perhaps it is because we have just gone through a thorough deep spring-cleaning of our homes, ridding our houses not only of all traces of *chametz* (any leavened product), but also of dirt and dust, and many objects that we no longer need, clearing out space and opening our windows to the fresh air of spring. Perhaps it is because many of us set our seder tables with special tablecloths, dishes and utensils used only during this time of year. And then there is the difference in the *story* we tell on this holiday – the story of God’s overwhelming intervention on the side of the Israelite slaves, with God sending the Ten Plagues and splitting the Sea of Reeds to rescue us from our oppressors.

We know that the *real* world – the one we live in from day to day – is more like the world of *Purim*... God helps those who help themselves. And yet many Jews have never celebrated Purim. It is *Pesach* that is the most-kept Jewish holiday of the whole year – even more so than Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

I suspect that the staying power of *Pesach* beyond all of the other Jewish holy days is that this festival touches on the deep desire we have as human beings for freedom, for liberation (on many different levels). It also tells the story of the birth of the Jews as a *people*, and so it is a touchstone for even the least traditional of Jews to their cultural/ethnic identity. If you know the Torah’s narrative of what came *after* the Splitting of the Sea and the Giving of the Torah, you know that there were to be difficult times ahead for Moses and the Jews in the wilderness of Sinai...but at Pesach, we don’t think of this. We rejoice in the miracle of our liberation, we thank God, and we drink in a sense of *hope* for a better, fairer, more peaceful world. Not just for Jews, but for everyone.

The Jewish holidays come to teach us *so much* about being human – about being the best human beings we can be. A guide I picked up about the Jewish holidays many years ago (by an unnamed author) from the Shalom Hartman Institute in Jerusalem puts it best:

“[The holidays of the Jewish year] make up a ‘spiritual agenda’ for the Jewish people as a whole, demanding that they re-focus on a particular problem which is a constant feature of communal and personal living. Thus the holidays do not only celebrate the *existence* of the Jewish people – they serve to define and deepen those *values* in which the community’s *existence* finds *purpose*.”

Wishing all of you both a happy and *meaningful* Pesach!

**PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE**

What a year it has been!

I have been on the Temple Board of Directors for many years....staying in the background but giving a lot of input. This past year with Steve’s health challenges I stepped up my input and now I have been asked to take on the role of President. Many changes and challenges have faced us this year. Maintaining the Temple building has always been my primary concern over the years. This year alone we have had to replace the hot water tank, repair parts of the boiler and fix the falling ceilings in the foyer area and elsewhere. During a rain-storm it is almost like the Chicken Little story, “The Sky is Falling!”

Foremost on most of our minds is the future of the Temple complex. The Finance Committee has just received an updated appraisal of the complex so they can now move forward and choose developers and brokers to determine the best way to both sell the building and find a new home.

The board is looking for new members that can help assist with the vitally important task in front of them. If you are interested in volunteering to help in some way, please contact the office.

A round of thanks to the Rabbi and Cantor for all of their efforts to keep the Temple lively. Before Covid our Friday night services were always a big draw, nearly filling the chapel. People are once again coming in person, which is great, but even more people would make it even better. Saturday services are also growing, especially at our special monthly “Make a Minyan Shabbat.” It is so nice to hear the Torah being chanted once again. As you know we have hired a security company to be present for the Shabbat services and during events. As Billy Chebot used to say, we need more attendees to go to these services...

Marie, Henry and many volunteers continue to do a great job handling the day-to-day operations of the Temple. A sincere thank you to all who contribute in some way.

On behalf of the entire congregation, I would like to extend my condolences to Judy Morgenstern on the loss of her beloved husband, Mike. Besides being an all-around great guy, Mike was very helpful installing new hardware and software in the office over the years. May his memory be for a blessing.

I wish you all a wonderful Passover.

*Rick Schwartz  
President*

*Sisterhood President’s Message*

Spring is here, but you would never know it by the chill in the air. Between the wind and the rain, it feels like November. The one positive thing is we have more daylight. Eventually this weather cycle will break and temperatures will moderate.

Meanwhile, we are busy getting ready for Pass-over. Between shopping for matzah, horseradish and gefilte fish, and cleaning our cupboards and refrigerators, it’s a busy time. Myself, I’m going to visit my daughter, Kim, grandson, Aaron, and great granddaughter, Alyssa, for the holiday. Missouri here I come. I’m looking forward to doing some good old-fashioned cooking, such as matzo brei. Some of us like it with sour cream, and others like it with maple syrup.

At this time, Sisterhood is in the process of planning our yearly luncheon. As soon as we have the date and location locked in, we’ll let you know. I hope to see you all there.

So, until next month stay safe and healthy.

*Libby Cohen  
Sisterhood President*



**LEADERSHIP**

- Mark Elber.....Rabbi
- Shoshana Brown.....Cantor
- Richard Schwartz.....President
- Jeffrey Entin.....Vice President
- Libby Cohen.....Secretary
- Robert Falconero.....Treasurer
- Libby Cohen.....Sisterhood Pres.
- William E. Kaufman.....Rabbi Emeritus

**Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.**

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e-mail: fruja@comcast.net

**Friendly Visitor:** Arleen Bor is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Please call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

## Service Schedule

### April 2024: Adar II/Nisan 5784

#### Friday, April 5 (26 Adar II)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:58 pm

#### Saturday, April 6 (27 Adar II)

Shabbat HaChodesh  
Weekly Portion: Sh'mini 10:00 am

#### Tuesday, April 9 (1 Nisan)

Rosh Chodesh Nisan

#### Friday, April 12 (4 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:05 pm

#### Saturday, April 13 (5 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Tazria 10:00 am

#### Friday, April 19 (11 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:13 pm

#### Saturday, April 20 (12 Nisan)

Shabbat HaGadol  
Weekly Portion: M'tzora 10:00 am

#### Monday, April 22 (14 Nisan)

Erev Passover  
Fast of the First Born  
Morning Service (siyyum for first born) 8:00 am  
Candle Lighting 7:16 pm  
First Seder (evening)

#### Tuesday, April 23 (15 Nisan)

Passover – First Day 10:00 am  
Candle Lighting after 8:18 pm  
Second Seder (evening)

#### Wednesday, April 24 (16 Nisan)

Passover – Second Day 10:00 am

#### Friday, April 26 (18 Nisan)

Shabbat/Chol Hamo'ed Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 7:21 pm

#### Saturday, April 27 (19 Nisan)

Chol Hamo'ed Service 10:00 am

#### Sunday, April 28 (20 Nisan)

Candle Lighting 7:23 pm

#### Monday, April 29 (21 Nisan)

Passover – Seventh Day 10:00 am  
Candle Lighting after 8:25 pm

#### Tuesday, April 30 (22 Nisan)

Passover – Eighth Day 10:00 am  
Yizkor

## TEMPLE OFFICE

385 High St, Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 674-3529 Fax: (508) 678-6735  
E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net  
Website: frtemplebethel.org

### OFFICE HOURS:

Monday - Wednesday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

### OFFICE CLOSED:

Monday, April 15th: Patriots' Day  
Wednesday, April 24th: Passover - Second Day  
Monday, April 29th: Passover - Seventh Day

### NOTES:

Snowbirds: Please let us know when you come back for the season so we can be sure to send your bulletin and other mailings to the correct address.

Also, a great big thank you to our two office volunteers. Judy Morgenstern continues to send out the acknowledgment cards, yahrzeit notices, and several other mailings throughout the year.

Carleen Makowski now helps out in the office once or twice a week, doing whatever is requested of her, with a smile on her face and efficiency on her mind. She is the shredding queen!

I am so grateful to have them both in my corner, and easing my work load. Thank you both!!

## IN MEMORIAM

MICHAEL MORGENSTERN

March 18, 2024

8 Adar II 5784

*May his memory be for a blessing*

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## TBE News & Notes

**Purim** seemed especially lively and joyous at TBE this year (see our group photo on the cover). While it may be true that we don't draw large crowds these days, we are a warm and vivacious group! After enjoying our Purim *se'udah* (festive meal) together, most participants stayed to watch the touching documentary of the life of Gilda Radner, *Love, Gilda*.

And...speaking of films, **April's film, *Golda*** (going from Gilda to Golda!) will be shown on **Sunday April 28<sup>th</sup>**. This seems like an especially appropriate film to share as we get nearer to the commemorative days of *Yom HaShoah* (more on this below) and *Yom HaZikaron* (Israel's Memorial Day).

Please join us for our April **"Make a Minyan" on Shabbat, April 13<sup>th</sup>**, with Kiddush luncheon to follow.

**Pesach** is coming, of course. Alas, even though the pandemic is in our rear-view mirror, it is still currently too difficult to offer a community seder or festive meal during Passover as we used to do when George Haire was still with us. (We like our current custodian, Henry Parker, a lot – but he does not have the years of experience with Passover that George had!) So please be mindful *not to bring any food or drink into the temple after April 13<sup>th</sup>* (Passover cleaning will commence soon after this day).

**If you are alone and have no seder to attend**, please let the TBE office know, and we will try to find a host family for you for the first or second night of Pesach, either on the 22<sup>nd</sup> or 23<sup>rd</sup> of this month.

Please note that we will hold a ***Yom HaShoah*** service in the TBE chapel on **Monday, May 6<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM**. (You will be getting an email reminder about this as well.)

And...looking ahead...we hope to bring back the ***Yom HaAtzma'ut* Friday night "seder"-service** in the vestry...something we have not held since before the pandemic. This will probably be held on May 17<sup>th</sup>: stay tuned for your May bulletin.

**SOUTH COAST MEMORIALS**  
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jeffnjan11@comcast.net





## SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT THE JEWISH MOVIES!

This 2023 biopic of Golda Meir focuses on the intensely dramatic and high-stakes responsibilities and decisions that Golda Meir faced during the Yom Kippur War. (1 hour, 40 minutes)

One "audience review" reviewer wrote:

"Helen Mirren's portrayal of Golda Meir is nothing short of amazing. Her performance is both powerful and deeply authentic, bringing to life the essence of this iconic leader. ..The storytelling in "Golda" is another standout feature. The narrative is skillfully crafted, taking us on a compelling journey through Golda Meir's life and career. The film masterfully blends historical footage with dramatized scenes, seamlessly transporting the audience back in time. It's a testament to the filmmakers' dedication to honoring Meir's story."



## Cemetery Maintenance Donations

Each January we send out a request for donations that go directly toward the upkeep of the Temple Beth El cemetery. As the purchase of a cemetery plot covers perpetual care, these donations are strictly voluntary. Unlike when the cemetery opened, when sales of plots easily covered the cost of maintenance, our expenses now far exceed our revenues. As a result your donations significantly help us keep our cemetery well maintained. There are too many names to list in the bulletin, over one hundred as of this writing, so please accept our simple thanks to all those who have sent in donations.

*Thank you for your donations received through March 24th*

### Yahrzeits

<b>For the yahrzeit of my beloved...</b>	Donated by:
<b>Father, Nathaniel Dashoff</b>	Gene Paranzino
<b>Son, Jonathan Entin</b>	Jeffrey Entin
<b>Parents, Sally &amp; Fred Kaplan</b>	Rhoda Pierce
<b>Sister, Irene K. Jones</b>	Hannah Evans
<b>Father-in-law Samuel Katzman</b>	Iris Katzman & Family
<b>Mother, Rita Minkin</b>	Libby Cohen
<b>Brother, Barry Schwartz</b>	Ginny Lepow
<b>Father, Richard Shore</b>	Nancy Shore
<b>Husband, Hadley B. Wilkinson</b>	Gail Wilkinson

### Capital Fund

**For In honor of Bessie & Abe Dashoff, Everett Dashoff and Grace and Harry Cooperstein**

Nancy Cooperstein Charney & Jordan Charney

**In honor of Steve Silverman, in appreciation of his years of service to Temple Beth El**

Beverly Solup

**In honor of Rick Schwartz, for becoming the new president of our Temple.**

Beverly Solup

**In memory of Ken Littman**

Miriam Babin

William, Sharon & Caroline Greene

Cynthia Johnson

Sayre Litchman

Peter & Suzanne Newbauer

Joyce Rodrigues (Durfee Alumni Association)

Rick Schwartz

Marilyn Sokoll

Beverly Solup

Charles Winokoor

Judy Zeckhauser

**In memory of Mike Morgenstern**

Susan Bender

Arleen Bor

Bob Falconero

Howie & Sheila Galitsky

Shirley Methe

Melissa Norcross

Sue & Joe Paresky

Barbara & Arthur Sheer

Patricia Smith

Beverly Sokoll

Marilyn Sokoll

Jerrilyn Tacovelli

**In memory of Allen Taradash**

Shirley Taradash

**For the recovery of Dick Wolfson**

Sayre Litchman

### Cemetery Fund

**In memory of my parents, Cilla & Myer Sobloff**

Ellen Mark

### Bequests

**From the Estate of Marvin Isserlis**

### Special Gifts

**For repairs to our special cemetery**

Iris Katzman & Family

## “Make a Minyan” Shabbat Service

Please join us on Saturday, April 13th at 10:00 am in the chapel or on Zoom. It has been wonderful to hear Torah chanted at these special services, and we can't do it without you! Nice Kiddush-luncheon to follow!

Please mark your calendars and be sure to arrive (in person or on Zoom) before 11 am!

### Temple Family

- Our sincere condolences to Judy Morgenstern and family on the passing of her beloved husband, Mike.



Parsons Daffodil Reserve in Dartmouth, MA

The bulletin of Temple Beth El (USPS-075-340) is published monthly from September to June for \$1.00 per year by Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA. Periodicals postage paid at Fall River, MA. POSTMASTERS, send address changes to Temple Beth El, 385 High St., Fall River, MA 02720-3348.

## Passover Customs

The Rabbi will be the agent for the sale of your *Chametz* which can be done either by mail, email, or in person prior to Monday, April 22, 2024 at 9:30 am in the morning. Please see the official form for selling *Chametz*. *Siyyum Bekhorim* for first born sons will take place this year on Monday, April 22, 2024 after morning services. First born sons become exempt from the obligation to fast before Passover by attending the morning service at which a Jewish unit of study is completed. If you are interested in having an online *Siyyum* please contact the Temple office asap.

The principle of Jewish law involved is that one who engages in one mitzvah – completing a book of study and celebrating with refreshments – is exempt from the simultaneous performance of another mitzvah – fasting.

Observance: The ceremony of searching for and removing leaven (*Bedikat Chametz*) is to take place Sunday, April 21, 2024 in the evening.

The Passover home atmosphere is created each year by the traditional practice of thoroughly cleaning the home in all its parts and by the removal of all *Chametz* prior to Passover, both at home and when away.

Foods during Pesach forbidden for use: Leavened bread, cakes, biscuits and crackers, cereals, wheat, barley, oats, rice, peas and all liquids which contain ingredients or flavors made from grain alcohol.

### Permitted foods:

a) Requiring no “Kosher for Passover” label: The following foods are permitted in unopened packages or containers: coffee (without additives), sugar, vegetables (except peas and beans), string beans being permitted.

b) Fruits and those vegetables normally permitted for Passover use are permitted in their frozen state.

c) If certified Kosher for Passover use by a Rabbinical authority: Matzah, matzah meal, Passover noodles, candies, cakes, beverages, canned and processed foods, milk, butter, cheese, jams, jellies, vinegar, wines and liquors, kosher gelatin, relishes, salad oils, dried fruits, shortening – are permitted if Rabbinical authority indicates that these items of food have been manufactured and wrapped free from contact with *Chametz*. (Labels and tags marked “Kosher for Passover” are of no value unless they bear a Rabbinical seal.)

Utensils: Only dishes and utensils especially reserved for Passover should be used with the following exceptions:

a) The silverware, knives, forks and spoons made wholly of metal, if used during the year, may be used on Passover if thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water. All table glassware is permitted after thorough scouring. Fine translucent chinaware, if not used for a year, is permitted.

b) Metal pots and pans used for cooking purposes only (but not for baking) if made wholly of metal, though used during the year, may be used on Passover if first thoroughly scoured and immersed in boiling water.

c) Utensils used for baking during the year cannot be used during Passover. (A dishwasher machine may be used for Passover after thoroughly cleaning it and running it through one cycle empty.)

*If you have any questions, please consult the Rabbi or check on the following website: [Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide](http://Rabbinicalassembly.org/pesah-guide)*

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## Instructions for Selling Chametz

Jewish law prohibits owning or handling *Chametz* during Passover. Thus, all foods and beverages must either be consumed before erev Pesach (by Monday, April 22, 2024 at 10:30 am), destroyed, or sold to a non-Jew. You can sell the *Chametz* by filling out the attached form and sending it back to me at the Temple by Monday, April 22, 2024 by 9:30 am (it must reach the Temple by then). If you wish to arrange for the sale of *Chametz* in person, the deadline is Monday, April 22, 2024 by 9:30 am. I will buy the *Chametz* back for you after the holiday is over on Tuesday night, April 30, 2024 at 8:55 pm. This is a legal transaction and together with all the necessary Passover cleaning, will enable you to fulfill the Mitzvah of “Not having or seeing *Chametz* (in your possession).”

--Rabbi Mark Elber

### Official Form for Selling Chametz

I, the undersigned, empower and permit Rabbi Mark Elber of Temple Beth El to act in my place and stead, and in my behalf to sell all *Chametz* (leaven) and all products containing even the smallest percentage of *Chametz* possessed by me knowingly or unknowingly as defined by the Torah and Rabbinic law, and to lease all places wherein the above mentioned products owned by me may be found, especially premises located at:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Rabbi Mark Elber has the full right to sell and to lease the above by such transactions as he deems fit and proper for such time as he chooses. The authority which is hereby given is meant to be in conformity with the Torah and Rabbinic laws and regulations, and also to be in acceptance with the laws of the State of Massachusetts and of the United States of America.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Website

Our website is constantly changing, so be sure to check it out regularly. There are links to articles written by Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana, updated service schedules and upcoming events. You can also see the bulletin there first,

Go to [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)

# YAHARZEITS

4/2/2024 23 Adar II 5784  
H. Charles Reiser

4/4/2024 25 Adar II 5784  
Janet Weissman

4/5/2024 26 Adar II 5784  
Doris Rotenberg

4/6/2024 27 Adar II 5784  
Jonathan Entin

4/8/2024 29 Adar II 5784  
Rose Oscar  
Susan Schwartz

4/9/2024 1 Nisan 5784  
David Freedman  
Arthur Littman

4/10/2024 2 Nisan 5784  
Edna Dashoff

4/12/2024 4 Nisan 5784  
Dr. Albert Resnick

4/13/2024 5 Nisan 5784  
Milton Lifrak  
David Sacknoff

4/14/2024 6 Nisan 5784  
Bernard Herman  
Barbara Shore  
Martha Saxe Sobel

4/15/2024 7 Nisan 5784  
Rose Kessler  
Ethel Kravitz

4/16/2024 8 Nisan 5784  
Herman Seibert

4/17/2024 9 Nisan 5784  
Sumner Alpert

4/20/2024 12 Nisan 5784  
Raymond Brown  
Bernard Goodman  
Maury Kusinitz

4/21/2024 13 Nisan 5784  
Dr. S. Benjamin Kaufmann  
Foster Lowenthal

4/22/2024 14 Nisan 5784  
Jerry Gold  
David L. Gourse

4/25/2024 17 Nisan 5784  
Sybil Goldberg

4/27/2024 19 Nisan 5784  
Rabbi Moshe Babin  
Max Simring

4/28/2024 20 Nisan 5784  
Revelyn Baron  
Jeffrey Schenker  
Irene Zwetchkenbaum

4/29/2024 21 Nisan 5784  
Jacob Joseph Thaler  
Hyman Udovin

4/30/2024 22 Nisan 5784  
Morris Phillips



A view down Broadway in midtown Manhattan on a clear January night

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