



News-Line

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church Newsletter
Lincoln Park, Pennsylvania *April, 2012*



- April 1** PALM SUNDAY, 9:30 & 11 AM
April 5 MAUNDY THURSDAY Service, 7 pm
April 6 GOOD FRIDAY Service, 7 pm
April 8 EASTER SUNDAY, 9:30 & 11 AM

**Lincoln Park Youth
Plan Mission Trip to
North Carolina
Details on p. 13**

**Bring Your Baskets
Easter Sunday!**

From Pastor Dave McMillan



Our annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Easter morning between our two worship services, at 10:30 am, out front on the church lawn.

We'll all gather inside Memorial Hall for refreshments before being led out so children can collect their plastic eggs. Please bring an Easter basket with you.

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Come & Worship with Us

From Pastor David McMillan



Holy Week

During the week of **APRIL 1-8**, we celebrate the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord.

Come and worship as we follow Jesus into Jerusalem, the Temple Court, Pilate's Praetorian, to Mount Calvary, the Garden, and the Empty Tomb.

- April 1** **PALM SUNDAY** *The Lord's Prayer: The Prayer of Fulfillment*
- April 5** **MAUNDY THURSDAY** Service, 7 pm
All of Me, John 13:1-17, 31b-35
- April 6** **GOOD FRIDAY** Service, 7 pm, *It Is Finished!* John 19:30
- April 8** **EASTER SUNDAY** *All Things New Again!* John 20: 1-18

Painted Window Sermon Series

On Sunday, April 15, we'll begin a nine-week sermon series about the painted windows found in the Narthex, Wagner Room, and stairway landing facing the Church Office. These painted windows were chosen by individuals and family members as gifts to God and the congregation, in memory of loved ones. Together, we'll consider some of these favorite parables of the gospels.

- April 15** *I Am the Good Shepherd*, John 10:11
- April 22** *Let the Little Children Come Unto Me*, Mark 10:14
- April 29** *Behold, a Sower Went Forth*, Matthew 13:3-8
A Fifth Sunday: **Only one worship service at 10 am!**
A **combined 10 am service** will focus on *God's Work Through Our Hands*. Our children and young adults will lead us with the theme *Loving People in Need—The Art of Giving*. This service is for all God's children, from new-born until ! A covered dish luncheon will follow.

We Care About Our Church Family

from Nancy Villecco, Attendance Committee

Families care about one another! They care in good times and tough times, in times of good health and ill-health.

It can be difficult to keep “tabs” on all the members of our “fold,” so we ask you to please remember to sign your (row’s) attendance pad whenever you attend a service at LPCUMC. We like to welcome new folks and check on any we haven’t seen in awhile to make sure they are doing okay.

It’s a nice feeling to know that you’re missed, and we’d like to do the best job we can to make sure no one “falls through the cracks.” Thanks so much!

Concert Funds Benefit Both Worship Services

From Beverly Perella

Here’s a question I keep getting. “We know these financial gifts are used for the Summer Mini-Concert Series before the traditional worship service, but can they also be used for a contemporary service?”

The answer is a resounding, “YES.” This fund has sponsored the Dove Dancers, who have performed twice, and several other individuals. This is a church-wide concert fund as we are one congregation! And by the way, we are always accepting contributions. Please designate your gift for the Concert Fund.



Welcome Newcomers!

We invite you to any meetings or activities you read about here. Please call the Church Office, 610-777-1422, for names, phone numbers, information, or to speak with our pastor. If you'd like to receive *News-Linc* in the mail, just notify our secretary. Please join in at Lincoln Park!

From the Pastor's Desk

From Pastor David McMillan

Lessons Learned

Pastor

“Pastor... the pervasive element in our 2000-year pastoral tradition is not someone who “gets things done” but rather the person placed in the community to pay attention and call attention to “what is going on right now” between men and women, with one another and with God – this kingdom of God that is primarily local, relentlessly personal, and prayerful ‘without ceasing.’” *A Memoir: The Pastor, Every Step an Arrival*, Eugene H. Peterson

It was while I was serving Hibernia United Methodist Church that I finally accepted that for which God had set me apart. Not “apart” as in upon a shelf or a throne, but for a purpose.

When I arrived at Hibernia in 2000, I was introduced as their new “preacher.” I appreciated the colloquialism, but cringed a little every time someone address me this way. I felt embarrassed. Not only did I suffer from a poor self-image when it came to preaching, but the term “preacher” itself left something, for me, to be desired.

What I came to accept was a way of being that, with cultivation and prayer, came naturally. It was something I was vaguely aware of from early childhood, nurtured within my immediate and extended family, neighborhood, and church home. I’d been called to be a *pastor*.

Friday nights in Northeast Philadelphia (with my grandparents, Aunt Polly, parents, and sisters gathered around the dining room table for tea and scones) was more than family time; it was Communion. Neighborhood football games — including play calling, interceptions, touchdowns, and self-refereeing — was community building. And serving breakfast as a boy at our Methodist Men’s monthly breakfasts was like serving all the saints at the great eschatological wedding feast. Life always seemed to me to be more than met the eye. There was always something bigger going on that needed attention.

“Life always seemed to me to be more than met the eye.”

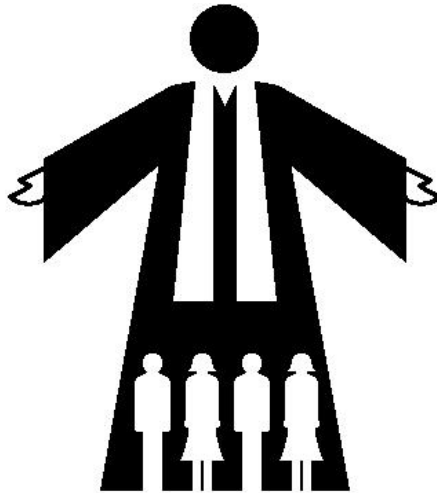
When I arrived at Hibernia, it seemed I had entered a world with characters larger than life: people, relationships, and things which shouted to be recognized, listened to, celebrated, and worked with.

There was Vivian — ornery and endearing at 90 — and her younger sister Sally, who, in her mid-80's, was still afraid to sleep alone at night. After her male friend “Miller” died, a gentle snuff dipping character study in himself, Sally would walk to Vivian's house (on the original family farm which had been divided among nine siblings) to ask if she could sleep over. Vivian would welcome her, but never without making Sally self-conscious for fearing the dark.

There were others. Bill and Mary lived down a dirt lane in a home filled with so much clothing, odds and ends, and papers, they had to clear a path for me to a living room chair. Mary grew up poor in Western Pennsylvania with 11 siblings and worked as a volunteer at a local thrift store. It was difficult for her to part with anything for which there was a foreseeable use.

Carl and Sandy ran a boarding house (which they made a *home*) for five disabled veterans. They lived with their two dogs on the top floor, while the men lived below with their own bedrooms, bathroom, living room, and kitchen.

The first time I met Carl he was cutting the grass on his tractor, with a beer in his hand and wearing a t-shirt which said,



“I'm not bald. This is a solar panel for a never ending sex machine.” Sandy was one of our church prayer warriors. Many mornings I opened the door of the sanctuary to find her sitting by the altar, wearing her head covering and praying in the Spirit (I Corinthians 14:15). She continues to pray for me daily.

Art and Janice had two daughters, Jacqi and Chrissy, and a son Rusty, whom Janice home schooled. Living modestly, Art was able to stay at home to help Janice care for his aging mother and Chrissy, who had experienced a brain injury due to a seizure. Unfortunately, a later seizure would take Chrissy's 18-year-old life. Art and Janice, who would graciously have me over for dinner, are now in ministry at a Christian Camp in Western New York. Jacqi is a physician's assistant outside of Philadelphia, and Rusty works in a box factory as he contemplates entering the mission field.

Finally, Rich and Joyce: It was her second marriage, and Joyce had three daughters — Stephanie, Jackie, and Laura. Rich was our Scout Master and, under his leadership, the troop grew from six boys to 36. I went on two mission trips with Rich: one to Mississippi

(Continued on page 12)

Random Acts of Kindness Stories

Editor's Note: We're happy to present this mini-series of articles "intended to stimulate thought and inspire action." We welcome your *Random Acts of Kindness Stories*. To submit, email them to cherfallon@comcast.net or leave them in my mailbox in the Church Office.



After the Party

From Sandi Rosencrans

An ESL (English as a Second Language) tutor for many years, I'm happily engaged in a conversation with a student from Croatia during a faculty-student-tutor party at RACC. I begin to notice a woman staring at me from across the room. I give it no thought until Zelda, the ESL Program Director, comes over and says to me, "Excuse me, but Flavia," and she turns her head in the direction of the staring woman, "wants to meet you when you get a chance." Mr. Croatia and I exchange pleasantries, and Flavia De Castilho picks up the cue. In nano seconds she is standing next to me.

"You're a smart woman and I want to talk with you!" she declares confidently in a tone that seems to announce we've known each other for years. We talk for an hour, and I drive her back to her cousin's house in Flying Hills.

I learn Flavia, a teacher of English in Brazil, has come for the first time to the US to improve her English at RACC, a

facility selected solely because she can stay with the cousin. Almost immediately, I become her tutor, cultural tour guide, and supportive confidante.

One day I answer my doorbell to find Flavia red-faced and sobbing. I soon learn what I'd suspected from personal observation: Marital strife in the cousin's house had made Flavia's residency there unbearable. Having no choice, she is taking her pre-paid plane ticket and going home to Porto Alegre, Brazil.

"You can stay here," I hear myself announce to a woman I know little about and with no thought beforehand. Flavia starts anew with the sobbing.

"I have no money to pay you!"

I'm forced to repeat my offer. "There is *no* charge; you will be my guest, including meals."

She is virtually speechless, but a grateful smile eventually emerges.

Six weeks later Flavia finally uses her

(Continued on page 7)

It's Time to Bring Your Fleas to Church!

From Beverly Perella

Last year your donations of saleable items, your gifts of food, baked goods, services, and your precious time given to helping out at

**OUR ANNUAL FLEA MARKET
RAISED \$7,000
FOR LP CHURCH!**

Please start bringing in your fleas now and leave them along the sides of the corridor between the Church and the Education Building. If you're able to help price these items on Tuesdays, the time is from 10 until 1. We're now working in the basement of the Office Building, but we'll soon move to Memorial Hall to sort and price. If you have any furniture you'd like to donate, please contact me.

Returning to the Flea Market this year is the sale of

LADIES' CLOTHING.

At the beginning of May, we'll accept items on hangers, all prepared for sale. Some smaller items, such as tops and sweaters, may be folded neatly. Again,



Saturday, May 19

7 am - 3 pm

we are stressing that all items must be **ready for sale**. We have a large supply of metal hangers, available outside the sanctuary. Please start gathering "treasures" for our two boutiques.

The Silent Auction table needs your crafts, paintings, better items, talents, and more. Let's see how many new offerings we can have this year.

Finally, this endeavor succeeds only with your help. Be prepared to volunteer or you will be drafted! And remember, fun and fellowship are what make this day so enjoyable and worthwhile.

(Continued from page 6)

return ticket to go home. A year and a half later, Flavia is back for a three-month sojourn at my house and RACC. Since her latest and third visit, I have become "aunt" to her daughter Marina and the designated family evaluator of

Marina's American fiancé. Later this year, Flavia and her husband, Aldo, are coming to the US to visit Marina and the new son-in-law on Long Island—and *me*.

It will be a glorious gathering for all of us!


APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	We
<p>1 Palm Sunday Bells Perform 11am Service</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3 Sorting, Pricing Fleas For Flea Market Can You Help? 10am-1pm</p>	<p>4 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>8 Easter Sunday Egg Hunt 10:30am</p> <p><i>Alleluia!</i></p>	<p>9 Finance 7pm Agape Noon</p>	<p>10 Sorting, Pricing Fleas For Flea Market Can You Help? 10am-1pm</p>	<p>11 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>15</p>	<p>16 Trustees 7pm</p>	<p>17 Sorting, Pricing Fleas For Flea Market Can You Help? 10am-1pm</p>	<p>18 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>22 STONE SOUP MINISTRY</p>	<p>23 Book Club 7pm</p>	<p>24 Sorting, Pricing Fleas For Flea Market Can You Help? 10am-1pm</p>	<p>25 Bell Choir 6:30 Chancel Choir</p>
<p>29</p>	<p>30</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Remember... Donations Doubled to Opportunity House until April 30</p>		



BE
CHR



Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
10pm Service 7:30pm	5 Holy Thursday Service 7pm Praise Band 8pm	6  Service 7pm	7
10pm Service 7:30pm	12 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm Camp Peaceworks with Berks Women in Crisis Conf. 7:30am - 5 pm	13 Camp Peaceworks 7:30 am - 5pm	14
10pm Service 7:30pm	19 Praise Band 8pm	20	21 JR. YOUTH UMCOR Hub Field Trip
10pm Service 7:30pm	26 Craft Group 1pm Praise Band 8pm	27	28
HOLD, THE CHRIST HAS RISEN!		<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">COMING UP IN MAY</p> <p>May 6,13,20 New Member Classes</p> <p>May 13 Mother's Day</p> <p>May 14 Finance 7 pm</p> <p>May 19 Flea Market, 7am-3pm</p> <p>May 21 Trustees 7 pm</p> </div>	

Hope Deferred

Submitted by Nancy Villecco

by Rick Hamlin, from the 2011 *Daily Guideposts* book for 9/1/11 (p.257)

*Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but
a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.*

Proverbs 13:12 (ESV)

A series of late-winter snowstorms had pummeled the Northeast, and the damage to the trees was incalculable. All that heavy wet snow and then ice sent boughs breaking and trunks snapping like matchsticks. On my morning jog through the park, I was dismayed to see so many fruit trees injured, pruned by nature before they had even bloomed. I picked up a branch of a cherry tree that would have been covered by blossoms in another month. "Take it home with you, anyway," I told myself.

I wasn't sure what I would do with it. Put it in a pitcher of water and hope that it bloomed? Not likely. I couldn't even see any buds on the naked branch, just the dried brown stubs of last year's fruit. Still, out of some instinct to salvage something from the debris or at least to

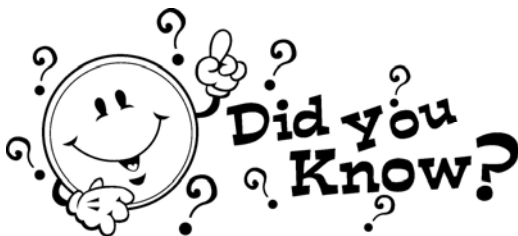


clear the path, I carried it with me. I'm sure I looked pretty silly, running with half a tree in my arms.

The branch still had ice on it when I brought it inside. I filled our biggest pitcher with warm water, trimmed the limbs, and put it in. "I don't think anything will happen to it," I told Carol. "It's too soon to force a blossom out of an old stick." But four days later, a series of delicate pink-white flowers appeared on the branch and new buds on the tips.

Hope doesn't need much to flourish: a bit of water, a willingness to look foolish, and the desire to trust. Spring is never too far away.

There is always hope in my soul, Lord,



You can offer prayer requests to
Guideposts' annual

Good Friday Day of Prayer

by calling 845-704-6080, or going to
OurPrayer.org.

From Beverly Perella

It only takes a spark to get a fire going. That's how it is with God's love: Once you experience it; you want to pass it on. That's exactly what we're doing here at LP, more often than you might know.

We'd like to CELEBRATE monthly how we're passing along God's love. If you have a new celebration, let **Pastor Dave, Cheri Fallon, or Bev Perella** know about it, and we'll publish it in the next issue of *News-Linc*.

STONE SOUP~ Lincoln Park Style A Ministry of Sharing

If you're familiar with the book *Stone Soup* by Marcia Brown, you'll recognize that our Lincoln Park setting is different: The characters are different, but the plot is the same.

The community comes together by pooling resources that are used to benefit many. A few years ago **Rebecca Chelius** began making food for the Mohnton Food Pantry by using pantry supplies that no one else was using. She took these huge quantities of beans or rice, for example, came up with a recipe, and then returned the prepared food to the Pantry for distribution.

From this a discussion arose during a



Women's Bible Study hour led by **Becky Chadwick** and **Loreen Miller**. Perhaps this women's group collectively could do even more.

Thus, our own Stone Soup Ministry was born two years ago. On the fourth Sunday of every month, during the Sunday School hour, these women cook together using supplies donated by the congregation. **(They also manage to continue a Bible study during the food preparation!)**

This food is then distributed to the Mohnton Food Pantry, to our own Heart and Hand ministry (providing meals to our sick and shut-ins), and to church members, friends, and others, who need a bit of help, compassion, and understanding. As the need grows, so does the determination of these women to be God's hands to serve His people.

Individually, in small groups, or collectively, we are about our Father's business of *Seeking and Sharing*.

(Continued from page 5)

and the other to Tennessee, and I can attest to his wife's complaint that his snoring is unbearable. Joyce was our church treasurer, and almost single-handedly has sent over 9,000 pounds of filled Christmas stockings to servicemen and women overseas since the Iraq war started in 2003.

At Hibernia I finally understood my calling. I was a pastor: not someone "sent to get things done," as Peterson writes. But "the person placed in the community to pay attention and call attention to *what*

is going on right now between men and women, with one another and with God – this kingdom of God that is primarily local, relentlessly personal, and prayerful *without ceasing*." What a gift it was for me to be among them, to be given the privilege of looking, listening, seeing, and calling attention, as the Spirit led, to the kingdom of God manifest in human lives, relationships, and service.

Next month will be the last of my reflections on my time at Hibernia UMC. Thank you for going along with me on this journey.

Gifts to Opportunity House Can Be Doubled

From Nancy Villecco

A yearly challenge grant from the Alan Feinstein Foundation invites us to donate to Opportunity House March 1 through April 30 for TWICE the benefit to this organization.



Opportunity House aims to improve lives of children and adults who are unable to live independently. *Its primary goal is to promote self-sufficiency for its clients.* Services include a Learning Center; emergency, transitional, or permanent housing; and a center for abused children. Lincoln Park Church regularly supports Opportunity House, one way being bi-monthly dinners, prepared and served by our members for the clients there. Please send your donation to:

Opportunity House
430 N. Second St.
Reading, PA 19601

For more information, please visit: www.feinsteinfoundation.org.

Our Youth Plan for Mission Trip

From Tracy Goldsborough

From June 17 – 22, youth in Grades 6 and up will be taking a mission trip to Cherokee, NC, through a group called Team Effort, <http://www.teameffort.org>. There we'll be working on an Indian Reservation, and we'll stay in college dorms (no air mattresses!)



cards for \$100. Our group gets \$5 for each one we sell. If you shop at Giant, please consider purchasing the cards from us before you go shopping. To purchase cards, see **Becky Chadwick** or **Tracy Goldsborough**.

So far, we have six youth (and two adults) reserved for sure: **Jon** and **Ryan Chadwick**, **Gabe Chelius**, **Trisha Goldsborough**, **Dylan DeHart**, and **Summer Ringler**.

For the trip, we need a \$50 deposit for each youth. If you're interested, contact **Tracy Goldsborough**, 610-777-6991, or tracy.goldsborough@alvernia.edu. So far we have 6 youth who are excited to go.

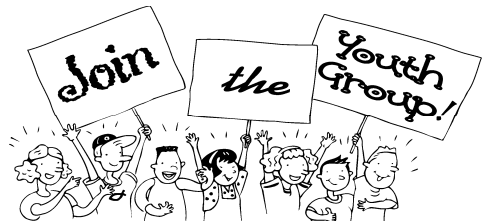
We can always add more youth, but as of March 31, we are committed to sending six youth. Please try to make a deposit of \$50 as soon as possible. Your child will also need extra money for food up and back, and we'll be doing some activities there. As we get closer, we'll have more idea what they will cost.

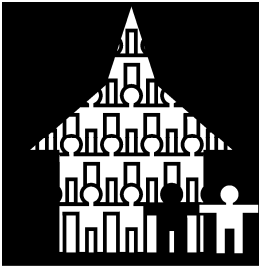
This endeavor needs monetary support from our congregation. **Here's a way you can help support our Mission Trip without using extra money from your personal budget:** We have Giant Gift

Junior Youth to Visit UMCOR Relief Hub

From Tracy Goldsborough

On April 21, our Jr. Youth will head to the UMCOR Relief Hub in Mechanicsburg. What is it? Mission Central, as it's called, is the mission warehouse of the Susquehanna Conference of the UM Church. Hosting "tens of thousands of volunteers," they "process UMCOR 'Relief Kits' for use around the world, provide all types of needed supplies for local and national ministries, and assist many projects that send God's love, locally, nationally, and around the world," according to their website.





Become Part of *Our* Church Family

From Pastor Dave McMillan

A spring **NEW MEMBER CLASS** is scheduled for Sunday evenings, May 6, 13, and 20, 6-8 pm, at Pastor Dave's house. If you're considering joining the church or would like more information, please contact Pastor Dave at the office, 610-777-1422.

Agape Women Donate Dishes

From Beverly Perella

A BIG THANK YOU to the AGAPE women for their generous donation of new dishes. No more breaking hands trying to lift the old, heavy, discolored dishes from the cupboards.

These new, sleek place-settings, a lovely pearl-white in color, are from CORELLE Coordinates. What a welcome addition to our dining tables!



We extend our love and sympathy to the family of **Cleon Kegerise**, who passed away on March 7, at 89 years old. Born in Shillington, Cleon served in the Marine Corps in World War II and was one of the first Marines to land on Guadalcanal..

"Cle" and his wife Betty (who passed away in 2003) were long-time members of Lincoln Park Church. He served on many committees over the years and was instrumental in additions, renovations, expansions, and improvements to our buildings. May God bless his family with lots of love and comfort.





Lincoln Park's Bulletin Board



*April 15
for our
May issue*

Change of Address

Shirley Cline
101 Murray St Apt 3M
Bangor PA 18013-2627

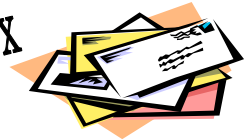
News-Linc, monthly publication of Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church, hopes to link you to your church with information about its programs, plans, and people. Your comments and suggestions are welcome and may be left in the newsletter mailbox by the church office.

Our staff-

Editor: Cheri Fallon, 610-678-8735

Staff: Nancy Artz, Carol Bashore, Betsy & Allen Buchanan, Bunny Carlson, Kathleen Hogg, Gloria Kotzer, Elaine Meckes, and Doris Schucker

From our mailbox



Birth



Congratulations to **Matthew and Alice McCoy** on the birth of their son, **Ian Shawn McCoy**, on March 8, in Houston, TX. Ian is the grand-

son of **Pastor Dorris and Fred McCoy**, and the brother of **Quynn**. Best wishes to the entire family!

"Tiny miracle, precious gift

Welcome to the world."

—Adele Basheer

♥ Many thanks for all the many cards and messages sent to me on my leaving. It meant so much to me to have you share your love and well wishes. I treasure your friendship and shall miss you. Thanks again.

God bless! Shirley Cline

♥ Thank you very much for the beautiful flowers, candy, and Valentines. Your thoughtfulness is gratefully appreciated.

Thank you, Margaret Christ

♥ Dear Church Family,
Thank you for the love and prayers during my recent illness.

Sincerely, Eleanor Evans

"April hath put a spirit of youth in everything."

—William Shakespeare

NEWS-LINC

Lincoln Park Community United Methodist Church
1 Carlisle Avenue
Reading, PA 19609

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage
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Reading, PA
Permit No. 233

Change service requested



Worship with us: 9:30 am - Contemporary Worship
 11 am - Traditional Worship
 9:45 & 11 am - Christian Education

Office hours 9 am-3 pm, Mon-Fri
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Ext: Kitchen 28; Rm 200 35;
Ed Bldg 40; Nursery 39

Fax line 610-777-4309

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Web: www.lpcumc.org

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