

# TZEDEK V'SHALOM

A Reconstructionist Jewish Congregation

*Mercy and truth will meet, justice and peace will embrace.*  
– Psalm 85:11



MAY 2012

IYAR/SIVAN 5772

VOLUME 16, ISSUE 9

## She's..... Back!

*Welcome Rabbi Anna back following the birth of Adar!*

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy will lead our “Friday Night with TvS” program on Friday, May 4 at Newtown Friends Meeting House (NFMH), 219 Court St. (off State St.), Newtown, PA.  
5:30 p.m. Community set-up for potluck  
6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcome in Shabbat with this family-friendly service and stories  
6:30 p.m. Potluck dinner • 7:15 p.m. Clean-up shared by all • 7:30 p.m. Service

*From Eve Lifson...*

## *On Yom Ha'atzmaut: A Progressive Zionist's Dilemma*

In light of [issues surrounding recent events on Tufts's campus], I have begun reflecting on what it means to observe Yom Ha'atzmaut (Israeli Independence Day) as a progressive Zionist....

...[I]s it possible to celebrate the successes of Israel without doing a great injustice to the many disenfranchised Palestinian refugees and Palestinian citizens of Israel? Celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut is a

microcosm for the many conflicting feelings I have about Israel.

Last September, I flew to Jordan to spend a semester studying abroad in Amman. As the plane neared our destination, we flew over Israel. I gazed out the window seeing Israel from above, a narrow strip of land that stood out from its surroundings because of

(Continued on page 3)



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# May Services and Celebrations



Friday, May 4  
**Friday Night with TvS**  
**Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy leads**  
**Welcome Rabbi Anna back**  
**following the birth of Adar!**

5:30 p.m. Community set-up for potluck  
 6:00 p.m. Kabbalat Shabbat: Welcome in Shabbat  
 with this family-friendly service and stories  
 6:30 p.m. Potluck dinner  
 7:15 p.m. Clean-up shared by all  
 7:30 p.m. Service

Location: Newtown Friends Meeting House (NFMH)  
 219 Court St. (off State St.), Newtown, PA

**Saturday, May 12 @ 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.**

## Torah Study

Location: at the home of Fran and Bernie Heyman  
 245 N. Lincoln Ave. - Apt. 305, Newtown, PA 18940  
 215-504-0358 or [bernie.heyman@gmail.com](mailto:bernie.heyman@gmail.com) or  
[gramfram@juno.com](mailto:gramfram@juno.com)

Directions:

1. From the Newtown bypass, take State Street into Newtown.
2. In approximately .9 miles, turn right onto S. Lincoln Avenue.

3. Continue until you pass Washington St.
4. 245 N. Lincoln is on the right. Park across the parking lot from the building in guest parking.

Saturday, May 19 at 10 a.m.  
**Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of**  
**Solomon Abrahamson**  
 Location: NFMH



Saturday, May 26  
 at 7–10:30 p.m.  
**Tikkun Leil Shavuot**  
 Including a dairy potluck  
 kiddush/dinner

Location: Rabbi Anna and Josh Boswell-Levy's home  
 3331 Pine Road, Huntingdon Valley, PA  
 215-287-5128 or [rabianna@gmail.com](mailto:rabianna@gmail.com)  
 Full details TBA. For more info, contact Rabbi Anna or  
 check your emails.



צדק ושלום



**Tzedek v'Shalom**

P.O. Box 863  
 Newtown, PA 18940  
 (215) 860-0119  
<http://tzedekvshalom.org>

Anna Boswell-Levy Rabbi and Education Director	215-287-5128
President: Jerry Manas	215-341-6413
Secretary: Cindy Weiss Fisher	215-860-0326
Treasurer:	
Arnie Gold (Finance Chair)	215-295-2028
Education (Committee Chair)	
Becky Rice	215-504-4247
Fundraising (Committee Chair, open)	
Membership/Marketing (Committee Co-Chairs)	
Linda Gold	215-741-4571
Bob Abrahamson	215-968-1956
Shammus Coordinator	
Ralph Posmontier	215-579-2644
Spiritual Life (Committee Chair)	
Diane Gold	215-295-2028

Tikkun Olam (Committee Chair)	
Kina Leitner	215-378-4868
Past Co-Presidents:	
Wendy Friedman (Fund-raising)	215-579-9275
Ruth Jampol	215-860-8903
Noa Kuzma (Fund-raising)	215-493-8418

Intergenerational Activities/Events/  
 Adult Ed (Liaison) - OPEN

Please feel free to contact any member of  
 our Board for any additional information.



Non-Board Committee Chairs and Coordinators:	
Acts of Caring	
Debbie Chong	215-504-9268
Jeannie Ryersbach	215-943-4565
Teen Coordinator	
Wendy Friedman	215-579-9275
Webmaster	
Jerry Manas	215-698-7957
Newsletter Editor: Naomi Mindlin	215-757-8921

To submit news to the newsletter:  
[email: nsmindlin@photoreview.org](mailto:nsmindlin@photoreview.org)

(From Eve Lifson, continued from page 1)  
its greenness. I became filled with an irrational pride. I know that Palestinians lived on and worked this land long before Jewish settlers returned to it, but seeing its stark contrast with the surrounding desert, I couldn't help but think that my people made this strip of land bloom in the desert. We were oppressed for so long; without a nation of our own we were viewed as leeches on other peoples. Yet we had the strength to endure, to dream of a brighter future, to fulfill the two-millennia-long dream of self-determination. As the plane flew by and began the descent to Amman, I thought of the Palestinians who were forced from their land in order to make this dream possible.

I am so proud of Israel, the mere fact that it exists. I am proud of the drip irrigation systems. I am proud of the rights of the queer community. I am proud of the idealistic kibbutzniks who gave themselves fully to the dream of a Jewish nation, a cultural and religious home for the Jewish people. I am so proud of all of the Israeli activists and educators who work tirelessly today to create an Israel that can live up to Theodor Herzl's vision of a just and righteous nation based on Jewish values. We are far, far from that dream.

The occupation persists. Palestinian Israelis are denied equal opportunities in many facets of life. How can I, a Zionist who is committed to human rights, justice and self-determination of Jews and Palestinians, celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut in good faith? Is it possible to celebrate the aspects of Israel that I am proud of without being guilty of pinkwashing or greenwashing the conflict?

It is hard to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut without whitewashing the conflict since the same day is known as al-Nakba, the catastrophe, for Palestinians. Al-Nakba marks the Palestinian loss of land, life, and many liberties. The Israeli government denies their pain and suffering, the legitimacy of their narrative. Is it possible for me, a privileged American Jew, to celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut when Palestinian Israelis are effectively banned from observing al-Nakba?

The Jewish tradition is full of contradictions and complexities, and I turn to the tradition of the Passover seder to help resolve my inner turmoil. Passover celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from the bondage of slavery. We remember the bitterness of slavery and relish in the comforts of the freedom we enjoy today. We also remember that our own liberation came at a heavy cost for the Egyptians, who suffered through 10 plagues in order to persuade the pharaoh to

let our people go. During the seder, we take a drop of wine from our glasses for each plague the Egyptians suffered to remember that our happiness is not full. It would be wrong to celebrate our freedom without acknowledging the suffering of the Egyptians.

This tradition of acknowledging the cost of our freedom is mirrored by the observance of Yom HaZikaron, Remembrance Day. Yom HaZikaron precedes Yom Ha'atzmaut. It is a day to remember the Israeli soldiers and victims of terrorism whose lives have been the costly price of Jewish self-determination. Yom HaZikaron is an important acknowledgement of the loss of Jewish life. We acknowledge the many Jewish Israelis who have sacrificed their lives, willingly or not, for the Zionist dream. It falls short of acknowledging the huge loss of life and dignity of the Palestinian people. I have never seen an acknowledgement of Palestinian suffering in a Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

I know that I am not comfortable celebrating Israel's independence without first spilling some wine from my glass. I cannot celebrate Israel without acknowledging Palestinian suffering. I cannot even think about Israel without thinking about the occupation and the gross inequalities between Israeli Jews and Israeli Arabs. Our fates are intertwined. We, the Jewish people, cannot be free while we are oppressing other people. In celebrating Yom Ha'atzmaut, I could find a way to spill some wine from my glass, to symbolically recognize the suffering of the Palestinians at the expense of the state of Israel. However, such a small measure could feel demeaning to such expansive suffering, and given the current state of the conflict, I am filled with so much disgust and despair that there is little stopping me from chucking the whole glass out the window.

Despite my feelings of despair, I do think it is possible to celebrate Israel without ignoring the suffering of the Palestinians. But this is not a project I wish to undertake. I do not feel much like celebrating this year.... This year I will observe Yom Ha'atzmaut very similarly to how I have lived each day this semester. I'll continue thinking and talking about Israel and the conflict. There are some large questions for progressive Zionists to grapple with. What would a Jewish state that does not infringe on the rights of Palestinians look like? What would make it Jewish? Can there be justice for Palestinians without a Right of Return? I am dedicated to this conflict, to fighting for justice and peace for all inhabitants of the Holy

Land. I want to use my time on this campus to help this cause, and if you made it to the end of this article, I am interested in talking to you about how.

– Thursday, April 19, 2012

*Eve Lifson is a rising senior majoring in Peace and Justice Studies at Tufts University.*

Read the complete article online at <http://www.tuftsdaily.com/op-ed/on-yom-ha-atzmaut-a-progressive-zionist-s-dilemma-1.2732397?pagereq=2#.T6A2Su2W620>.

Read Eve's earlier op-ed article, "On Israeli Apartheid Week" at <http://www.tuftsdaily.com/mobile/on-israeli-apartheid-week-1.2707366>.

Ruth Jampol sent the following introduction when she originally shared Eve's article with us:

My daughter, who is a junior at Tufts, has become a student leader in working for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. [Recently,] she published her second op-ed piece in the student newspaper on this topic.... I think it captures so well the struggle of many progressive Jews who love Israel but find their treatment of Palestinians abhorrent.

Eve was in kindergarten in the spring of 1995, when a group of us began meeting to found what would become Tzedek v'Shalom. Our community was her first Jewish influence and helped to shape the Jewish woman she has become. This may make you proud or make you horrified, depending on your views about Israel, but I hope it will make you think and talk about where you stand — and where we should stand as a community — on the most important and difficult social justice issue facing American Jews.



## Board News

The next Board meeting is Wednesday, May 9, at 7 p.m. at the home of Ralph Posmontier, 32 North Lincoln Avenue, Newtown, PA 18940.

Contact information for the Board is always on page 2 of the newsletter.

Jerry Manas, TvS President  
[jerry.manas@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.manas@gmail.com)



## School News

Rabbi Anna is back! For more information about our school, contact Rabbi Anna at 215-287-5128 or [rabianna@gmail.com](mailto:rabianna@gmail.com)

## Spiritual Life News

The next Spiritual Life Committee meeting will be Sunday, May 20th at 7 p.m. at our home at 1 Eton Road, Yardley, PA 19067.

Please call Arnie or me with any questions you may have.

– Diane Gold, Spiritual Life Chair  
[agoldn1@aol.com](mailto:agoldn1@aol.com) or 215-295-2028



## Tikkun Olam News

Thank you to those who brought bags and bags of things to the Seder for the Family Service Association Emergency Homeless Shelter. We have dropped them off and they are extremely appreciative.

We will continue to collect things from their wish list, listed next, for them at services and at Sunday School. If you have contributions, please just bring them and let me know, either in person or via email, that you have left something.

- Organizational items such as files, file boxes, and accordion files, for seniors
- Snack food for support groups
- Paper products (paper towels, napkins, plates, napkins, cups, utensils)
- Gift cards to restaurants, supermarkets, department stores, malls
- Play dough, wooden blocks, tennis balls
- New dishes, bath and kitchen towels, utensils, glassware, bakeware, small appliances
- New blankets, sheets, pillows, sleeping bags
- Personal cassette or CD players for seniors
- Non-slip socks
- Large metal or wire shelving for storage (can be used)
- 4 drawer vertical filing cabinets (can be used)
- Healthy, non-perishable food for their food pantry (canned goods, cereal, pasta etc.)
- Cleaning supplies (multi-purpose cleaner, rubber gloves) for shelter
- New towels (bath, hand, wash cloths)

We are also continuing to make plans for the outdoor tables and benches for the Homeless shelter. We'll have more news next month.

If you are interested in becoming involved with the Tikkun Olam Committee, please email me.

Kina Leitner, Tikkun Olam Committee Chair  
[kina.leitner@gmail.com](mailto:kina.leitner@gmail.com) or 215-378-4868



## TvS Romeo and Juliet Club

Now Hear This!!

Effective immediately, The ROMEO club will be known as the ROMEO and JULIET\* club.

No agenda, no homework.

The next ROMEO and JULIET\* Club lunch will be at the Pineville Tavern on Tuesday, May 29th, at 1:00 p.m.

–Joel Bacher, [carojoel@comcast.net](mailto:carojoel@comcast.net).

\* Reconstructionist Old Men Eating Out and Jewish Unorthodox Ladies Interested in Eating and Talking



## Community Announcements

The April issue of **Sh'ma**, on the topic of “Certainty, Hatred, and Polarization Thinking,” is now available online at <http://www.shmadigital.com/shma/201204?#pg1>.

### Gratz 9-week online courses begin May 30th

Hebrew-Mechina (Beginners)  
Learning Communities in the 21st Century  
Fundraising in the Organized Jewish Community  
Educational Methodologies: Teaching Hagim,  
Shabbat and Jewish Calendar  
Holidays Through Horticulture: Teaching Children  
About the Yearly Cycle  
The Rise of Biblical Civilization: Social and Political  
Thought in the Bible and the Ancient Near East  
The Holocaust and History — From Armenia to  
Auschwitz: The First Modern Genocides  
Popes, Jews and Blood: Medieval to Modern Times  
Ask about the discount for alumni auditors.  
More information, Debbie Aron, 800-475-4635 x115  
or [daron@gratz.edu](mailto:daron@gratz.edu)

### Gratz intensive on-campus courses - Earn 3 credits in 6 days!

Beginners Arabic  
Beginners Hebrew  
The American Jewish Experience in Film  
The Arab-Israeli Conflict and the American College  
Campus  
Jewish & Christian Interpretations of the Bible  
Jewish Art: A History  
Technology and the 21st Century Learner  
Wrestling with Parashat HaShavua

Teaching the Holocaust  
Sowing the Seeds of Character: Moral Education in  
Theory and Practice  
Auditors welcome!  
More information, Mindy Blechman 215-635-7300  
x154 or [mblechman@gratz.edu](mailto:mblechman@gratz.edu).

**Jewish Women International (JWI)’s Mother’s Day Project** - Through the annual Mother’s Day Flower Project, JWI will send bouquets of flowers, as well as beauty products from OPI Products, Inc. to 200 shelters across the United States. Participation in the Mother’s Day Flower project provides hope for these families on this special day. With your support, each and every day, JWI will work to educate communities, empower women and break the cycle of abuse. Here is how it works:

Choose a woman in your life — mother, sister, wife, daughter — to receive a beautiful Mother’s Day card. You make a \$25 donation to JWI in honor of this special person and JWI sends a beautiful card to your designated recipient stating that a charitable contribution has been made in their/her honor. In addition, JWI sends bouquets of beautiful flowers to domestic violence shelters.

Contributions to the Mother’s Day Flower Project can be made by going online at [www.jwi.org/fp](http://www.jwi.org/fp) or by phone 800-343-2823. For more information, contact JWI at 202-857-1300, [flowerproject@jwi.org](mailto:flowerproject@jwi.org), or [www.jwi.org/fp](http://www.jwi.org/fp).

The **Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia**, in partnership with the **Neubauer Family Foundation** and the **Foundation for Jewish Camp**, once again offer incentive grants of up to \$1,000 for first-time campers going to a Jewish overnight summer camp across North America. If you have any questions, please contact my assistant, Drew Martin, at 215-832-0530 or [dmartin@jfgp.org](mailto:dmartin@jfgp.org).

**Engage with Israel: Peace, Democracy, and Social Justice** - J Street U’s 2nd annual trip to Israel - June 3–14 - FREE of charge and includes round-trip airfare from New York City (Participants are responsible for travel to New York City for group departure) - **open to all students who will be undergraduates in the 2012–2013 academic year (Note: This does not include graduate students or graduating seniors)** - check out last year’s itinerary through the J Street U website at [www.jstreetu.org/engage-with-israel-trip](http://www.jstreetu.org/engage-with-israel-trip).

**Connect with JRF (Jewish Reconstructionist Federation)** - Tzedek v’Shalom is a member of JRF

and you can keep in touch with our parent organization through its website and its digital newsletter. JRF offers various listserves to sign up for, depending on your interests, and is available on Facebook and Twitter. For more information, contact <http://jrf.org>.



## In Our Shul...

### Member News

#### Refuah Shleymah (Get Well Wishes)

Sydne Boswell, Chaya Sora bat Leah, Josh Boswell-Levy's mother, is very ill and needs our refuah shleymah prayers.

Please also remember Arline Kessler, Paula Adler's mother.

#### Home Bound (and would love visitors!)

Susan Kitces, Anna Kitces's mom (lives at the Kitces/Fishman residence)

Ettie Kernis, Bobbie Posmontier's mom (lives at the Posmontier residence)

Eddie Mann, Diane Gold's dad and our newest member (lives at Manor Care in Yardley)

#### Contributions

##### General Operating Fund

from Jean Lu Ryersbach in honor of Rabbi Anna and Josh's baby Adar.

from Linda Gold, in honor of baby Adar

*Sharim*  
V'SHAROT

Central New Jersey's Select Jewish Choir Presents



*Jerusalem*  
*in* Song

Sunday, May 6 at 3 p.m.  
Adath Israel Congregation  
1958 Lawrenceville Road, Lawrenceville, NJ

For information, journal ads and tickets, please call (609)-22-CHOIR. Tickets: \$15 in advance; \$20 at the door; \$10 for seniors and children under 13

[www.SharimVSharot.com](http://www.SharimVSharot.com)



Rabbi Anna and Josh Boswell-Levy in honor of  
 Adar's birth  
 from Marlene Mendez in memory of Al and Ida  
 Rabinowitz  
 from Debbie and Victor Chong

## Lifecycle Events at TvS

### Anniversaries:

Jean Lu Ryersbach and Zvi Schram May 7  
 Cindy Weiss-Fisher and Marc Fisher May 23, 1999

### Birthdays:

Birthdays:  
 Jason Friedman May 2  
 Emily Savrin May 4, 1996  
 Sam Garfield May 7, 1993  
 Jack Fein May 7  
 Bennett Garfield May 13, 2000  
 Meredith Laden May 14  
 Diane LeBas May 18  
 George Reese May 27  
 Peter Basseches May 30

### Yahrzeits:

Yahrzeit dates are listed here by the Jewish death day (according to the Jewish calendar) and its Gregorian equivalent this year. The original death date follows in parenthesis when available.

Raymond Kuzma	4 Iyar/April 26 (5/4/76)
Mildred Cohen	10 Iyar/May 2 (5/17/78)
Pearl Schwartz	15 Iyar/May 7 (4/26/94)
Renee Geller	18 Iyar/May 10 (5/7/96)
Mollie Gordon	18 Iyar/May 10 (5/27/86)
Jean Trachtenberg	21 Iyar/May 13(5/9/10)
Cindy Ornstein	23 Iyar/May 15(6/1/05)
Beverly Garfield	25 Iyar/May 17 (6/1/97)
Samuel A. Kahn	26 Iyar/May 18 (5/28/03)
Norman Necowitz	9 Sivan/May 30 (5/20/02)
Dimon Barth	11 Sivan/June 1 (6/8/87)
Jay Feldman	13 Sivan/June 3 (6/2/93)
Morris Sanders	13 Sivan/June 3 (5/23/75)
Norman Glucroft	14 Sivan/June 4 (5/27/10)
Sarah Hersh Gordon	14 Sivan/June 4 (6/20/59)

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## Support TvS While Shopping



GENUARDI's uses E-scrip for rebates. Register your Genuardi's discount card to Tzedek v' Shalom and a percentage of your purchases will be credited to TvS each month. You can register at the store front desk.

McCAFFREY'S also has a cash register receipts program. Bring your receipts to events and give them to a board member or myself.



Contact Arnie Gold at 215-295-2028 or [agoldn1@aol.com](mailto:agoldn1@aol.com).

## TvS Calendar — May 2012 • *Iyar/Sivan 5772*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30	1 Iyar 9	2 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	3 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	4 Friday Night @ TvS Rabbi Anna returns! 5:30-9 p.m. @ NFMH	5
6 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School	7	8	9 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home  7 p.m. Board meeting @ the Posmontier home	10 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home  Lag B'Omer	11	12 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Torah Study @ the Heyman home
13 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School  Mother's Day	14	15	16 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	17 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	18	19 10 a.m. Shabbat Morning Service Bar Mitzvah of Solomon Abrahamson @ NFMH
20 9:30 a.m. Religious School @ Goodnoe School  7 p.m. Spiritual Life Committee meeting @ Diane and Arnie Gold's home	21	22 1 Sivan	23 5 p.m. Religious School @ the Abrahamson home	24 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	25	26 7-10:30 p.m. Tikkun Leil Shavuot @ the Boswell-Levy home  Erev Shavuot
27 6 Sivan NO SCHOOL  Shavuot - Day 1	28  Memorial Day Shavuot - Day 2	29	30 NO SCHOOL	31 6-7 p.m. Adult Hebrew class @ the Chong home	June 1	2

Welcome Rabbi Anna back  
following the birth of Adar!

Rabbi Anna Boswell-Levy will lead our "Friday  
Night with TVS" program on Friday, May 4.

## Tzedek v'Shalom Tzedakah Opportunities

Donor (s) \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to the following fund:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Operating Fund          | <input type="checkbox"/> Rabbi's Discretionary Fund |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Jordan Wallis TvS Memorial Fund | <input type="checkbox"/> Torah Fund                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Books Fund               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tzedakah Fund              |

**Please make checks payable to Tzedek v'Shalom.**

**Send to: Arnie Gold, Treasurer**

**Tzedek v'Shalom**

**Post Office Box 863**

**Newtown, PA 18940**

*Some suggested occasions you may wish to commemorate with your donations:*

🔗 With Gratitude to: \_\_\_\_\_

For \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 Mazel Tov to: Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> On the birth / naming / adoption | <input type="checkbox"/> On his/her graduation / birthday                    |
| of: _____   | <input type="checkbox"/> On their wedding / engagement / wedding anniversary |
| <input type="checkbox"/> On becoming a bat/bar mitzvah    |  |

🔗 Condolences to: \_\_\_\_\_ on the recent

death of \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 In memory of \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 Get well wishes (Refuah Shelemah) to: \_\_\_\_\_

🔗 Special message: \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an acknowledgment to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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sitters, please tell them about us! Thanks,

**Michela and Hannah Lewis,  
TvS teens!**

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