

Twin City Area Optimist Club

P.O. Box 475
Festus, Missouri 63028
www.twincityoptimist.org

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Serving Youth and Community since 1919

May 2023 News Making a Difference For Kids

Message From President Carroll Metzger



Greetings!

The month of May brings flowers and showers; proms and graduations as well as Mother's Day and Memorial Day. As we celebrate these events and the accomplishments and the memories of our families and loved ones, let us also celebrate the sense of optimism during this season of renewal. We celebrate the promise of new challenges and a future that values the lives of the past and present. Our recent 35th anniversary as a club was observed at the May 11 meeting at which it was announced that a gift to the outdoor needs (picnic tables for children, staff and family) of our local Head Start programs; a gift that recognizes our optimism for the future. Your efforts as club members, once again, has provided a great benefit to our community.

Thank you.

Carroll

Welcome New Members

TCA Optimists are proud to announce the induction of two new members on May 18.



Beth Haberer with sponsor Janet Mace



Sara Plew with sponsor Jean Naeger

April 27, 2023 Game Night

During the April 27 meeting members enjoyed playing the dice game LEFT-RIGHT-CENTER. Thanks to Program Chair for the evening Kathy Todd. Of course, with any game there are winners and there are losers. Looks like everyone had a good time either way!



WINNERS



LOSERS



Intense play by Mickie Huskey, Pat Parsons, Phyllis Neff, Debbie Floyd, and Beth Winkeler.



Kathy Jenson is a happy double winner.



Program Chair Kathy Todd kept things under control, or tried.

May 4, 2023 Board Review Dessert

May Board Meeting Highlights

The board approved four new members: Beth Haberer - Sponsor Janet Mace Sara Plew - Sponsor Jean Naeger Katie Haseltine - Sponsor Carol Schanz Susie Skaggs - Sponsor Pam Cernik

Club will sponsor Twin City Days Bowling Event again on September 9, 2023.

The board voted to fund purchase of picnic tables and other supplies in the amount of \$3,500 for DeSoto and Hematite Head Start facilities in honor of the Club's 35th anniversary.

Dime-A-Day is currently being collected. (See form and note from Gerty later in this newsletter).

There will be a permanent collection box for Brenden's Friday Backpack at Taytro's. (See photos in this newsletter).

We may not recall what was discussed at the monthly board meeting, but we remember what dessert we enjoyed the next day. Life is too short to not eat dessert first. Thank you to all the bakers who have brought in desserts for our first Thursday meeting each month. We thought you would enjoy a couple of recipes from our May 4 meeting.



Barb Bates and JoAnn Thompson looking pretty happy eating their dessert first.



Mickie Huskey and Sue Boyer feel no guilt enjoying a sweet treat before hitting the buffet line.

Recipe from Carolyn McKinney

Sopapilla Cheesecake

- 2 8 oz packages cream cheese, softened
- 1 ½ cup white sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 8 oz packages refrigerated crescent rolls
- ½ cup melted butter
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. Prep a 9x13 baking dish with cooking spray

Stir together ½ cup of sugar with the cinnamon in a small bowl; set aside.

Beat the cream cheese with 1 cup sugar and vanilla extract until smooth; set aside.

Roll out one can of crescent rolls and press into the bottom of the baking dish. Stretch to cover bottom of dish, firmly pressing perforations to seal.

Evenly spread the cream cheese mixture over the dough in the baking dish.

Unroll second can of dough. Carefully place on top of the cream cheese layer. Stretch as needed, pinch seams together to seal. *Note: it may be easier to use a rolling pin to stretch and shape the dough first.*

Brush the top with melted butter. Sprinkle the sugar cinnamon mix evenly over the top.

Bake until the crescent roll dough has puffed up and turned golden brown, approximately 30 minutes. Allow to cool 10 minutes before serving.

Turtle Lasagna Dessert -- recipe from Karen Huskey

From Princess Pinky Girl Website https://princesspinkygirl.com/turtle-lasagna-dessert/

INGREDIENTS:

2 tablespoons salted sweet cream butter softened

**36 crushed chocolate sandwich cookies with cream center (Oreos) filling

6 tablespoons salted sweet cream butter melted and cooled

16 ounces (2 8-ounce packages) cream cheese room temperature

1 teaspoon pure vanilla extract

¾ cup powdered sugar

16 ounces (2 8-ounce) whipped topping thawed

2 cups cold whole milk

6.8 ounces (2 3.4-ounce) instant vanilla pudding mix 3.4-ounce

**1½ teaspoons caramel flavoring

1 cup chopped dry roasted peanuts divided

**2½ cups chopped turtle candies divided

Chocolate syrup optional garnish

Caramel sundae syrup optional garnish

NOTES:

Additional advice given to Karen Huskey:

- **Freeze cookies in original container overnight and use a food processor for the crushing.
- **This is hard to find in many grocery stores. Karen's friend found this at Menard's after recipe was made. In lieu of caramel flavoring Karen used 3 big "globs" of the thick caramel syrup in a jar that is found at most grocery stores.
- **A large container of caramel pecan candies can be found at Sam's. It contains enough turtles to make 2-3 batches of this dessert. Like the cookies, freeze the candy overnight and use a food processor to chop them up.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Use either a pastry brush or your hands to butter a 9x9-inch (or 7x10 inch) baking dish with the 2 tablespoons of butter. Set it aside.
- 2. Add the crushed cookies and the melted butter to a medium-sized mixing bowl. Stir to combine. Press the buttered cookie mixture into the bottom and up the sides of the baking dish. Chill the cookie crust in the refrigerator while you prepare the cream cheese layer.
- 3. Using either a stand mixer or a medium-sized mixing bowl and a handheld mixer on medium-high speed, beat the cream cheese and vanilla for 1-1½minutes until smooth.
- 4. Add the powdered sugar and 1 cup of whipped topping. Continue mixing for another 1-1½ minutes until smooth.
- 5. Evenly spread the cream cheese layer on top of the cookie crust, and return the baking dish to the refrigerator.
- 6. Add the cold milk to a medium-sized mixing bowl. Sprinkle the pudding mixes and caramel flavoring over the cold milk. Use a handheld mixer on medium-low speed and mix just until the mixture begins to thicken (this usually only takes about 1 minute).
- 7. Add 1 cup of the whipped topping and continue mixing until the pudding mixture thickens.
- 8. Evenly sprinkle ½ cup of the chopped peanuts and 1 cup of the chopped turtle candies over the cream cheese layer.
- 9. Drizzle 1-2 tablespoons of the chocolate syrup and caramel syrup over the candy layer.
- 10. Spread the pudding mixture over the candy layer. Cover and chill for at least 2 hours.
- 11. Just before serving, spread the remaining whipped topping over the pudding layer.
- 12. Sprinkle the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of chopped peanuts and the remaining $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of the chopped turtle candies over the whipped topping.
- 13. Drizzle the chocolate syrup and caramel syrup over the candies.

Store any leftovers covered in the refrigerator for up to 5 days.



May 11, 2023 35th Birthday Celebration



Mistress of Ceremony Caryl Harness provided a history of the Club's 35 years.



Four Charter members attended the celebration, including Caryl Harness, Elsie Williams, Sue Boyer, and Martha Greenstreet.





President Carroll Metzger makes announcement during anniversary party.

In honor of 35 years of service to the community, the board of directors approved a gift of \$3500 to purchase outdoor equipment for the DeSoto and Hematite Head Start facilities. Purchase will include picnic tables.





















Thanks to the party committee Caryl Harness, Judy Lowe, Phyllis Neff, and Beth Watts for another great celebration.





THIRTY-FIVE YEARS AND COUNTING

How can it be 35 years ago – when it seems like yesterday? Let's reminisce a little (for those who have been around a long time) and learn a little (for those who haven't been with the club quite that long.

Our "Founding Fathers" were three members of the Cape Girardeau club who came to the Twin City area to build a new Optimist Club here. Alas, there was not much interest, and they were even told by one male community leader, "We don't need any more service clubs here". Not being called Optimists for nothing, these three from Cape quickly remembered, "Aha! Our previously all-male organization has just passed a resolution to accept females as members." So, what would any red-blooded Optimist male do? Organize a women's club, of course!" And they did. Oh, my gosh, they really did. Very soon SIXTY-THREE women were inducted as Optimist members — when they only needed 25 to charter. That certainly was a hint of how active and successful this group was going to be. And we were off and running.

At that time, we met at Theodoro's Restaurant on Bailey Road in Crystal City. Every week all these women descended on Theodoro's for their luncheon meeting. Now, here is WHY we found it necessary to move our meeting place to another restaurant. States Marsha Greenstreet "It was the peas! Peas & more peas. We got tired of peas with our meals. And David claimed we got candle wax on the carpet, so we decided to look elsewhere & decided on Frederick's."

Marsha was our first President and the only President to serve in that office more than one year. Since we received our Charter in May and the Optimist year goes from October 1 to September 30, she began serving in May, then, as they say in the Army, she "re-upped" when the year began on October 1.

So, right away we made a name for ourselves. And soon we adopted the "mango shirt" (mango being the name of the color) and we wore them to all activities – both local and District, to projects and fundraisers. We were known as "The Mango Ladies". Talk about a good marketing tool – It wasn't long until everyone in the District could spot us as we certainly stood out in a crowd with

school bus and it went rolling down the aisle, the fruit thing was discontinued because of being a safety hazard.

those shirts. We were active from the beginning. Although we held our first Oratorical Contest in the 1990-91 year, that wasn't all. Our first really big project was parties for Head Start kids, when Charter Member Mavis Witte talked about a little boy who was wearing his mother's shoes to school because he had nothing else. Our Head Start project continues to the current year. Think of all the kids we've helped. In those days, this project gave a voucher for shoes to each child, plus candy, a present from Santa and other "goodies" as the years went on. At first, we included a little box of fruit for the kids, but after one of them lost control of his orange on their

Now let's talk about some of the other early projects we no longer have maybe that's for the best for some of them, and maybe others could be ideas to be resurrected someday. We had Road Rallys or Road Blocks as fundraisers at one time. These were time-honored activities for civic organizations with members standing at intersections and collecting money donations from passing cars. At one such event in 1991 we made \$906.33, a good amount for a Saturday event. At one that was particularly successful one of our younger members (with good legs) appeared in shorts on a hot summer day. Of course, we were all younger in those days, but we didn't all have good legs. Anyway, it worked! About that time, we also had a Christmas party for Pony Bird kids and our membership goal was 100 members. Yes we made the goal that year.

We had birthday parties for the children at Kids' House, sponsored tennis tournaments and in 1992 compiled our first cookbook, "Cooking Optimistically" and we had a spelling bee with 54 contestants and a crowd of 175-200 spectators.

In February of 1993 the club newsletter announced the pregnancy of Dana Greenstreet – the first pregnancy in our club. In that same year we hosted the District meeting at Holiday Inn. What fun – definitely the best District meeting of the

In 1994 we started a Secret Pal program – not one of our most successful endeavors, but one that WAS hugely successful was when the Olympic Torch passed through the Twin Cities. Yes, the REAL Olympic Torch. We helped serve refreshments to 7,000 to 10,000 people (depending on whose estimate you accepted) all of whom watched as the Torch passed through. I remember that day well – it was in the hot, hot summer of 1996 and we Optimists "reported" for duty at noon. Our job was to help serve ice cream. I got home that night at 10:00 p.m. And I was as tired as if I'd carried the Torch myself. I don't think Baskin-Robins has ever sold that much ice cream – and we were giving it all away, not selling it!

In the 1997-98 year we donated five \$300 Jefferson College scholarships. We've sure come a long way in that project.

That same year we attended the local Relay for Life event in which our club won several awards, one of which was giving the biggest donation, \$3,100, to the American Cancer Society. Several members of our team, survivors – Marsha Greenstreet, Caryl Harness, Joyce Lehnoff and Barb McDowell, spoke at the Luminary Ceremony, each telling their "story".

Deep sadness touched our club in 1997 when we lost our good friend and Past President, Erma Graham, in a tragic car accident. We created a fund known as "Erma's Children" as a memorial to her, with the funds to be used for coats, shoes, clothing and other necessities for children.

The year 1998 found 15 of us attending the District meeting in Westport and in our off time visiting the Frank O. Pinion radio show being broadcast from Westport. Standing on the opposite side of the window and all of us dressed in our Mango shirts we really did stand out and Frank called us inside to find out who we were. We ended up making our singing debut on the radio!

In 2000 we manned (or womaned) the soda stand at the Twin City Chamber of Commerce Rodeo and set a record for Friday night soda sales. And we were wearing our Mango shirts – NOT short shorts this time!

In July of 2003 we attended the OI Convention in Kansas City, traveling via Amtrak. What an adventure that was. Someone decided to bring Jell-O shots but we didn't consume them since the District Governor was on the same train and we were worried lest he might think we were tarnishing the Optimist name. On the way home, there was a very inebriated man on the train, causing quite a problem. So, at the next stop in some wee little town in central Missouri, the authorities took him off the train and the last we saw of him as the train pulled out, he was standing on the platform looking very disoriented. I guess it was a good call when we had foregone the Jell-O shots!

Over a few years, we sold Opti Wrap, a popular fundraiser, and fit bike helmets on lots of kids. With many of our members having been touched by cancer by that time, we continued participating in Relay for Life and raised \$3,000 for that cause in 2004. Katie Huck served as Committee Chair that same year to form a Junior Optimist Club. And we all know how very successful that has been.

Our January 30, 2006, Girls' Night Out was held on the Robert E. Lee River Boat in Kimmswick, which just HAPPENED to be the same as "Bikers' Night" on the boat. Filled with men and women bikers, everybody on the boat was clad in black leather - except us!

Our first Dictionary Project in 2007 provided dictionaries to 1,132 third graders in the area with money from our "Second Annual Garden Tour" providing some of the funding. That year also found us hosting our "First Annual Wine Tasting Event and Auction" with a goal of selling 200 tickets. We sold 280! Two Thousand Seven proved to be a busy year, and we provided the \$200 Charter fee plus \$1 per Charter member for the formation of an Optimist club in Brazzaville in the Republic of the Congo. The next year we sent donations of school supplies to their project. Yes, this club was located in Africa!

In 2008 we had 50 kids in the 11th Annual Youth Golf Tournament – and we had a waiting list! Two hundred ninety kids were served at the Head Start Christmas party that year.

The next year we became "heiresses" when we received a \$5,000 bequest from an Estate. And we entered a new phase in 2010 when Jan Norrick started a Facebook page for our club. One of my all-time favorite programs was that year when Marie Schuh told us about the theft of her identify – how it happened, the consequences and that long road to getting it straightened out. I still think about it every once in a while, when I hear about someone losing or being unable to find their purse. Then, the Pillowcase Project was instigated in 2011, when we made a multitude of kidfriendly pillowcases for kids with cancer.

Well, I could go on and on; I just barely scraped the top of the barrel of memories. I kept a list of Memories from plane rides to and from OI Conventions, but I won't elaborate on those – although I'll tell you that on one trip, we got a little rowdy on the plane and were asked by the stewardess to hold down the noise. Another time we saw a dead guy being drug through the airport in Canada by his two friends. They passed right in front of us! And there was the woman on another plane who wouldn't give up her seat so we could all sit closer together. Can't remember anything about trips coming home because we were always too tired to get in trouble!

Anyway, that's your history lesson for today – and no quiz being given – because it's time to party.

Caryl Harness, Party Committee

May 18, 2023 Book and Puzzle Exchange



Members enjoyed a book and puzzle exchange during May 18 meeting. Mary Kay Scott invited members to join the book club and enjoy reading together. Remaining books and puzzles will be donated to Autumn Ridge Retirement Center.

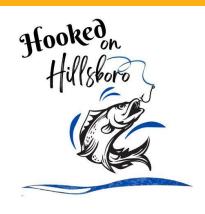
Club Honors

Long time member Pat Doenges shows off Honor Awards banner to new members. This is a newer banner as the club has already filled one. Pat maintains the banner by personally sewing on all patches.



May 20, 2023 Community Event Hillsboro Homecoming & Festival

On Sat. May 20th, the club had a booth at the Hillsboro Homecoming & Festival. Chaired by Mary Hatfield and staffed by Peggy Scott, Laura Lohman, Donna Long, Marie Schuh, Alicia Cummiskey, Angie Eisenbeis, Lisa Ermer, Mary Renner and Carroll Metzger. Optimists had very popular rock painting available for kids who stopped by! The weather was perfect, the kids were adorable, and the Optimist members had a good time promoting our club and offering this free activity for the kids!



Carroll Metzger Club President





President Carroll Metzger and President-Elect Peggy Scott

Volunteers helping to bring out the best in youth...one rock at a time!



Peggy Scott, Marie Schuh, and Alicia Cummiskey



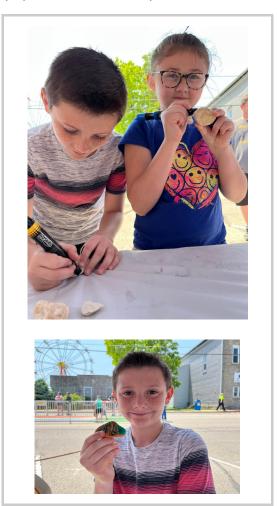
Laura Lohman, Marie Schuh, Donna Long, and Peggy Scott





Lainey Renner, Age 10 and Charlie Renner, Age 8 children of Optimist Mary Renner and grandchildren of Optimist Jan Norrick stopped by to paint rocks. They look quite intent with their task. This appeared to be a popular craft at the Optimist booth.





East Missouri Optimist District

Nine TCA members attended the third quarter EMO conference on May 5-6, 2023.



Conference attendees included Phyllis Neff, Mary Hatfield, Debbie Hogenmiller, Kathy Todd, Carroll Metzger, Peggy Scott, Barb Schmidt, Ruth Ann Adams, and Jean Naeger.





TCA Club contestant Olivia Blair did not place in Oratorical Contest , but she held her own with older contestants.





Peggy was big winner of scratch-off ticket raffle.



Secretary Elect Ruth Ann Adams was recognized as a first time EMO conference attendee. Pictured with Club President Carroll Metzger and Club Secretary Debbie Hogenmiller



Jean Naeger, Phyllis Neff, and Barb Schmidt presented a training on ways clubs can create fundraisers. They used examples of how our club survived financially through the pandemic and beyond.





Jean Naeger with Jen Bagwell of St. Louis Optimist Club review Awards and Achievements program qualifiers and annouce second quarter top achievers



EMO members donated 176 small toys to occupy little hands during treatment at Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital. Thanks to TCA members for their contributions.

Club Website QR Code

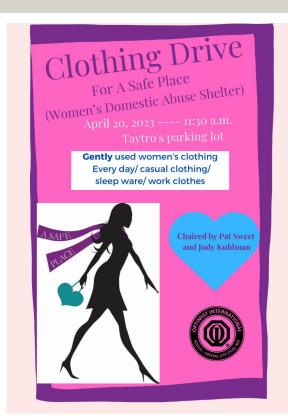
Thanks to Peggy Scott and a member of her staff at *Leader Publications* we now have a QR code for our club website. Here is a recent ad we placed for a Safe Place gala. We will be displaying code at our public events, and you will also find it at the bottom of this newsletter. We are moving forward with technology!



https://twincityoptimist.org

CLUB PROJECTS

A Safe Place Clothing Drive



A Safe Place Clothing Drive

I am happy to report the BIG success of our clothing drive of gently used clothing and items for the women's shelter, A Safe Place. We collected 40 large black 30gallon bags, 30 white 13-gallon bags, 4 large cardboard boxes, 25 small bags, 20 gift bags and several boxes of shoes.

A big thank you to helpers Judy Kuhlman and Barb Bates who weathered one hour of high winds while collecting the items on Taytro's parking lot. Special thanks to Debbie Hogenmiller who volunteered and offered her vehicle to deliver the clothing as well as helping me unload the donations from three cars.

Thanks also to our Optimist members who always answer the call when asked to step up and support a project.

Co-chair Pat Sweet

Book Club

Below is Book Club reading list for the remaining Optimist year. Make note, we will meet the second Thursday of each month immediately following our noon meeting. We will discuss the previous month's book.



Reading List January - September 2023

January - One More River to Cross by Jane Kirkpatrick

February- A Time for Mercy by John Grisham

March - A Spark of Light by Jodi Picoult

April - Unbroken by Laura Hildebrand

May - Small Great Things by Jodi Picoult

June - The Cabinet of Curiosities by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child

July - The Whole Town is Talking by Fannie Flagg

August - The Dutch House by Anne Patchett

September - Dandelion Summer by Lisa Wingate

Book Club will meet after our club meetings at 1:00 p.m. the second

Thursday of each month.

JOI Club

JOI Club May Meeting

President Olivia called the May 4 meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Joachim Ambulance District office with 10 members attending. Our visitor for the evening was Josh, who may become a member of the club. Debbie Schumaker and Josh were wished happy birthday.

Club business: A bingo fundraiser at Autumn Ridge will be held on June 17 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. We have 40 tickets available for sale at \$20 each. The proceeds will benefit the Homeless Youth Initiative and Foster Kids. To purchase tickets, please contact Debbie Schumaker. The club also is sharing a joint venture with the Twin City Area Optimist Club. Books and puzzles left after the noon luncheon meeting on May 18 will be picked up and delivered to the residents of Autumn Ridge for their enjoyment.

Meeting activity: Members worked on acts of kindness. They made bracelets for their mothers for Mother's Day or for any woman in their life. They also made cards for mom and for the residents of Autumn Ridge.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 1 (subject to change). All Optimist members are invited to attend the meeting.





JOI members busy creating bracelets and Mother's Day cards.

Debbie Schumaker JOI Adult Advisor

Carol Schanz JOI Chair



TIME FOR DIME A DAY



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION DIME-A-DAY

For ten cents a day, members can make an unrestricted donation to support the good works of OIF. That's \$36.50 for the year. The Twin City Area Optimist has many members who donate to the DIME-A-DAY program each year. Please join in!

OIF gives back to the clubs in a number of ways. Some examples are the

oratorical and essay contests and matching grants for Childhood Health and Welfare. Due to the leadership and work of our grant committee, especially Jean Naeger, we received a \$300 grant for Parents as Teachers activity/learning boxes last fall and a \$1000 grant for our Head Start Easter baskets. We have applied for a \$1000 grant for our Aunt Rose project. We should learn the results in late May or early June. Stay tuned! You can see this is a give and receive relationship. Donors get a unique lapel pin every year!

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gerty O'Leary. As past president, I am chair of the DIME-A-DAY project. Forms can be found on the Optimist webpage under Foundation and will also be distributed at meetings.

Click link to access Dime a Day form: dime-a-day-form.pdf (oifoundation.org)

Gerty O'Leary Club Foundation Representative 2022-2023

SAVE THE DATES





Note upcoming events. To assist with projects, please contact Committee Chair.

June 1 Speaker Annie Caputa from Atlas Youth Reach

June 7 Board Meeting, Hostess Caryl Harness

June 9 EMO Junior Golf Tournament- Chair Joe Hatfield

June 15 Respect for Law

June 22 Program TBD

June 29 Evening Meeting, program TBD

June 29 and July 13 Collection for Nurses for Newborns - Chair Karen Huskey

July 5 NO BOARD MEETING

July 6 NO MEETING THIS WEEK



Members meet every Thursday from Noon - 1 p.m. at Taytro's. Please RSVP by 8:00 a.m. on Monday by contacting Cathy Elliott.

The last Thursday of the month is an evening meeting held at Poppy's Parlor. Meeting starts at 6:00 p.m. If you would like to order food, please contact Phyllis Neff on Monday prior to meeting.

Our Club will continue looking at the sunny side of everything and being committed to bringing out the best in our area youth.

Our VENMO account,

@TC-Optimist 2122, can be
used to make donations to our projects or
fundraisers.

Please make sure to include your phone number and a memo indicating what the donation is for.

Board of Directors 2022-2023

President Carroll Metzger 910-264-6852

President Elect Peggy Scott

Past President Gerty O'Leary

Secretary
Debbie Hogenmiller

Secretary Elect Ruth Ann Adams

> Treasurer Laura Elbl

Treasurer Elect
Janet Mace

Board Members

2021-2023 Pam Cernik Pat Parsons Judy Williams

2022-2024 Cathy Elliott Katie Huck Patty Meyer



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