ARF NOTES

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Pam

Bourgeois

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and Hanukkah season. Here we are in 2020 which sounds a bit like Science Fiction. Time races during our emeritus years, and we are so fortunate to have **ARF** to keep us intellectually and socially connected to the University and to each other. We are one of the most active retired faculty groups in the system. A big thank you to the Executive Board members who brainstorm at board meetings and program committee meetings to bring us such lively, provocative, and informative programs throughout the academic year.

The "Thank God The Holidays Are Over" banquet was held on Saturday, January 11th, in the Orange Grove Bistro. Due to our webmaster being out of the country, the online *ARF Notes* was not posted on the Web Site until January 14th, but a report on the banquet will appear in the March/April issue of *ARF Notes*. This dinner may be our last one in the OGB if the building plans of the University come to fruition this year. More on that later as we get new information from our committee consisting of Pat Nichelson, Dan Blake and Bob Kiddoo who liaise with the administration for us.

Our Speaker series continues. In November, Professor

Harold Goldwhite, (yes, the Executive Director of ERFSA) regaled us with a lively and fascinating talk on alchemy. He kept us enthralled on what could be an esoteric topic, but we discovered the roots of modern science there in his captivating talk. At our February 12th meeting, two Professors from Chicana/o Studies. Denise Sandoval, PhD and Yreina Cervantes, MFA will present a panel: "ART-Community, Culture, Diversity, and CSUN: A History and the Future." Come and be entertained and educated as our colleagues share their passion and their expertise with us. Our March speaker, Professor Hilary Kaplowitz, Instructional Design and Multimedia CTVA, will round out our spectacular Speaker Series this year.

Why not try a new Interest Group this year? Or join your colleagues for dinner at an area restaurant with SCCARF!

Pamela Bourgeois

President, ARF

IN THIS ISSUE:
<u> </u>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE1
TRESIDENT S MESSAGE
NEWS FROM CSUN2-3
NEWS FROM CSUM2-3
IN MEMORIAM3
IN WEWORIAM
PROGRAMS3-4
ŶŶ
FILM GROUP4-5
BOOK GROUPS5-7
₹ U
SCCARF7



NEWS FROM CSUN

Mavis Staples to Perform at VPAC

There will be a special one night performance by music legend Mavis Staples at the Center for the Performing Arts (The Sorava) at California State University, Northridge on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2020. Tickets are on sale now starting at \$36 at ticketmaster.com. Mavis Staples has been hailed by NPR as "one of America's defining voices of freedom and peace." She is a once-in-a-generation artist whose impact on music and culture would be difficult to overstate. Mavis has been inducted into the Blues and the Rock and Roll Halls of Fame, and is a National Arts Awards Lifetime Achievement recipient, as well as a Kennedy Center honoree. She marched with Martin Luther King Jr., performed at President John F. Kennedy's inauguration and sang at the White House for President Barack Obama. Over the years, she has collaborated with such artists as Prince, Bob Dylan, Arcade Fire and Hozier.



Staples started her singing career in 1950 as a member of The Staple Singers with her father and three sisters and started a solo career in the early 1960's with the single "Crying in the Chapel." She has won two Grammy

Awards, and now, at the age of 80, has just released her latest album, "We Get By," a collaboration with multi-Grammy Award winner Ben Harper. *From CSUN Today*.

Minority Student Degrees at CSUN

California State University, Northridge ranks among the top 10 universities in the country that awards undergraduate degrees to minority students, according to *Diverse Issues in Higher Education*. The magazine's annual ranking of the "Top 100 Producers of Bachelor's Degrees" appears in its Oct. 28th edition.

"The recognition we receive, highlights our commitment as a public institution to provide students from under represented communities with access to higher education," CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison said. "I am very delighted to see that CSUN continues to maintain its high ranking on this list."

The magazine also ranked Northridge second in the nation for bachelor's degrees awarded to Hispanic students in ethnic, cultural, gender and group studies; second in bachelor's degrees awarded to total minorities combined in communications, journalism and marketing degrees. In addition, CSUN ranked eighth in the nation for bachelor's degrees awarded to Asian American students in public health.

Since its founding in 1958, CSUN has made a significant and long-term economic impact on California, generating nearly \$1.9 billion and nearly 12,000 jobs each year. The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities named CSUN an Innovation and Economic Prosperity University, and the *Wall Street Journal* ranked CSUN second in the nation for the university's diverse learning environment. *From CSUN Today*

Marine Protected Areas and Overfishing



It is a logical assumption: California's marine protected areas (MPAs) are most effective when they are placed in heavily fished regions. But few studies have been done to actually demonstrate this, until now.

California State University, Northridge marine biologist Mark Steele and former graduate student Erin Jaco spent more than two years carefully studying the fish populations in seven marine protected areas along the Southern California coast. What they found confirms what conservationists and marine biologists have long suspected — MPAs are particularly effective in restoring marine life in formerly heavily fished areas.

"There is a lot of work that goes into implementing MPAs — there are over 100 in the state of California alone — and it is important that government officials and conservationists take into account the effectiveness the MPAs have on heavily fished areas when compared to those areas where little fishing has occurred," said Jaco, who graduated from CSUN in December 2018. She is lead author of the study.

"When a heavily fished area is declared an MPA, you are giving a chance to the fish in that area to thrive and grow, which in turn means that marine life in the waters adjacent to that area also have a chance to thrive and grow," she said. Jaco's and Steele's findings, "Preclosure fishing pressure predicts effects of marine protected areas," were published in December in the *Journal of Applied Ecology. From CSUN Today*

Violins of Hope



In the spring of 2020, 60 violins will travel from Tel Aviv, Israel to Los Angeles, each instrument a 'survivor' of the Holocaust.

The Soraya will host three concerts featuring these violins. The Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for the Performing Arts (The Soraya at CSUN), is a state-of-the-art venue with 1,700 seats. It serves as the intellectual and cultural heart of the San Fernando Valley, providing programs for

the CSUN community, the diverse populations of the region, and nearby K-12 schools.

The concert series will open on March 22th, 2020 with the Los Angeles Jewish Symphony, led by Dr. Noreen Green, Artistic Director, and featuring violinist Lindsay Deutsch and cellist Lynn Harrell. On March 25th the Rotterdam Philharmonic will take The Soraya's stage led by maestro Lahav Shani. The series will conclude on April 5th with Jerusalem Quartet.

Some of the most unique opportunities for an intimate musical and educational experience with *Violins of Hope* will take place not in the concert hall, but in the classrooms of our local schools. The Soraya will bring *Violins of Hope* to local students with in-school workshops at local K-12 private and public schools, led by the Soraya's first ever artist-in-resident, Niv Ashkenazi. Additionally, several of the violins and Avshalom Weinstein, who collected and restored the violins with his father in their Tel Aviv workshop, will be available for six select evenings in March. Donors may host salons with the violins in their homes, and perhaps even hold them, as Avshi shares the stories of the instruments and their previous owners.

Members of the Jewish community can get information on buying tickets or donating to *Violins of Hope* or hosting an evening with Ayshi Weinstein by going to the website: https://www.thesoraya.org/calendar/violins-of-hope/

More details can be found at: https://www.thesoraya.org/violinsofhopela . Bonnie Faherty



IN MEMORIAM

George Baechtold (Business Law) died on Saturday. George was one of the early professors in the college, coming

in 1970. He earned his law degree at USC after serving in the Navy during the Korean War, and had a successful law practice when a friend and CSUN administrator suggested that he come teach at what was then the San Fernando Valley State College. George fell in love with teaching. He maintained that hardest-to-achieve balance of academic rigor and supportive encouragement to students. And it was the students who always came first. He interrupted any activity to help, to answer questions, to write recommendations, to explain concepts, and to work out problems.

He was a great colleague: always happy to discuss teaching, share teaching materials, engage in governance, support new faculty. Unhappy with textbook materials, he created his own which he provided at no cost to students. As an early member of the college, he was instrumental in creating curriculum and setting standards. He signed his correspondence "respectfully" and he modeled respect in all of his conduct. He observed that everyone in the University from the president to the janitors were there only to support what went on in the classroom and it was in the classroom that he shone. George was that rarest of men: wise, engaged, and insightful. To paraphrase Shakespeare, he was a gentleman on whom we built an absolute trust.

George died after a short illness, leaving his kind and devoted husband, Joseph Baechtold-Moreno.

There was a celebration-of-life in Laguna Beach on Tuesday, December 17th, at the Neighborhood Congregation Church. *Melanie Williams, former Chair of Business Law.*



FROM THE

PROGRAM

COMMITTEE

DESK

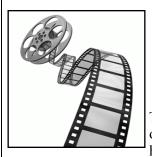
Harold Goldwhite and ARF member

In November, our Fall 2019 program series was wonderfully capped by Dr. Harold Goldwhite's fascinating discussion of the alchemical history of contemporary chemistry, and the central role that the pursuit of gold--well, the pursuit of essences--played in what was, (er) essentially, nascent science. And not lost on anyone was the central role that fire had in all of this, forging, as it were, the trajectory that Harold traced, from Zosimos circa 300 CE to

Boyle, in the late 17th century. Harold is, in fact, coauthor with two colleagues of *The Chemistry of Alchemy: From dragon's blood to donkey dung, how chemistry was forged* (indeed). And, contributing not only to our understanding of the underpinnings of contemporary scientific thinking, but also to the success of the ARF Annual Silent Auction, the afternoon saw two copies of this book engendering a lovely bidding exchange, and providing a donation to the Memorial Graduate Project Awards Program (MGPA) that **ARF** funds sustain.

As our ARF president also notes, Spring promises two programs related to the campus, as well as the community. Yreina Cervantes and Denise Sandoval, contemporary artists and professors in the CSUN Chicana/o Studies Department, will join us on February 11th to talk about the CSUN mural history and how their art brings CSUN and the communities we serve together. And on March 10th, Dr. Hillary Kaplowitz, Senior Instructional Designer at CSUN will talk about what 21st century technology looks like on campus--in classrooms and beyond, and what some of the pressing questions are about the multiple roles it plays...also answering some of ours!

April 8th is also a date to save for the 2020 field trip; we are "on the books" for a visit to the LA Central Library, and a docent-led tour for us. Some long-standing members may remember having visited several years ago, but this visit will both refresh some memories and introduce new members to the delights of downtown. More details will emerge. *Sharon Klein*



The **Monday Film Group** met on November 11th, 2019 at the home of Jeanne Glazer. The

Group discussed the films Pain and Glory and Judy.

Pain and Glory gives a "drug filled" look back at the life of a fictional film director named Salvador Malo played by Antonio Banderas. The film is credited as the creation of renowned Spanish director Pedro Almodovar but is just not up to his previous standard. Although it exhibited captivating photography, some club members found the story line to be rather confusing. Even with this relatively weak plot, Penélope Cruz, who plays the role of Malo's childhood mother, manages to hold the screen with her own fundamental magnetism. One unusual aspect of the film is the last scene which seems to imply that the depiction of Malo's early life was really a

"film within a film". The club members were all uncertain about this. The reconciliation of Malo with his former lover was quite well depicted but the overall film was not viewed as being particularly strong. The rating by the club members of *Pain and Glory was* 7.1/10.

Judy depicts the final period of Judy Garland's life as she tumbles toward total collapse during a tour of Great Britain. She is seen as being a damaged person who leaves the film's audience unsure if she will make it to her next performance. Plagued by financial problems, a custody fight and continuing substance abuse she reaches a point of no-return when she "cusses out" an audience of true fans. Even with this relatively depressing plot line, Renée Zellweger delivers a solid performance as Judy. The scenes during her Great Britain tour are intermixed with shorter scenes from her early years as a child/teen actress. These early life scenes show the abuse she suffered from both her mother and the film executives during the first parts of her career. Although well crafted, this film was not exactly a waltz down a "Yellow Brick Road". The overall rating by the club members for *Iudv* was 7.1/10.

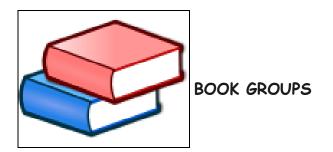
The **Monday Film Group** met on December 16th, 2019 at the home of David and Diane Schwartz to discuss the films *The Good Liar and Ford v Ferrari*.

The Good Liar tells the complex story of a complex double swindle. The film starts with the character Roy, played by Ian McKellen, trying to swindle newly widowed and wealthy Betty, played by Helen Mirren. The audience is given no clue, until much later in the film that Betty is fully aware of what is going and that this all her attempt to get even for great pain that she suffered years before at the hands of Roy! The group generally agreed that these two consummate English performers managed to do a superb job at portraying two people who were Germans pretending to be English. The filming was well done including many excellent interior scenes and the group felt that it was a potential Academy Award winner. One minor point with the script was the possibly unnecessary extreme violence at the end of the film. The rating by the club members of The Good Liar was 8.0/10.

Ford v Ferrari tells the story of famous car driver and developer Carroll Shelby's successful attempt to gain Ford Motor Company's support to create a car design which could defeat Ferrari at the 24-hour Le Mans race in 1966. Shelby was well played by Matt Damon while the difficult and unpredictable race driver, Ken Miles was extremely well played by Christian Bale. This was,

in our opinion, a very good movie that was based on real events. The battles, during car development, between Shelby and the Ford executives were very entertaining. Also a few specific scenes such as giving Henry Ford II a ride in the creation he paid for, were just great fun. The supporting actors, including Jon Bernthal as Lee Iacocca and Caitriona Balf as Molly Miles, did a very good job. This film exceeded most of our expectations and the overall rating by the club members for *Ford v Ferrari* was 9.1/10.

For the month of January, the Club plans to discuss the two films: *Knives Out* and *Uncut Gems. Daid Schwartz*



Last year, 2019, marked the 500th anniversary of the death of the man whose breadth of curiosity and talent symbolizes Europe's Renaissance after the Dark Ages. To find out more, the Wednesday Book Group read Walter Isaacson's biography, Leonardo da Vinci. Leonardo was born in 1452; his father was middle-class, with family roots in Vinci, a small village near Florence, Italy. Because his father was not married to his mother, he was unable to follow his father in the legal contract (notary) profession, nor was he sent to school to learn the classics to prepare for a career in business. Those restrictions did not bother Leonardo, who later took pride in his accomplishments despite a lack of book learning. At age twelve Leonardo moved to Florence, which was the center of a historic flowering of art and culture, and a center for banking and trade. A popular, sociable, and good looking man not to mention superbly talented, Leonardo thrived. Several famous figures of the renaissance were Leonardo's friends or associates: Michelangelo (a rival not a friend), Machiavelli (a friend) and Cesare Borgia (an unrivaled monster), not to mention an occasional Medici or King of France.

Isaacson used the over-7000 pages of Leonardo's preserved notes and sketches as his initial source material. Leonardo's drawings cover a fantastic

range of subjects and reveal Leonardo's empirical approach to understanding. For example, he measured the proportions of various parts of the human body and dissected animal and human cadavers in order to understand the musculature behind the skin prior to sketching bodies. Almost always he depicts actual plants native to the surroundings rather than strange made-up or transplanted versions used by others. Before drawing his human-powered flying machine, he observed closely how birds use their wings. Leonardo made numerous complex drawings of proposed wooden mechanical devices. Those of you who saw this summer's Leonardo exhibit at the Reagan Library saw modern three-dimensional creations of many of these machines.

While Isaacson emphasizes Leonard's work in technology, science and preparing extravagant pageants, Leonardo is probably best known for his paintings, and this is covered extensively. Leonardo was a perfectionist, working extensively and innovatively on perspective, chiaroscura (light and shadows), abandoning the sharp edges of his contemporary's representations (sfumato), new ways of posing his subjects, new media for murals and painting over ostensibly completed parts of a painting to get the color just right. Isaacson discusses "The Last Supper" and "Mona Lisa" in detail and also speaks at length about other paintings, especially some earlier portraits. Leonardo never completed a number of paintings that had been commissioned by patrons, probably due to his perfectionism and his tendency to be distracted by his boundless curiosity. Some of the book's most interesting sections involve the evidence presented by art experts in disputes over Leonardo's authorship of certain paintings.

Our group liked this book a lot because it was extensively researched and well written, helping us understand this exceptional man and the time in which he lived.

In September we read *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous* by Ocean Vuong, a long, poetic letter to the author's mother about their life in Hartford, Connecticut. Or as the author says, "I'm not telling you a story so much as a shipwreck--the pieces floating, finally legible." The core family consists of a minimally verbal grandmother who became a prostitute in order to survive in Vietnam, her barely literate child, Rose, who suffers from PTSD and now works in a Nail salon to support the family, and Rose's son, Little Dog, the author's character. Little Dog works in a tobacco farm with Trevor, the son of the

alcoholic tobacco farmer. Hot summer nights in the tobacco barns evolve into friendship and more between the two boys in spite of the outsider status of Little Dog. There is a rawness in the writing but a beauty and directness that seduces the reader into a relaxation of shock or disapproval as events and conversations coalesce into familiarity and sympathy. We all agreed that Ocean Vuong has a tremendous facility with the English language and were not surprised that he recently received a MacArthur Foundation Genius Grant.

This work is both emotionally moving and a little strange and difficult. The author has previously published poetry, and as with poetry we sometimes struggled to understand the meaning of parts of the book, for example the lovely and mystifying title. We liked the book but would give a qualified recommendation because of our uncertainties. (Joel Zeitlin and Jim Allen)

The Weight of Ink, a 2017 novel by Rachel Kadish, was the subject of our discussion in November. This novel contains two stories: The first begins with the discovery in the year 2000 by a soon-to-retire English historian of old manuscripts dating from the mid-1600s that might illuminate the lives of Jews in London. At that time all Jewish families had arrived fairly recently as refugees from the Spanish Inquisition via a stopover in Amsterdam. We learn most about the historian, Helen Watt, including her defining romance as a young woman, and her competition with a number of university academics for control of the manuscripts and resulting publications.

In the second story, which takes place more than three centuries earlier, the author portrays the lives of London's Jews in the mid-1600s. The main character is a young Sephardic woman, Esther, who while watching her uninterested brother's lessons learns to read and write both Hebrew and Portuguese. Although women are not normally permitted to be scribes, she wants that role instead of the prescribed and limited role of wife. The blind Rabbi HaCoen Mendes accepts her as his scribe. But he senses that she is thinking and writing more than merely transcribing his words. She develops a strong interest in philosophy and reasoning; on the sly she corresponds with Thomas Hobbes and Spinoza.

Adding to Esther's difficulties is the fact that she agrees with the Rabbi's first student, Spinoza, who was excommunicated from Jewish society in Amsterdam because he advocated pantheism. Pantheism considers God as the sum of all reality rather than, say, a white-haired deity who plans and judges all that happens. Obviously this challenged Jewish religious authority and needed to be suppressed. The author interweaves the two stories so that as Helen pieces together more evidence from the manuscripts the reader sees that reflected or prefigured in Esther's story.

After establishing her key characters and doing research

on seventeenth-century London, Rachel Kadish has said she imagined what might happen to develop those beginnings into interesting and complex stories. She did a very good job. Everyone said *The Weight of Ink* was a great book for discussion. Three of us were thoroughly engrossed and captivated by the book, particularly by Esther, and others agreed but less enthusiastically and complained that there were too many details and characters. *Jim Allen and Joel Zeitlin*

Science Book Group

Attendees for the December 18th meeting of the Science Book Group were: Adam Gifford, Diane Schwartz, Phyllis Russell; Elizibet Trybus; Brennis Lucero Wagoner; and Heidemarie Lundblad.

We discussed *The Mosquito: A Human History of Our Deadliest Predator*, by Timothy C, Winegard.

This is a book that requires a bit of determination at the beginning but then it became quite captivating, especially if one is interested in the historical aspects of the damage done by the mosquito. The book not only explains which mosquitos do the damage (females) but the devastating damage they cause through the transmission of malaria and vellow fever. The pages of history books are saturated with tales of horrific losses in war caused by this little insect. Of course, it also causes devastation during peace time. Even today, given all the research leading to eradication of breeding grounds (swamp draining, etc.) and treatments for the diseases caused, the mosquito is not succumbing. Instead it has adapted to many of the pesticides used against it and has added additional diseases to its repertoire (e.g., Zika).

Upcoming Meetings and Selections:

On Jan 22nd we will discuss *The Fate of Food:* What We'll Eat in a Bigger, Hotter, Smarter World by Amanda Little.

In the fascinating story of the sustainable food revolution, an environmental journalist and professor asks the question: Is the future of food looking bleak—or better than ever?

In this book, Amanda Little takes us on a tour of the future. The journey is scary, exciting, and, ultimately, encouraging. ... Throughout her journey, Little finds and shares a deeper understanding of the threats of climate change and encounters a sense of awe and optimism about the lessons of our past and the scope of human ingenuity. Please note that January's meeting had to move to the 22nd because the conference room is needed by the Dean on January 15th.

Our selection for discussion on February 19th is The Deep History of Ourselves: The Four-Billion -Year Story of How We Got Conscious Brains, by Joseph Ledoux. In this book, LeDoux argues that the key to understanding human behavior lies in viewing evolution through the prism of the first living organisms. By tracking the chain of the evolutionary timeline he shows how even the earliest single-cell organisms had to solve the same problems we and our cells have to solve each day. Along the way, LeDoux explores our place in nature, how the evolution of nervous systems enhanced the ability of organisms to survive and thrive, and how the emergence of what we humans understand as consciousness made our greatest and most horrendous achievements as a species possible.

And, being very proactive, we have selected for the March meeting *Why We Sleep: Unlocking the Power of Sleep and Dreams*, by Matthew Walker PhD.

The first sleep book by a leading scientific expert - Professor Matthew Walker, director of UC Berkeley's Sleep and Neuroimaging Lab - reveals his groundbreaking exploration of sleep, explaining how we can harness its transformative power to change our lives for the better. Sleep is one of the most important but least understood aspects of our life, wellness, and longevity. Until very recently, science had no answer to the question of why we sleep, or what good it served, or why we suffer such devastating health consequences when we don't sleep. Compared to the other basic drives in life - eating, drinking, and reproducing - the purpose of sleep remained elusive.

The remaining dates for **2020:** April 15th; May 20th; June 17th; July 15th. *Heidemarie Lundblad*



SCCARF REPORT

SCCARF's August venue, the *Taj Majal* restaurant in Encino, is one of

my favorites. Its specialty is Indian cuisine and participants enjoyed such luscious dishes as: tikka chicken masala; saag paneer (savory spinach with homemade cheese): chicken coconut (delicious); and garlic naan (heavenly). Each of these dishes is served with Basmati rice and riata (vogurt/ cucumber). Everyone also had access to papadums (a thin crispy chickpea "tortilla" with caraway seeds) and little jars of spicy carrots, mint "pesto" and plum sauce with which to top them off. Also noted by the night's diners as outstanding were lamb vindaloo, vegetable biryani, channa masala (chickpeas), yellow daal (lentils) and vegetable curry. If you are a lover of authentic Indian dishes, you'll love this place! (Sandy Jewett)

November 12th saw the margaritas flowing as the SCCARF group dined on Mexican fare at *Los Toros Restaurant* in Chatsworth. The room was loud (or was it us?) and the prices sometimes hard to locate but extremely reasonable. As a consequence, we were able to make a donation of \$70 to the ARF Scholarship Fund. We had a most enjoyable time discussing the CSUN and national issues of the moment and sharing family updates. Hosts for the evening were Dan Blake and Bonnie Ericson. (*Bonnie Ericson*)

On December 10, 28 SCCARFers had a wonderful dinner in a private room at the Market Broiler (MB) Grill, a seafood restaurant in Simi Valley. Pat Kiddoo decorated the tables with Christmas ornaments for which she had crocheted beautiful covers: everyone got to take one home. The food was great. They don't overcook the fish! Many folks particularly loved the scallops, blackened cod, rainbow trout and white clam chowder. One non-fish lover had the blackened cod and it was so good he will be back for it. The variety was great, from lobster sliders and seafood salads to fresh fish and steak. There was one meat lover who ordered the filet medium rare and said it was cooked perfectly. Prices were reasonable for such high quality food. Our wonderful group is so generous when paying their bills that we also were able to give \$80 to ARF's Graduate Students Award fund. Such a fun evening to welcome the holidays! (Stephanie & Ron McIntvre)

Editor's note: The next issue of ARF Notes (March/April) will resume the regular schedule. It should be available on the ARF web site at the end of February.

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ARF NOTES

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