

# TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



86th Year

February 2015

Shevat/Adar 5775

No. 6

## Regular Service Schedule

Morning Minyan (Monday & Thursday).....8:00 am  
First Friday Evening Service (1st Friday of each month) .....6:30 pm  
Friday Evening Services (All other Fridays).....5:30 pm  
Shabbat Morning Services.....10:00 am

## Tu BiShevat Seder & Luncheon

**Saturday, February 7th  
following Shabbat Morning services  
Free for Temple Beth El Members**

**Please RSVP by Feb. 4th**

### *Sunday Breakfast with*

**Professor Geoffrey R. Russom,**  
Professor Emeritus of English at Brown University

**Sunday, February 15th**

**Service at 9:00 am**

**Breakfast & Lecture 10:00 am**

Prof. Russom is the author of *Old English Meter and Linguistic Theory* (1987) and *Beowulf and Old Germanic Metre* (1998). In addition to work on English verse form, Russom has published articles on the linguistic history of English, the multicultural backgrounds of *Beowulf*, and the artistic excellence of preliterate verse traditions. He is best known for arguments showing that rules of poetic meter are abstracted from rules of ordinary language and operate like new linguistic rules.



He will be discussing new ideas about the origin of the English language. Please join us!



### Save the Date for Purim!

Megillah reading and  
festivities will take place

**Wednesday,  
March 4th at 5 pm**

**Please join us!**



**Elu v'Elu:** Navigating difference  
while building community.

February 7, 2015 | 7 pm  
Dwars JCC | 401 Elmgrove Avenue, Providence

More information on Page 7, for the informational  
flyer please visit our website at [frtemplebethel.org](http://frtemplebethel.org).

## A message from our Spiritual Leader, Cantor Shoshana Brown

### "Tumultuous Times and Judaism's Earth Day"

What tumultuous times we live in! I suppose people have been saying that since the time that the human species first picked up sticks and began using them as tools and/or weapons, or began to harness the use of fire. Still, as I left for the Ohalah Jewish Renewal Annual Clergy Conference in Broomfield, CO on Thursday, Jan. 8th, I felt a sense of heightened awareness that our world is on the brink of changing in ominous ways. The offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, in Paris, had just been attacked by Muslim extremists, and by the time I reached my hotel, a Parisian kosher grocery store had become a target as well.

That was Thursday. On Sunday, Jan. 11th, almost four million people across France marched to protest terrorism and religious extremism, and to show solidarity in their support of freedom of expression and freedom of the press—including Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Mahmoud Abbas, President of the Palestinian Authority. Sitting in my hotel room, I streamed video footage of the event on my laptop. The images reminded me of the black and white photos of the marchers in Selma, where King and Heschel, nuns, priests, old and young, black and white were all marching together 50 years ago...and I cried with relief and in gratitude that so much of the world had turned out for this peaceful march, filling the streets of Paris.

On Monday, January 12th, I read in the paper of Nigerian towns attacked by Boko Haram, another Muslim extremist/terrorist group, leaving over 2,000 dead, and 10,000 Nigerians fleeing to neighboring Chad. (The article reminded the reader that the girls kidnapped by Boko Haram this past October have still not been freed or rescued, although three did escape.) And as I write these words on the evening of Martin Luther King Day, I read that this same group has now kidnapped dozens of people in Cameroon...

Meanwhile, a lesser-known piece of news emerges (which I heard on National Public Radio) that an unusual amount of seismic activity—multiple small earthquakes—are starting to be felt across Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, especially noticeable now in large cities such as Dallas—due, most scientists agree, to a process associated with fracking—the injection of the fracking process' wastewater into underground disposal wells. It is hard not to feel that, just as Parisians have responded to terrorist attacks by taking to the streets, so the Earth itself is responding to this violent intrusion into her inner core by trying to "shake us off." "Leave me alone!" the Earth seems to be crying. In my opinion we ignore these quakes at our own peril. How much clearer can the message be?

I sense somehow that all of these events (and more, which I do not have time to explore here) are linked, and they are all telling us: Wake up! Do something before it is too late!

Is it just a coincidence? The dependence of the United States on fossil fuels has certainly influenced us to ignore many egregious human rights abuses when dealing with oil-rich countries. How is it that in a place like Nigeria, one of the largest oil-exporting countries of the world, over half of the population lives in abject poverty? I found the following on a Wikipedia article "Petroleum Industry in Nigeria":

"While Nigeria's oil revenue has totaled \$340 billion in exports since the 1970s and it is the fifth largest producer, 70% of its population lives on less than \$1 a day, and 43% have no access to clean water. Though Nigeria is a major oil exporter, it imports most of its gasoline, and when fuel subsidies were lifted in January 2012, fuel increased from roughly \$1.70 per gallon to \$3.50. Nigeria seems to be well set up – it produces a form of oil ideal for the United States, has huge reserves, and has increased its production to 2.8 million barrels of oil a day. But this, some say, is all a resource curse that is hurting Nigeria and disadvantaging her people."

So much for Nigeria and our desperate search for fossil fuels, both overseas and within our own borders—but how is this related to the terrorism of Isis or Al-Qaida?

Greed, racism, disregard for the environment, apathy with regard to the conditions of the poorest of the earth...I believe that all of these ills are linked, and have laid the foundations for desperate people turning towards, or being intimidated by, armed religious extremist groups all around the developing world. Sadly, all too often the West has propped up weak, corrupt governments—ignoring long-term consequences for short-term gains. These governments have not been able to stand up to these militant extremist groups, and at times have even abetted them.

So, *nu*—what do we do now? The Torah and the prophets exhort us: *justice, justice you shall pursue*—not just for every human being created in God's image, but justice *for all of God's creation*. Tu biShevat (Judaism's "Earth Day") is coming. Let us take these things to heart: we may not all agree on all issues, but we all want peace, plenty, freedom, justice, and a healthy ecosystem for all the earth, for all its peoples, and for all its creatures. Is this possible? Like the Rev. Martin Luther King, we have to hold on to this dream—and *work towards it*—for we are also exhorted "Choose life!" There is no alternative.

With prayers that our Planet and all her peoples and creatures may know health, justice and peace, and may we one day live together in harmonious song,

*Cantor Shoshana*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Even though we are having a blizzard outside, I feel warm inside after honoring Tom Gregory at his retirement breakfast. For those of you who couldn't make it, it was a fun and heartwarming event for a wonderful man. Rosanne Litchman orchestrated the whole morning, and it was perfect. George put out a delicious spread, highlighted by French toast he made with Challah. Marcie Nawi provided the tasteful and interesting decor. All of the speakers were terrific, each finding their own unique way to describe how they feel about Tom. Bill Chebot and Cantor Shoshana sang songs adapted especially for him. It was obvious that everyone in the room felt as I do. Tom Gregory...what a man. Our best goes out to him for a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Next up are the Tu biShevat seder on February 7th, and Prof. Geoffrey Russom's lecture on February 15th. Prof. Russom will be presenting new ideas about the origins of the English language.

Due to the ever intensifying situation in the world, we are upgrading our security system throughout the temple. Better to be safe than sorry.

Please join me in welcoming our new custodian, Susan Borden-Franco. Sue's main focus will be on cleaning, cleaning and more cleaning. She has a can-do attitude and an eye for detail. She welcomes any suggestions for corners she may have missed (or hasn't yet found). Just let the office know and we will pass your suggestion along to Sue.

There is a trip being planned to see Sahar Hassa-main synagogue in Ponta Delgada, Azores in April, to see the results of their restoration project. There is also a raffle which includes a free trip there. Please call the office for more information. Details will also be posted on our website as soon as we have them.

Now that winter has hit with a vengeance, I urge you all to use special care when moving about outdoors, and stay warm and safe until spring arrives.

*Steve Silverman*  
President

## LEADERSHIP

Mark Elber.....	Rabbi
Shoshana Brown.....	Cantor
Stephen Silverman.....	President
Jeffrey Entin.....	Vice President
Libby Cohen.....	Secretary
William Chebot.....	Treasurer
Libby Cohen.....	Sisterhood Pres.
William E. Kaufman.....	Rabbi Emeritus

*Sisterhood President's Message*

Dear Members,

As I am writing this, we are waiting for a day of inclement weather to arrive. Depending on which television station you listen to, we could be getting anything from snow to rain, to possibly sleet. UGH! Well in six weeks or so the nice weather will be here.

By the time you are reading this we will have said good bye to Tom Gregory. We are going to miss him. He was a wonderful addition to our Temple family. But it's time for him to move on and enjoy time with his family and friends. We wish him only the best.

On Saturday, February 7th we are going to celebrate Tu biShevat with services followed by a Seder. I hope that you will all make every effort to attend. The Cantor and Rabbi try very hard to keep everything fresh and interesting. Let's do our best and show them our support.

Wednesday, February 11th at 10:30 am the book club will meet in our library. At that time we will be discussing our latest read, Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult. This promises to be an interesting book. Hope to see you there.

So until next month, Shalom.

*Libby Cohen,*  
Sisterhood President

*Sisterhood Gift Shop*

We have a new and unique selection of designer Judaica jewelry that is both beautiful and reasonably priced, along with our standard selection of cards and gifts. We also have the new Temple Beth El notecards, as well as The Everything Kabbalah Book, written by Rabbi Mark.

I am available every Monday before 10:30 am and after 12 noon. If you would like to browse any weekday morning, do call or email me to schedule an appointment.



Hannah R. Evans  
Phone: 508-674-2505  
Email: hannahbecky@comcast.net



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## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**February 2015: Shevat/Adar 5775**Wednesday, February 4 (15 Shevat)

Tu BiShevat

Megillah reading &amp; festivities: 5:00 pm

Friday, February 6 (17 Shevat)

Candle Lighting 4:48 pm

First Friday Shabbat Service **6:30 pm**Saturday, February 7 (18 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Yitro 10:00 am

Tu BiShevat Seder: 12:15 pm

Friday, February 13 (24 Shevat)

Candle Lighting 4:57 pm

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 14 (25 Shevat)

Weekly Portion: Mishpatim 10:00 am

Thursday, February 19 (30 Shevat)

Rosh Chodesh Adar

Friday, February 20 (1 Adar )

Candle Lighting 5:06 pm

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Rosh Chodesh Adar

Saturday, February 21 (2 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Terumah 10:00 am

Friday, February 27 (8 Adar)

Candle Lighting 5:15 pm

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm

Saturday, February 28 (9 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Tetzaveh 10:00 am

Shabbat Zachor

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## TEMPLE OFFICE

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E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net  
Website: frtemplebethel.orgOffice Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

Office Closed:

Monday, February 16 - Presidents' Day

## Fall River United Jewish Appeal, Inc.

385 High Street, Fall River, MA 02720  
Tel: (508) 673-7791 Fax: (508) 678-6735  
e-mail: fruja@comcast.netOffice Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to NoonFriendly Visitor: Jackie Gedacht is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.Senior Center: (at the Fall River Jewish Home)

Open 5 days a week for lunch...Kosher and delicious. For reservations/cancellations call the Nutrition Office at (508) 324-4619 or (800) 293-8943 before 1:30 pm on the previous business day before you want to reserve or cancel.

## Temple Family

- Mazel Tov to Anita & Norm Bolski on the marriage of their daughter, Erica, to Ivan Rozowsky
- Our deepest sympathy to Judith and Frank Kosofsky on the loss of Frank's sister, Evelyn Brown
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Donald Wiener
- Our sincere condolences to the family of Betty Ann Starr, daughter of the late Dr. Nathan & Ida Starr.

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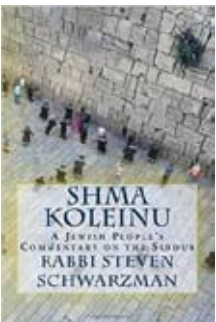
## Cantor Shoshana's Month in Review:

As we all know by now, Fall River elected a new mayor, **Sam Sutter**, on December 16th. (We have high hopes for Mr. Sutter!) On Tues, Jan. 6th, **Rabbi Mark** participated in the Fall River Spirit Alive Ceremony at the Liberal Club. The city's politicians and religious leaders gathered at the event to sound a note of healing after divisive events of late. (See accompanying photo: Our rabbi is leading a round of *Hinei Mah Tov*; seated, left to right are **Rev. Robert Lawrence**, **Cantor Richard Wolberg**—in police officer regalia—and **Mayor Sam Sutter**.)



**Cantor Shoshana** attended the 17th Annual Ohalah Jewish Renewal Clergy Conference in Broomfield Colorado from Jan 9th through Jan. 14th. The theme of the Conference this year was "Integral Tikkun Olam: Exploring New Visions." Featured at the conference were **Ruth W. Messinger**, President of American Jewish World Service (AJWS), the world's leading Jewish organization working to end poverty and realize human rights in the developing world; **Rabbi Michael Lerner**, editor of *Tikkun* magazine; **Rabbi Uri Regev**, President and CEO of a new educational and advocacy Israel-Diaspora partnership, "Freedom Of Religion for Israel" and of its Israeli counterpart, "*Hiddush – For Freedom of Religion and Equality*"; and **Rabbi Arthur Waskow**, founder and director of the Shalom Center and author or editor of about twenty books on US public policy and on religious thought and practice.

**Cantor Shoshana** received a gift copy of a book in the mail upon returning from Colorado: *Shma Koleinu: A Jewish People's Commentary on the Siddur* edited by **Rabbi Steven Schwarzman**. Cantor Shoshana's essay on the liturgical poem, *Ilu Finu* is included in the book, as are a number of essays by **Rabbi Samuel Barth**, a mentor of both our cantor and rabbi, who was here for their installation in 2013. The book is available on Amazon.



On Jan. 19th, **Martin Luther King, Jr.** Day was celebrated at the annual Bristol Community College Community Breakfast. **Rabbi Mark** gave the closing benediction at the breakfast, and **Cantor Shoshana** led the gathering in a rendition of *Ozi v'Zimrat Yah* and *We Shall Overcome*. (After the ceremony, the cantor had the opportunity to talk with **Mayor Sutter** about such issues as the proposed commuter rail to the Southcoast and the Amazon shipping warehouse's coming to Fall River.)

On Sunday, January 25th, we bid a sad farewell to **Tom Gregory**...thank you Tom, for your incredibly devoted service to Temple Beth El for almost 17 years. We wish you well in what we are sure will be an action-packed retirement!



On Sunday, January 25th the TBE Youth Group helped celebrate Lev's birthday at Holiday Lanes

## Talk Radio with Aaron Reynolds

Tune in Saturdays at 10 am (if you are not attending services) to WSAR, 1480 on the AM dial. Aaron will discuss a variety of subjects, including politics, civil rights and other current issues.



Aaron, son of Kim and Mark Reynolds and grandson of Libby Cohen, is a US Army veteran, and was a regular fixture here in his youth. Give him a call!

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*Thank you for your donations received through January 22, 2015*

### Yahrzeits

For the yahrzeit of my beloved... Donated by:

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Father, Murray Taradash	Allen Taradash
Mother, Lillian Woltman	Joanne Tuck

### MAURICE ALPERT MEMORIAL ENDOWMENT FUND

In honor of Carlton Dubitsky celebrating his 100th birthday  
For the yahrzeit of my beloved wife, Arline Alpert  
For the yahrzeit of my beloved brother, Stanley Alpert  
Sumner Alpert

### CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of the marriage of Erica Bolski to Ivan Rozowsky  
Bill Chebot

### IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In memory of Edward Freedman  
Ann & Bob Chavenson

### THELMA R. CHEBOT MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In honor of Bob & Bebe Cooper celebrating their 60th  
wedding anniversary  
Bill Chebot

### MORNING MINYAN FUND

In honor of Bill Chebot  
In honor of Dick Wolfson celebrating his retirement  
Charlie Stampler

### CAPITAL FUND

In honor of the marriage of Erica Bolski to Ivan Rozowsky  
In honor of Tom Gregeory  
Irma & Carl Feldman  
In honor of Zoe Litchman becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
Beverly Sokoll  
In honor of the birth of a great grandson to Beverly Solup  
Paula Shaer  
In memory of Robert Brightman  
Sheila Freedman  
In memory of Dr. Charles Burden  
Nathaniel Burden  
In memory of George Lustig  
Ann Freedman  
In memory of Milton Mason  
Susan Bender  
In memory of Lester Rand  
Hilda Reiser

### RABBI SAMUEL & TILLIE RUDERMAN MEMORIAL LECTURE FUND

In memory of my beloved parents, Tillie & Rabbi Samuel  
Ruderman  
Ora Beth Levine

### HYMAN & GOLDIE SCHWARTZ LEGACY FUND

For the recovery of Susie Schwartz  
Irma & Carl Feldman  
For the yahrzeit of my beloved husband, Isaac Schwartz  
Tylda Schwartz

### RABBI'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

In honor of the marriage of Mira Guttoff to Stefan Beeman  
Dr. & Mrs. Herbert Rubin

### BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING MAINTENANCE FUND

In honor of my sister, Annette Horowitz, celebrating her  
birthday  
Arlyne Dondis

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Tom Gregory shared this poem at his retirement breakfast:

### The Bridge Builder

By Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway,  
Came, at the evening cold and gray,  
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.  
Through which was flowing a sullen tide  
The old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
The sullen stream had no fear for him;  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"You are wasting your strength with building here;  
Your journey will end with the ending day,  
You never again will pass this way;  
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,  
Why build this bridge at evening tide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head;  
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,  
"There followed after me to-day  
A youth whose feet must pass this way.  
This chasm that has been as naught to me  
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;  
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him!"



Farewell Tom,  
we will miss  
you!



## Elu v'Elu:

Navigating difference  
while building community.

February 7, 2015 | 7 pm

Dwares JCC

"Two Jews, at least 5 opinions," says the oft-repeated joke about the diversity of Jewish thought and belief on any given topic. While some may bemoan such a lack of uniformity, others, including the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island, see this diversity as a source of strength and something to be shared and celebrated.

For this reason, the Board of Rabbis is inviting the community to its second annual "Drash & Dessert" evening of study on the theme of "Elu v'Elu: Navigating Difference While Building Community" on Saturday evening, February 7 at the Dwares Jewish Community Center. The program, which is set to begin at 7:00 pm with Havdalah, will feature four learning sessions taught by pairs or trios of local rabbis and conclude with a dessert buffet.

The Hebrew phrase "Elu v'Elu" translates as "These and these" and refers to a Talmudic passage in which the opposing viewpoints of two rabbis are both considered holy. Explained Rabbi Wechterman. The entire quote reads "These and these are the words of the living God."

The evening of study is designed to explore this theme. Sessions to be offered include "Is it better to be right or polite: a look at a playful but serious Talmudic text" with Rabbis Alan Flam, Wayne Franklin and James Rosenberg; "Heaven, Hell and the Afterlife" with Rabbis Andrew Klein and Alvan Kaunfer; "Being JewISH Today: the place of Jewish Particularism in a Universalist World" with Rabbis Michelle Dardashti, Marc Mandel and Sarah Mack; and "Meditations and Spiritual Practices with Rabbis Barry Dolinger, Mark Elber and Aaron Philmus.

There is no cost for this event and no prior Jewish knowledge is required. This program is a follow-up to last year's successful Drash & Dessert which also featured teachings by rabbis from different institutions and denominations throughout the region. This year's event is co-sponsored by the Alliance for Jewish Community and is supported by the William G. Braude fund, named for Rabbi William Braude, spiritual leader of Temple Beth El in Providence from 1932 – 1987 and a strong advocate of Jewish learning and education.



### WEBSITE UPDATES:

Links to the informational flyer for "Drash & Dessert"

More pictures from Tom Gregory's breakfast,

Information on Sahar Hassamain synagogue trip.

Be sure to check the site reguarly: frtemplebethel.org

## YAHARZEITS

2/1/2015 Shevat 12, 5775  
Arnold Wolfson

2/2/2015 Shevat 13, 5775  
Bernard Jaffe

2/3/2015 Shevat 14, 5775  
Louis Freedman  
Esther Mickelson  
William Shriberg  
Morris Wilner

2/4/2015 Shevat 15, 5775  
Margot Bogus  
Adolph Feder  
Fannie Hoffman  
Fannie Woloshen

2/5/2015 Shevat 16, 5775  
Abner Kravitz

2/6/2015 Shevat 17, 5775  
Jack Mickelson  
Charles Novek

2/7/2015 Shevat 18, 5775  
Edith Gerlich  
Ada Wolfson

2/8/2015 Shevat 19, 5775  
Atty. Rose Korn Hirschman  
Louis Robinovitz

2/9/2015 Shevat 20, 5775  
Morris Horvitz, Jr.  
Harry Lider  
Lottie Bloom Sandler  
Eugene Joseph Silverman

2/10/2015 Shevat 21, 5775  
Atty. Lloyd Belford

2/11/2015 Shevat 22, 5775  
Seymour Filler

2/12/2015 Shevat 23, 5775  
Herman Bernstein  
Bernice Hoffman  
Charles Kane  
Mary Reiser

2/13/2015 Shevat 24, 5775  
Morris Lepes

2/14/2015 Shevat 25, 5775  
David Babin  
Simon Goldberg

2/15/2015 Shevat 26, 5775  
Dr. Jacob Helfanbein

2/16/2015 Shevat 27, 5775  
Samuel M. Schwartz

2/17/2015 Shevat 28, 5775  
Madeline Leonard

2/18/2015 Shevat 29, 5775  
Abraham Dashoff  
Samuel Ehrenhaus  
Sidney Lechan  
Ida Woltman  
Hilda Zaslow

2/19/2015 Shevat 30, 5775  
Dr. Harry Cooperstein  
Nathan B. Sokoll

2/20/2015 Adar 1, 5775  
Sarah Aber  
Sarah Korn  
Selma F. Schenker  
Richard Shore  
William Wolfson

2/21/2015 Adar 2, 5775  
Martin Goldsmith  
Hyman Karp

2/22/2015 Adar 3, 5775  
Annie Feldman  
Max Jacob Packer

2/23/2015 Adar 4, 5775  
Bernard Chebot  
Sadie Lovit  
Nathan Bernard Silverman  
Milton Sokoll

2/24/2015 Adar 5, 5775  
Clara Freedman  
Morris Levine  
Barney Prebluda  
Aaron Saunders  
Ida Evelyn Starr

2/25/2015 Adar 6, 5775  
Morris Haims  
Edith Kusinitz  
Philip Ostroff  
Bertha Weinstock  
Philip Zalkind

2/26/2015 Adar 7, 5775  
George Lucove

2/27/2015 Adar 8, 5775  
Elena Lee Cohen  
Ida Glickman  
Selma Juda  
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2/28/2015 Adar 9, 5775  
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