

# TEMPLE BETH EL

Fall River, Massachusetts



86th Year

March 2015

Adar/Nisan 5775

No. 7

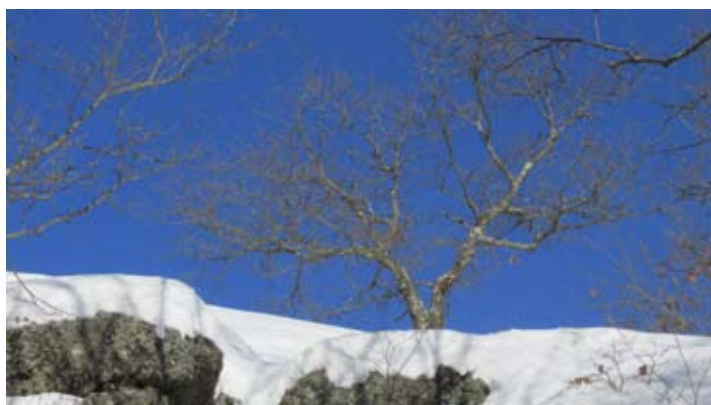
## Regular Service Schedule

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



*February 2015 in and around Fall River*

*Photos courtesy of Cantor Shoshana Brown*

## A message from our Spiritual Leader, Rabbi Mark Elber

### *Somethin' is Happenin' Here*

*"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..."*

These are the famous opening words of Charles Dickens' 1859 novel of the French Revolution, *A Tale of Two Cities*. These words have often seemed to ring true at other moments in history. The French Revolution, of course, was a pivotal time in the evolution of Western civilization – a time of monumental change in many areas, but there have been other major turning points throughout human history. In Jewish history, for example, there were significant turning points throughout Biblical times such as the era of the Judges, the advent of the Kingship of David and Solomon, and the period of the Prophets. Each of these eras was indicative of significant change in the community of Israel. Other major transitional stages were the advent of Rabbinic Judaism approximately 2,000 years ago, the Middle Ages in Spain, etc. The period of the French Revolution and its aftermath was one such period also. It spawned two great movements among European Jewry: The Jewish Enlightenment and Chassidism.

The era in which we live now seems, to a great degree, to be another period of great change and evolution. In the midst of such intense change it's difficult to discern in which direction the Jewish community is moving and to determine which direction is most promising for our future. There's no question that in the last 75 years two of the most momentous and pivotal events in Jewish history occurred: the Holocaust and the establishment of the State of Israel. Generally during moments of change people tend to drift towards the two poles of resisting change and welcoming it or, at least, recognizing its inevitability. I believe that the rise of religious fundamentalism in today's world is a very conservative response of resistance and reaction to the changes of civilization. Very often religious institutions try to conserve traditions associated with them even when those traditions cease to serve the functions for which they originally were intended. Sometimes the functions of traditions themselves evolve and sometimes traditions become vestigial.

Change is often frightening. So much that was familiar feels threatened. However, change is also inevitable. Archaeologists distinguish between the Stone Age, The Bronze Age, and the Iron Age – those delineations become clearer with the perspective of historical hindsight, but to the people enduring those transitions, they were probably quite confusing times. When Gutenberg invented the printing press in 1439, few people, if any, could envision the changes in society that such a technological innovation would engender. Similarly our civilization is undergoing enormous technological innovation - and more rapidly than ever before. Who could possibly think that these innovations won't catalyze vast repercussions in other areas of our lives?! We may not know how, but we can be quite sure that they will.

The liberal branches of Judaism have slowly been coming around to recognizing the change. It makes me think of Bob Dylan's lyric from 1965: "Something is happening here, but you don't know what it is – do you, Mr. Jones?" Many pundits, theoreticians, and others conjecture about where we are headed, where we should put our energies, and what the Judaism of the future (especially liberal Judaism) will look like. But it remains conjecture.

Many Jewish generations have felt they were in a state of crisis and in danger of extinction, whether culturally, spiritually, nationally, or physically. Today's Jewish community is no different. In October 2013 along comes the PEW report on the state of Jewish identity in America and it reveals that 22% of Jews in the U.S. describe themselves as having no religion. On the other hand 94% of Jews proudly identify as Jewish.

Most often the manner in which we understand something determines how and whether we identify with it or not. People who "return" to Judaism often do so because they discover a practice and an understanding of what Judaism is that is far different from the Judaism they grew up with which had no appeal to them. Sadly, in my own generation, many Jewish spiritual seekers sought outside our Tradition because the Judaism they were exposed to as adolescents seemed lacking in the spiritual depths they craved. If they return it's because they become exposed to Jewish practices and communities that share their spiritual orientations.

During the same decades that synagogue affiliation seems to have been dwindling, we've seen a great flowering of Jewish scholarship in the liberal Jewish world. There's been great creativity in Jewish art, literature, music, theology, and Jewish studies in general. There's been much innovation in the liberal Jewish religious world. Some people perceive the PEW report in a very positive light: 94% of Jews positively identifying as such is an extremely high percentage. This fact coupled with the diminishing synagogue affiliation could mean that conventional synagogue life no longer meets the needs of a significant portion of the Jewish community. Maybe new forms of spiritual and social organization will have to be forged. It's pretty clear that we can't expect future generations of Jews to simply be younger versions of ourselves. If a revival of the synagogue community occurs, chances are the new people filling the pews will not merely mimic the Judaism of their elders. We, their elders, can bequeath them our knowledge and experience, but we need to welcome their insights, nurture their enthusiasm, and be willing to learn from them also.

As it says in the Talmud in *Pirkei Avot*: "Who is wise? The one who learns from everyone."

*Rabbi Mark*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members,

Well, February was a month of snow and cancellations, and the snow doesn't seem to want to go away. While George has been doing yeoman's work keeping our sidewalks as safe as possible, there isn't much we can do about the lack of parking, nor the state of the sidewalks beyond our property. I would like to thank Bernie Taradash for allowing our members to park in his lot at Oppenheimer & Co. on weekends, and Waring-Sullivan Funeral Home for allowing us to park in their lots for Millie Trieff's funeral. The official first day of spring is March 20th, and it can't come soon enough!

One of the events that was canceled was Prof. Geoffrey Russom's lecture and breakfast. We hope to have him come back when the weather is better.

Thanks to all of you who made donations for the maintenance of our beautiful cemetery. It was gratifying to see the positive response, and the number of people who donated even more than the suggested \$50. We are so fortunate to have Tom Fillipovich maintain our cemetery, who has kept his costs down as much as possible, while providing us with all kinds of "extras" at no charge. Still, our cemetery income does not cover our cemetery costs, so the annual donations are more important than ever. Thank you!

As I write, the Purim festivities are almost upon us, and the Passover Community Celebration will be held in April. I hope you can join us for both events.

*Steve Silverman*  
President

## IN MEMORIAM

MILDRED TRIEFF

FEBRUARY 8, 2015 – SHEVAT 19, 5775

MAY HER MEMORY BE FOR A BLESSING

## 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 ask you, where did February go? It was one snow storm after another. All events here at the Temple had to be curtailed. Folks were afraid to walk on the ice, plus the parking was terrible. Where there was a spot cleaned out, it was secured with signs and old furniture. Oh well, it is New England after all. Well March has arrived, and, along with it, spring, I hope. To be honest, I was sick for three weeks and spent most of my time indoors. Now I'm getting back to normal and I'm ready to roll.

As you know by now, we will be celebrating Purim here at the Temple on Wednesday, March 4th at 5 pm. I hope everyone will make it their priority to attend. Please call the office and make a reservation. Let's try to show our support for Rabbi Mark and Cantor Shoshana.

This year due to the timing of Passover, instead of our usual Second Night Seder we are planning a Passover Community Celebration & Meal on April 10th at 5:30 pm. Please plan to join us as we celebrate Passover together, and RSVP by April 1st.

Well our poor book club was cancelled several times, due to the snowy weather. As soon as the date is rescheduled you will be notified. For those of you that haven't yet read the book, this a good time to catch up. The read is Leaving Time by Jodi Picoult. Pick it up and start reading.

So until next month, Shalom.

*Libby Cohen,*

*Sisterhood Gift Shop*

Passover begins on Friday evening, April 3rd, just a month away.

We have a wonderful selection of seder plates, silk matzo covers, folding matzo trays, and lucite matzo boxes (always a popular item) -- as well as games for children.

If you will be needing any special Passover merchandise that we don't carry, please allow at least two weeks prior to the date needed. I am available every Monday before 10:30 a.m. and after 12 noon. If you would like to browse any other morning, feel free to call or email me to schedule an appointment.

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





## SERVICE SCHEDULE

**March 2015: Adar/Nisan 5775**Wednesday, March 4 (13 Adar)

Fast of Esther  
Megillah Reading 5:00 pm

Thursday, March 5 (14 Adar)

Purim  
Service & Megillah Reading 8:00 am

Friday, March 6 (15 Adar)

Candle Lighting 5:23 pm  
Shabbat Service "Friday Night Live" 6:30 pm

Saturday, March 7 (16 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Ki Tisa 10:00 am

Friday, March 13 (22 Adar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:31 pm

Saturday, March 14 (23 Adar)

Weekly Portion: Vayakhel 10:00 am  
Shabbat Parah

Friday, March 20 (29 Adar)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:39 pm

Saturday, March 21 (1 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Vayikra 10:00 am  
Shabbat Hachodesh  
Rosh Chodesh Nisan

Friday, March 27 (7 Nisan)

Shabbat Service 5:30 pm  
Candle Lighting 6:47 pm

Saturday, March 28 (8 Nisan)

Weekly Portion: Tzav 10:00 am  
Shabbat Hagadol

## TEMPLE OFFICE

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E-Mail: templebethel@comcast.net  
Website: frtemplebethel.org

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday, 9 am to Noon

**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.net

Office Hours: Monday & Thursday, 9 am to Noon

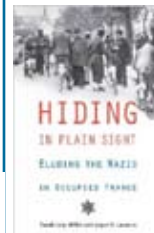
Friendly Visitor: Jackie Gedacht is ready, willing and able to visit the sick or shut-ins. Call the UJA office at (508) 673-7791 to schedule a visit.

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**

- Our deepest sympathy to the Trieff families on the loss of their beloved mother, Mildred Trieff.
- Mazel Tov to Bernice and Stuart Solup on the birth of their grandson, Henry Evan Solup, and to great grandparents, Sanford Goldstein and Beverly Solup.
- Mazel Tov to Judy and Billy David whose granddaughter, Lila David, became a Bat Mitzvah

**Free Lecture at UMASS Dartmouth**

Sarah Lew Miller & Prof. Joyce Lazarus  
Present a lecture based on their memoir  
"Hiding in Plain Sight"

**April 15th at Noon**

Grand Reading Room  
Claire T. Carney Library

The Boivin Center, in collaboration with the Center for Jewish Studies, will present a lecture with Sarah Lew Miller and Professor Joyce Lazarus. These two women collaborated on writing Ms. Miller's memoir: Hiding in Plain Sight, which details her family's eluding the Nazis in occupied France. A Q&A will follow the lecture along with a book signing and light reception. Admission to this program is free. Parking is available in lot 13.

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## Cantor Shoshana's News & Notes:

Despite all the snow, members of TBE, accompanied by members of Adas Israel, celebrated **Tu biShevat**, the "Jewish Earth Day," the New Year for the Trees, on Shabbat, Feb. 7th. Those who braved the elements were treated to a Tu biShevat Seder full of the promise of spring: fruits, nuts, wine, blessings and song. It is comforting to remind ourselves that beneath all this snow and ice, the sap is starting to flow!

**Rabbi Mark** attended the "Rabbis Without Borders" Annual Conference at the Pearlstone Jewish Retreat Center outside of Baltimore from Feb. 1st through Feb. 4th, the theme of which was "Pluralism, Innovation and Service." Rabbis Without Borders is a transdenominational initiative sponsored by CLAL— the Center for [Jewish] Learning and Leadership.

On Motzei Shabbat, Feb. 7th, at the Annual "D'rash and Dessert" at the Providence Dwares JCC, **Rabbi Mark** co-led Havdalah, and taught, as one of the four offerings that evening, a class on "Jewish Meditation and Spirituality." This event was sponsored by the Board of Rabbis of Greater Rhode Island and the Dwares JCC.

**Cantor Shoshana** has added a new psalm reflection and accompanying audio file to her project "Zimrat haAretz;" if you did not receive the email link to this reflection and audio file, you may access it via our website by clicking the link for "Psalm Reflections."

Upcoming: **Cantor Shoshana** will be a featured panelist at the Smith College Alumnae Relations Women's Leadership Conference entitled "Taking the Right Risks" to take place on the Smith campus March 26-27. Cantor Shoshana will be speaking on the subject, "The Life I didn't Expect."



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*A thank you note  
to the congregation  
from Tom Gregory:*

*Thank you everyone for such a memorable send-off. My family and I enjoyed every minute, well maybe except for my speech. Katie is going to miss running around the Temple and gym and Tommy will miss his new friend, Lev, and his "iPad."*

*I was overwhelmed by all your comments but I'm just a mirror reflecting the light from all of you. I'm sorry my snow jinx has reappeared, but it is so nice to watch it from the window.*

*These past 18 years have passed so fast and I have learned so much. I'm looking forward to working close to home and spending more time with my family.*

*Thanks again for all your support.*

Tom

## Nova: The Bible's Buried Secrets

On Wednesday, March 25, tune in to Channel 2 at 9 pm for Nova, which will feature The Bible's Buried Secrets, an archeological detective story tackling some of the biggest questions in biblical studies, investigating both the origins of the ancient Israelites and the fascinating story of the Hebrew Bible.

Join us as we celebrate Purim!

## Diary of a Wimpy King

Megillah reading and festivities will take place

Wednesday  
March 4th at 5 pm

Our Hebrew school students will entertain us with their Purim Shpiel, "Diary of a Wimpy King"



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

**Yahrzeits**

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

Mother in law, Sarah Belford	Hon. Aileen Belford
Mother, Suetelle Bernstein	Berna Haberman
Father, Samuel Ehrenhaus	Abraham Ehrenhaus
Grandfather, Adolph Feder	Joyce Juda
Father, Seymour Filler	Mark Filler
Aunt, Bessie Gladstone	Sheila Freedman
Brother, Sidney Goldman	Sylvia Zalkind
Wife, Bernice Hoffman	Bernard Hoffman
Mother, Fannie Hoffman	Bernard Hoffman
Grandmother, Sarah Korn	Hon. Aileen Belford
Father, Sidney Lechan	Norma Jean Lechan
Brother, Sidney Lechan	Dr. Leonard Lechan
Brother, Larry Lurie	Dorothy Lurie
Father, William Lurie	Dorothy Lurie
Parents, Esther & Jack Mickelson	Beverly Solup
Mother, Rose Moss	Shirley Taradash
Father, Charles Novek	Barry Novek
Mother in law, Mary Reiser	Hilda Reiser
Father, Charlaes Rosenberg	Richard Rosenberg
Mother, Anna Schaffer	Donna Walters
Mother in law, Fannie Woloshin	Charles Stampler
Aunt, Lottie Sandler	Samuel Billard
Father, Richard Shore	Nancy Shore
Father, Morris Wilner	Myron Wilner
Mother, Ida Woltman	Atty. Leon Woltman

**CAMP RAMAH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In honor of Tom Gregory for his long, loyal, wonderful devotion to Temple Beth El  
 In honor of Rosanne & Sayre Litchman on their granddaughter, Chaya Litchman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
 In memory of Donald Wiener  
 Bill Chebot

**CANTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND**

In honor of the marriage of Mira Guttoff to Stefan Beeman  
 Bill Chebot

**CAPITAL FUND**

In honor of the marriage of Erica Bolski to Irwin Rozowsky  
 Marilyn Sokoll  
 In honor of Judy & Billy David on their granddaughter, Lila David, becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
 Gail Wilkinson  
 In honor of Tom Gregory  
 Charles Stampler  
 In honor of Rosanne & Sayre Litchman on their granddaughter, Chaya Litchman, becoming a Bat Mitzvah  
 Marilyn Sokoll  
 In honor of the birth of a great grandson to Beverly Solup  
 Marilyn Sokoll  
 In memory of Max Plosker  
 Fran Cohen  
 Iris & Harold Katzman  
 Joe Rosenfeld  
 In memory of Mildred Trieff  
 Iris & Harold Katzman  
 Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Schneider  
 Charles Stampler

**IDA AND DAVID CHAVENSON  
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In honor of the birth of our grandson, Henry Evan Solup  
 Bernice & Stuart Solup

**THELMA R. CHEBOT MEMORIAL  
 SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

In memory of Robert Cooper  
 Bill Chebot

**BERNARD HOROWITZ BUILDING  
 MAINTENANCE FUND**

For the yahrzeit of my beloved father, Joseph Horowitz  
 Herbert Horowitz

**ANNA & MORRIS LEPES CEMETERY FUND**

In memory of our beloved father, Morris Lepes  
 Ellen & Terry Shand & family

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William "BT" Hathaway  
 Mike Roberts

  
**HATHAWAY**  
 FAMILY FUNERAL HOMES

*Please mark your calendars and plan to join us for our*

## **PASSOVER COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AND MEAL**

**Friday, April 10th at 5:30 pm**

Come and celebrate Passover and Shabbat with our Temple community.  
Join us as we sing Passover songs, catch up with each other after the long winter,  
and enjoy a wonderful meal together.

\$25 per adult, \$10 for children under 12  
Reservations a Must - please RSVP by April 1st

*Catered by The Butcherie*

### **DID YOU KNOW? FUN FACTS ABOUT ISRAEL!**

- Israel has the third highest rate of entrepreneurship in the world. It has the highest rate of entrepreneurship among women and people over 55 in the world.
- Israeli banknotes have braille markings on them.
- Israelis consume the third most amount of vegetables and sweets in the world.
- When Golda Meir became prime minister of Israel in 1969, she was only the third woman elected to lead a country in the modern world.
- Israel has 137 official beaches (but only 273 km of coastline).
- In regards to its population, Israel has the highest ratio of college degrees. The same goes for the ratio of its museums and startup companies!
- Motorola developed the cell phone in Israel.
- Voicemail technology was developed in Israel.
- The first antivirus software for computers was created in Israel in 1979.
- Israel has two official languages: Hebrew and Arabic.
- Israel published more books translated from other languages than any other nation in the world.
- The city of Beersheba has the highest number of chess grandmasters per capita in the world.
- Only two countries began the 21st century with a net gain in their number of trees; Israel was one.
- Israel is the only country to revive an unspoken language and establish it as its national tongue.
- Jerusalem's Mount of Olives is the world's oldest continuously used cemetery.
- Life expectancy at birth in Israel is at 82 years (two years more than the OECD average).
- Eilat and the Hula Valley Reserve are some of the best bird-watching sites in the world
- Heart tissue regeneration is possible in the U.S. thanks to Israeli stem-cell technology.
- A cooking oil developed in Israel is capable of breaking up cholesterol and other blood fats.
- Israel is one of only nine countries in the world that can launch its own satellites into space.
- Yityish Aynaw became Israel's first Ethiopian Miss Israel in 2013.
- More than 44% of all lawyers registered in Israel are women.
- Israel chose its first woman president of the Supreme Court, Dorit Beinisch, who served from 2006-2012.
- Israel has the world's second highest per capita of new books.
- A group of Israeli artists have started bus stop libraries that are available free of charge to commuters traveling across Israel.
- Last Valentine's Day, 60 million Israeli flowers were sent to Europe for sale.
- Israel's national bird is the hoopoe.
- The Sea of Galilee — located .212 km below sea level — is the lowest freshwater lake in the world.
- The Dead Sea is the lowest place on Earth. Period.
- People can easily float in the Dead Sea due to its unusually high salt concentration. It's almost impossible to dive into it.



### WEBSITE UPDATES:

Links to the latest articles in the Herald News by both the Rabbi and Cantor, and an informational brochure about a trip to the Azores to see the renovated Sahar Hassamain Synagogue. Go to [www.frtemplebethel.org](http://www.frtemplebethel.org)

## YAHARZEITS

3/1/2015 Adar 10, 5775  
Sidney Schenker

3/2/2015 Adar 11, 5775  
Louis I. Galitsky  
Hyman B. Gollub  
Mary Robinovitz  
George Sandler

3/3/2015 Adar 12, 5775  
Louis Bachman  
Hyman Levine  
Larry Lurie  
Minnie Somer

3/4/2015 Adar 13, 5775  
Robert M. Cohen  
Ida Dubitsky  
Rebecca Horvitz

3/6/2015 Adar 15, 5775  
William Goldman  
Vivian Grozen

3/7/2015 Adar 16, 5775  
Miriam Horvitz  
Samuel Katzman  
Ethel Liebmann

3/8/2015 Adar 17, 5775  
Fannie Keppler Halper  
Morris Hirschman  
Alice Jean Horowitz

3/9/2015 Adar 18, 5775  
Helen Freedman  
Florence Lash  
Sylvia Yoken

3/10/2015 Adar 19, 5775  
William Feinberg  
Ruth Levine  
William Lurie  
Israel Waksler

3/11/2015 Adar 20, 5775  
George Brenner

3/12/2015 Adar 21, 5775  
William Meyerson  
Elsie Pollock  
Abraham Trieff

3/13/2015 Adar 22, 5775  
David Chavenson  
Marian Cohen  
Samuel Feldman  
Noah Horvitz

3/14/2015 Adar 23, 5775  
Helen (Yelena) Golub  
Edwin Macy  
H. Charles Reiser

3/15/2015 Adar 24, 5775  
Manuel Hyman  
Lillian Settlow  
Eva Waksler

3/16/2015 Adar 25, 5775  
Thelma Greenberg

3/17/2015 Adar 26, 5775  
Minnie Entin  
Virginia Granovsky  
Frederick Kaplan  
Doris Rotenberg

3/18/2015 Adar 27, 5775  
Alice Sandler

3/19/2015 Adar 28, 5775  
Miriam Reiser  
Barry Schwartz  
Samuel Stampler  
Dr. Sanford Udis

3/20/2015 Adar 29, 5775  
Rose Oscar  
Robert Zwetchkenbaum

3/21/2015 Nissan 1, 5775  
David Freedman  
Arthur Littman

3/24/2015 Nissan 4, 5775  
Max Victor Silverman

3/25/2015 Nissan 5, 5775  
Rose Dashoff  
Milton Lifrak  
David Sacknoff

3/26/2015 Nissan 6, 5775  
Nathan Brush  
Barbara Shore  
Martha Saxe Sobel

3/27/2015 Nissan 7, 5775  
Ethel Kravitz

3/30/2015 Nissan 10, 5775  
Murray Klein  
Harry Meretsky  
Philip Rubinstein

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