



# BRIDGING

Newsletter of the First Parish Church, Bridgewater, MA, Unitarian Universalist

November 2017

## From the Minister...

### What Does It Mean to Be a People of Abundance?

*Want what you have,  
Do what you can,  
Be who you are.*

- Forrest Church, *Love and Death*

Forrest Church, long time minister at All Souls Unitarian Universalist in New York, fell back on this mantra as he was dying of cancer. I've shared his book *Love and Death* in a number of classes, and a number of people have objected to the first line, "Want what you have." The usual objection is that it seems to counsel a kind of passivity in the face of needs that have gone unmet, of undesirable things that we have. If I don't have enough to eat, am I supposed to want that? If I don't have enough money to care for the needs of my family, am I supposed to want that? Forrest himself was challenged to justify how he could say this; did it mean he wanted to have cancer?

I puzzle over these questions, too. How might my life have been different if I'd been content with what I had at an earlier stage of my life? Would I have become lazy and fatalistic, lacking in ambition? I think the message is a little different. I don't think it counsels resignation; I think it counsels appreciation. All our lives we have enough if we can appreciate it. Many things change in the course of a lifetime, but we always already have enough. The Apostle Paul (not my favorite saint) once said something I try to remember when I really don't want what I have – anxiety, lassitude, procrastination – "I have learned in whatsoever state I am in therein to be content."

For me, "Want what you have" is a reminder to pay attention to what I have rather than what I want. Unfortunately, it's never easy to say, "I have enough." We are all tempted to want more, and inevitably we end up with clutter that can preoccupy us. I, for example, end up with too much to read: too many emails from newspapers or magazines or organizations that I'm sometimes interested in but can't possibly keep up with; too many books to ever get through; too many magazines that pile up unread.

Sometimes it's easier to recognize that we have enough when we give some of what we have away. One old maxim of financial management says to save 10% of what you make ("pay yourself first"), give away 10% (sometimes known as a "tithe" – a tenth) and use what remains to meet your needs. In more prosperous circles, it is sometimes held that those who are too poor can't afford to give to churches or charities; and yet, ironically, it is precisely those who are poorer who give a larger share of their income to churches and charities. Jewish practice requires that even the one who receives charity must also give charity. It's important that every person be able to give as well as receive.

This is the season of Thanksgiving. It's a season to meditation on what is enough – and more than enough – in our lives. I would like to encourage each family to find at least one opportunity each week to sit down to dinner and appreciate each other. We distribute "Guest at Your Table" boxes from our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee to remind ourselves that we have enough but that others need our help. A shared meal in gratitude can be part of a regular practice of remembering that we can want what we have and even give something to others. It is indeed gratitude that reminds us that we are a people of abundance.

In Faith,  
Rev. Paul

**Minister**

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**First Principle Project**

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**Worship Committee News & Services:** November's theme is *Abundance*.

**November 5 -** Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher: "Abundance in Simplicity" - Is it possible to change ourselves so that we are more aware of abundance than of scarcity? Of what we have rather than what we don't have? The month of Thanksgiving is a good time to think about it.

**November 12 -** Worship with Rev. Beverly Morrison Boke: "Nourishing Tradition" - Now that we are once again approaching the holidays it seemed like a good time to think about our traditions and how they nourish us, how newfangled foods and fads reflect newfangled ideas that may or may not be good for us.

**The Rev. Beverly Morrison Boke** — called "Buffy" by just about everyone — was called and settled as minister to the Canton, Massachusetts congregation in August 2011, from which she retired in July of 2017. Immediately prior to that, she served on the Administration Team as a guidance counselor for three years at the American Community School in Beirut, Lebanon. Buffy was ordained at the Unitarian Church of Barnstable in 1985. She has served Unitarian Universalist congregations in Virginia, Vermont, and New Hampshire. Buffy lives with Nick, her husband of 37 years, in Providence, Rhode Island. They have one child, a daughter who is this close to finishing her dissertation for her doctorate in anthropology. She is currently an instructor with a college study-abroad program in Nepal.

**November 19 -** Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher: "Abundance for All" - Generosity is learned in families. Our "Guest at Your Table" fundraiser starts this Sunday -- but can we find the time to welcome a guest together? (see more details on page 6)

**November 26 -** Worship with the Music and Worship Committees: "Hymn Sing!" - Join us for a riveting musical service featuring hymns selected by various congregation members.

**About Worship Associates, Lay Worship Leaders & Ushers.**

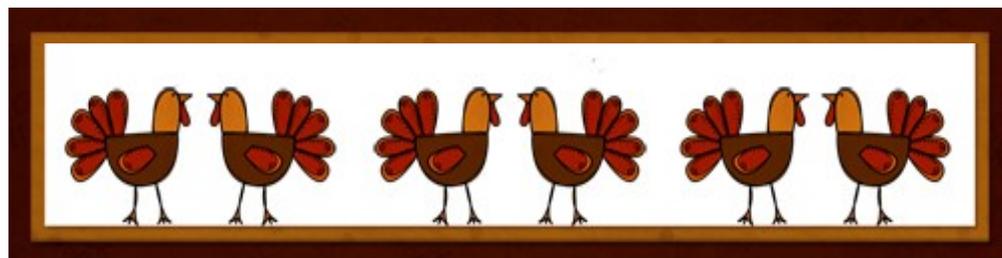
We hope all members who are physically-able can fulfill at least one of these tasks twice a year. If you have a particular date you'd like to volunteer, please tell us in advance and you'll likely get your choice. Otherwise, if you are a church member and can do this, but haven't volunteered, expect to be asked to fill a couple of dates.

**Worship Committee meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Worship Committee is scheduled for **Thursday, November 16** at 7pm in the church office. Members and friends are cordially invited to attend. You may share your ideas with us about worship or simply be present to observe.

**Committee members:** Rev. Rachel Tedesco, Chair; Denise Haskins, McKayla Hoffman, Stefan Michaud, Tom St. Thomas, Yasmeeen Thompson, Tony Winters and Rev. Paul Sprecher.

**First Parish Annual Thanksgiving Day**

Hard to believe it is time to think about plans for Thanksgiving. Once again we are planning a First Parish Family Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23. It has been great for many of us with small families to be able to share the day with others. We all bring our favorite things to share and have a great meal enjoying each other's company. I will have a list next to the coffee to list what everyone plans to bring. Think of your special dish. If you have any questions or need more information let me know [irish2@aol.com](mailto:irish2@aol.com) or (508) 378-2906. Susan Irish





# LET'S *Grow* TOGETHER

SARA WILLIAMS DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## Upcoming Religious Education Calendar:

November 5: RE Classes  
November 12: RE Classes  
November 19: Intergenerational Worship  
November 26: RE Classes

## CHILDCARE

is available every Sunday morning from 10-12  
... and at every event hosted at First Parish!

## A peek into this month's upcoming curriculum on the theme of Abundance:

### Mindfulness

Ring a bell. Let's listen to all of the sounds around us as we are very quiet together. Now, reach out and hold the hand of the person sitting next to you. Turn and look at them and smile. That is being a friend. We have an abundance of love when we are surrounded by our friends who help us and care for us.

### Thinking about "Abundance"

What do you think of when you hear the word "abundance?" Sometimes it means having a lot of something, often money or wealth. Here, in Unitarian Universalist community, abundance means being rich in love and gratitude. It means having people who are or could be your friend. You don't need money to feel abundance. You can be rich in friends and family. It doesn't take a lot of friends or family. It just takes love.

## CIRCLE DINNER

The RE Committee is hosting a Circle Dinner at the church. Everyone is welcome! As always, childcare will be provided! The details are:

**Date:** Friday, November 3rd

**Time:** 6 pm

**Location:** Upper Parish Hall

RSVP to Sara at [dre.bridgewater@gmail.com](mailto:dre.bridgewater@gmail.com) and sign up for a pot luck dinner!

# SAVE THE DATE



## HOLLY DAY FAIRE

FIRST PARISH CHURCH, BRIDGEWATER

Friday, December 8, 2017 6-8p

Saturday, December 9, 2017 10a-2p

### *Local Artisans & Crafters*

Wrap-up your holiday shopping - buy the perfect gift made locally.

### *Cookie Walk! Select your favorites...*

So many delicious varieties - pecan shortbread, chocolate peppermint bars, ginger, and more. Enjoy a cookie with a cup of hot chocolate. Take a dozen or more home.

### *Visits with Santa & Holiday Entertainment*

### *Browse and Buy gift books for children & adults*

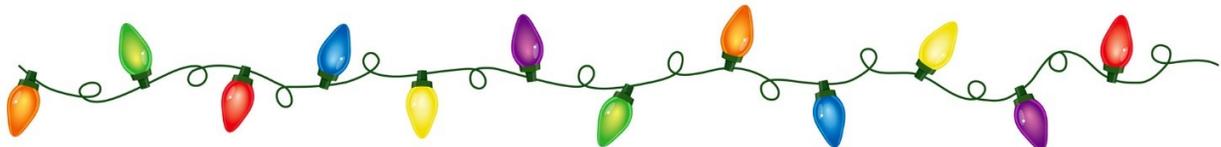


### **Saturday 11a – 2p Soup Buffet!**

Ten or more varieties - creamy corn chowder, chicken with rice, savory lentil, squash bisque. Get a bottomless cup and sample them all. Take out available.

**Vendors:** a table is \$30 (includes both days.) Questions - or to reserve a table, leave a message at 508-697-2525 or email [firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com](mailto:firstparishbridgewater@hotmail.com)

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 50 School St, Bridgewater, MA 02324  
[www.firstparishbridgewater.org/](http://www.firstparishbridgewater.org/) <https://www.facebook.com/FPbwaterUU/>



## SCIENCE & RELIGION

If you love to read about and discuss science or religion or ethics or philosophy, then you should make a note to attend the next meeting of the "Science and Religion Discussion group. We meet every third Wednesday of the month at First Parish at 7pm in the 'Hive'. This month's meeting is on Wednesday November 15th. We are currently reading "Science in the Soul" by Richard Dawkins. We hope you will join our lively discussion.

## JUSTICE TALK

Thursday, November 2 from 12:30 - 1:30 pm in BSU Weygand Rm. 1047 the Martin Richard Institute for Social Justice will present at talk on Health Justice. This is free and all are welcome.

## MAINSRING HOUSE LUNCHES

Monday, November 6 at 8:30 am 100 lunches will be prepared for MainSpring House Homeless Shelter. Volunteers and donations welcome. Speak with Betty Gilson to offer help.

## CARING COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, November 27 at 7pm the Caring Committee will meet at the church. If you know of joys and concerns that the committee should be addressing, please contact a member.

Debbie Baumgarten, Betty Gilson, Mary Hatfield, Louella Mann, Jan Thompson, Korin Zigler

## T"UU"RNING LEAVES BOOK CLUB

Friday, December 1 at 7pm location TBD the Book Club will hold its meeting to discuss its **November** selection, *Berlin Game*, by Len Deighton. *Berlin Game* is a 1983 spy novel, the first novel in the first of three trilogies about Bernard Samson, a middle-aged and somewhat jaded intelligence officer working for the British Secret Intelligence Service.

## ROTARY CITIZEN OF THE YEAR AWARDS

Monday, November 13 at 7pm at the Center for Sachem Rock in E. Bridgewater the Rotary Club of the Bridgewaters will hold its annual Citizen of the Year Awards. The Bridgewater recipients are our own Jim Quinn & Lisa Troy. The program includes a Dessert Reception, price \$20. Speak with Janet Dye about reservations.

## STONE CHIMES

Looking for one or two more interested and responsible people to ring with the Stone Chimes monthly (also for the Candlelight Service and Easter). Minimal rehearsals - but commitment to those we do have is needed. Rehearsal only on Sunday mornings - 1-2 times per month, and only playing in the Sunday service one time per month, November through May. Contact Lisa Rue with questions, etc. at [lisa\\_rue80@yahoo.com](mailto:lisa_rue80@yahoo.com) or 508-378-8359.

## Calling all Bakers! It's time again for the Holly Day Faire!

It's time for putting on your apron and donating a few batches of cookies for our annual Cookie Walk!! During the Holly Faire, the kitchen will be filled with fabulous cookies from you and other friends of the church. Share your favorite family recipe or try out something new. Everyone loves cookies, and with butter, sugar, & cream, you can't go wrong.

If you'd like to bake a batch or two or three of cookies, let Betty Gilson ([gillyflower@verizon.net](mailto:gillyflower@verizon.net)) or Laurie Lessner ([laurie@yabroudy.com](mailto:laurie@yabroudy.com)) know the following:

- The Type of Cookie you'll be making
- How Many Cookies you'll be making
- What Day you will drop them off; Friday (12/8) or Saturday (12/9)

- Drop-off your cookies in the kitchen. We will clearly mark the area
- Cookies should be in closed containers, labeled with your name and the name of the cookie

Thank you for all your effort! It is always greatly appreciated.



**We, the Green Sanctuary Committee, encourage individual members to support these practices in church and to strive to incorporate them into daily life.**

## **FIRST PARISH GREEN COMMITMENT**

As a Green Sanctuary-accredited congregation,  
First Parish has made a commitment to respect and care for our planet Earth.

**A First Parish coffee hours and events, we use**

*Cloth napkins  
Fairly traded organic coffee and tea  
Real dishware  
Real silverware*

**In our kitchen, we use**

*Non-toxic, responsibly sourced cleaning products  
Chlorine-free, plant-based dish detergents  
Eco-friendly hand soap*

**In our rest rooms, we use**

*Essential oil-based air freshener  
Reusable cloth towels  
Eco-friendly hand soap  
Paper products made from 100% recycled paper*

**In our sanctuary, we use**

*Programmable thermostat  
Projection of service components (music, readings, graphics) to  
reduce paper and printing*

**Throughout the church, we use**

*Green (solar) electricity  
Energy efficient light bulbs  
Eco-friendly cleaning products  
Practices that reduce waste of resources (natural light, use of both sides of paper,  
water conservation)*

*First Parish recycles paper, cardboard and Styrofoam and hosts a community-wide metal recycling drive annually.*



## **GUEST AT YOUR TABLE 2017-18**

Sunday, November 19, 2017 Worship Service

This service will be our annual Guest at Your Table (GAYT) Sunday. This is the time of year when we are focusing on the work of our UU social action group, the Unitarian Universalist Committee (UUSC).

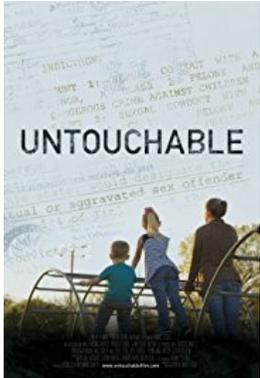


Throughout the world, UUSC fosters social justice and works toward a world free from oppression. UUSC advances a full array of human rights — promoting economic justice, bolstering environmental justice, and protecting rights at risk. UUSC also works to deliver aid with dignity and advance the rights of people left behind during humanitarian crises, which include forgotten conflicts and natural disasters.

For the next few weeks, please think and talk about the work of the UUSC especially when you sit down to a meal with your family. Whenever possible, collect coins at mealtime to set aside for this work. Each family will receive a box for the donations. During the worship service on January 7 we will gather the donations. Please convert the coins (and bills) into a check made out to First Parish with GAYT in the memo line. Gifts of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar for dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock.

*UUSC's grassroots partners make a big difference in their communities, and so does your participation in GAYT. That is why this year's program theme is Small Change is Big Change.*

**You are invited to a screening of the documentary "Untouchable"  
followed by a discussion on the need for sex offender policy reform  
Friday, November 17 at 7pm in the Sanctuary  
Sponsored by the First Parish UU Church's Social Justice Committee  
& the Coalition for Justice Policy Coalition (CJPC)**



Come to a special screening of this groundbreaking documentary "Untouchable". This will be followed by a discussion led by Franklin Baxley, Interim Executive Director of CJPC, and members of this organization's SOPRI (Sex Offender Policy Reform Initiative) Program.

The program is free and open to the public. Please note, this program is not appropriate for children and younger teens. Childcare will be provided upon request. Donations to the CJPC, a Boston based organization, are welcome.

CJPC is a non-profit organization dedicate to achieve humane and effective criminal policies in Massachusetts. Visit the website at [www.cjpc.org](http://www.cjpc.org).

If you have any questions or concerns, please speak to Betty Gilson or Rev. Rachel Tedesco.

**Circle Dinners** We have several hosts for our November potluck Circle Dinners, but there is still time for you to sign up to attend one of these gatherings as a guest. There is still room at the **Friday, November 3rd, Friday, November 10, and Saturday, November 11th** dinners, but don't delay, seats are filling up quickly. Please contact Jan Thompson [janicethompson22@comcast.net](mailto:janicethompson22@comcast.net) (508) 697-2492 to sign up to attend a dinner.

**WomenSpirit** Please join us Monday, 11.20 at the home of Mary Hatfield (meet at 6:15 at First Parish to car-pool). Bring your thoughts about your spiritual life and your favorite marking/ drawing/ writing implements. Also bring any food or drink you'd like to share. The group will meet from 6:30-8:30pm. If you have any questions, contact McKayla Hoffman (508-813-0575 [mckaylahoffman@gmail.com](mailto:mckaylahoffman@gmail.com)) or Susan Holton (508-821-2034 [holtonsus-san@gmail.com](mailto:holtonsus-san@gmail.com)) or Yasmeen Thompson ([RAnna14@live.com](mailto:RAnna14@live.com)). We will see you there!



## **Off the Common Coffeehouse**

*Located in the Upper Parish Hall at First Parish Church  
50 School Street, Bridgewater*



**Saturday, November 4, 2017 at 7:30pm**

Potluck dinner at 6:30pm

*featuring*

**Cormac McCarthy**

### **Coming Attractions**

December 2 – Greg Greenway  
January 6 – The Kennedys with Quentin Callewaert  
February 3 – Bernice Lewis  
March 3 – David Roth  
April 7 – The Monica Rizzio Band  
May 5 – Chris & Meredith Thompson

*Admission: \$15*

*Enjoy our homemade  
Refreshments*

*Sign up for open mike!*

## ACTIVE BYSTANDER TRAINING

Tuesday, November 14 6:30 - 8:30 pm  
Bridgewater Senior Center

This program is being presented by the Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect. It is co-sponsored by First Parish and with the help of a grant from BSU.

A bystander is a witness—someone who sees a harmful situation and has a choice to make: Do I do something? If so, what do I do?

Training Active Bystanders (TAB) helps participants recognize when they are bystanders, analyzes the situation in which they find themselves, and evaluate the consequences for everyone involved. The TAB curriculum heightens bystanders' power. It teaches how bystanders can interrupt harm doing and generate positive actions by others. We emphasize that active bystandership does not mean aggression against the harm doer. It means taking responsible action to help people in need, instead of remaining passive and becoming complicit. TAB gives bystanders the competencies they need when they witness something they feel is unfair, or wrong, or troubling. When people have the tools to create justice in the moment of need, it can transform those who take the training, the trainers, and the community.

**Seating is limited, please register in advance!** Children aged twelve and older are welcome. We will be having additional events in the months to come, so if you cannot attend but are interested, please email us [contact@civilityandrespect.org] and we'll put you on a wait list for future events.

Check the BCCR Facebook page for more info.

[Bridgewater Citizens for Civility and Respect - Community | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/CivilityAndRespect/community/)  
<https://www.facebook.com/CivilityAndRespect/community/>



### A note from the Music Committee

Many of you have noticed the new piano in Upper Parish Hall. The previous piano was in poor condition, and an anonymous donor purchased the current one, a Wurlitzer, for the church. The old piano has been donated to the Channing UU Church in Rockland. Many thanks to the following people who helped initiate and pay for this project, and move the pianos: Betty Gilson, Tony Winters, Joe Risko, Jim Donnelly, David Wilson, Korin Zigler, John McGovern, and Bill Davis.

## HELPING THE HUNGRY

OUR **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE** COLLECTS NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEMS FOR THE LOCAL FOOD PANTRY. WE INVITE YOU TO HELP THE HUNGRY IN OUR LOCAL AREA BY BRINGING CANNED AND PACKAGED FOODS ON THE FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH. A BOX IS PLACED AT THE FRONT OF THE SANCTUARY, NEAR THE PIANO, TO RECEIVE THE ITEMS, WHICH THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE MEMBERS GATHER AND BRING TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY.



### FEEDING THE HOMELESS



OUR CHURCH VOLUNTEERS PROVIDE LUNCHES FOR **MAINSRING HOUSE** SHELTER FOR THE HOMELESS IN BROCKTON. WE GATHER ON THE **FIRST MONDAY\*** OF EACH MONTH AT 9 A.M. IN THE **LOWER PARISH HALL** TO PREPARE AND WRAP 100 BAG LUNCHES, WHICH ARE THEN BROUGHT TO THE SHELTER BY ONE OR TWO OF OUR VOLUNTEERS.

YOU CAN HELP IN MANY WAYS, INCLUDING JOINING US AT THE ABOVE GATHERINGS, DONATING BAKED GOODS, OTHER FOOD ITEMS, AND PAPER GOODS AS NEEDED, TAKING HOME SOME OF THE FIXINGS AND PREPARING PARTS OF THE LUNCHES (SUCH AS TUNA OR EGG SALAD) AT HOME FOR THE VOLUNTEERS TO ASSEMBLE AT THE CHURCH, OR SIMPLY DONATING MONEY TOWARD THE COST OF THE LUNCHES, WHICH IS ABOUT \$100 PER MONTH FOR 50 LUNCHES.

PLEASE CONTACT BETTY GILSON (774-226-0942) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, OR JUST DROP BY THAT MORNING TO HELP.

*\* THE LUNCHES ARE PREPARED ON MONDAYS TO BE EATEN ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH. IF THE FIRST TUESDAY FALLS ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH, THE LUNCHES ARE MADE ON THE FINAL MONDAY OF THE PREVIOUS MONTH.*

# NOVEMBER 2017 CALENDAR

Thursday, November 2

- 12:30pm Health Justice Talk, BSU
- 7pm Social Justice Committee Meeting at First Parish
- 7pm Parish Committee meeting

Friday, November 3

- Circle Dinner
- 6pm RE Circle Dinner at First Parish

Saturday, November 4

- Circle Dinner
- 7:30pm Off the Common Coffeehouse featuring Cormac McCarthy

**Sunday, November 5**

- 9am Choir Practice
- 10:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher, "Abundance in Simplicity"

Monday, November 6

- 8:45am MainSpring House lunches prep at FP
- 7:30pm Facilities Committee meeting

Friday, November 10

- Circle Dinner

Saturday, November 11

- Circle Dinner

**Sunday, November 12**

- 9am Choir rehearsal
- 10:30am Worship with Rev. Beverly Morrison Boke: "Nourishing Tradition"

Monday, November 13

- 7pm Rotary Club Citizens of the Year Awards, Center for Sachem Rock, EB

Tuesday, November 14

- 6:30pm Active Bystander Training at the Bridgewater Senior Center

Wednesday, November 15

- 7pm Science and Religion Discussion Group at FP

Thursday, November 16

- 7pm Worship Committee Meeting

Friday, November 17

- 7pm Screening of documentary film, 'Untouchable' in First Parish Sanctuary

**Sunday, November 19**

- 9am Choir rehearsal
- 10:30am Worship with Rev. Paul Sprecher: "Abundance for All"

Monday, November 20

- 6:30pm WomenSpirit meeting

Thursday, November 23

- First Parish Thanksgiving

Sunday, November 26

- 9am Choir practice
- 10:30am Worship with the Music and Worship Committees: "Hymn Sing!"

Monday, November 7

- 7pm Caring Committee meeting at the church

Thursday, November 30

- 7pm Parish Committee meeting, UPH

Friday, December 1

- 7pm T"UU"ring Leaves Book Club

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**Unitarian Universalist**  
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