

OUUC

WEEKLY UPDATE

September 9th 2025

Announcement deadline: 11:00 am Tuesday mornings

Sunday Worship September 14th

"Reconnection and Meaning" with Rev. Mary Gear

At this time in history, how do we reconnect to our values and what is important to us? How do we make meaning from what is happening to us, to others, and to the world? We explore these themes, and send the Transylvania pilgrims on their way with our blessing.

**9:00 AM In-Person
Only**

**10:45 AM In-Person &
Online**

After-Service Forum: "Hope and Grief"

Our Sunday forums resume this week with an exploration of two books that offer frameworks for living through difficult times: Active Hope by Joanna Macy and How to Live in a Chaotic Climate by Laura Schmidt. Join Rev. Mary & Rev. Sara for an overview of OUUC offerings this year to help us be together in challenging times.

**12:15 PM In-Person &
Online**

Join Online: 10:45 AM worship and 12:15 PM forum

Click here for Zoom

Meeting ID 873 210 124 | Passcode 2306

Click here for Youtube

Watch today's service live stream on Youtube

Dial in: +1 (253) 205-0468

Last Sunday's Service

"River of Life" with Rev. Mary Gear & Rev. Sara Lewis

We gather to begin another congregational year with our traditional water communion service. Bring water from a place of importance to you, which could be close or far. We'll have water for everyone. We also recognize the beginning of a new school year for students of all ages. If you are a student, bring your backpack or briefcase, or whatever you have to carry a token of our love for you.

[Watch Last Sunday's Service Here](#)

[Find Last Week Order of Service Here](#)

Tiny Little News Show

In this week's Tiny Little News learn about our book cart, upcoming children's class, and this week's events



Important Community Updates



Zucchini Bread Bake Off at The Annual Picnic

Calling all bakers or bakers-at-heart! We will be doing a zucchini bread competition this year again at the annual picnic. If you would like to join in on the fun as a baker or as a judge, please reach out to Chloe at memberengagement@ouuc.org to sign up. We look

forward to tasting all the yummy-ness!

Beware of scams via email and text

Beware of periodic scammers via email and text. You may be contacted by scammers impersonating Rev. Mary or other church staff. Scammers also try to reach people via text. Often, they will ask for you to contact them right away, and they may ask for financial assistance/information or contact information of others at the church. Always double check and make sure the email or text was sent from a source you recognize. Scammers will create new addresses that appear like a known email address. When in doubt, check in with the person in your life who appears to be trying to contact you, using a known contact method.



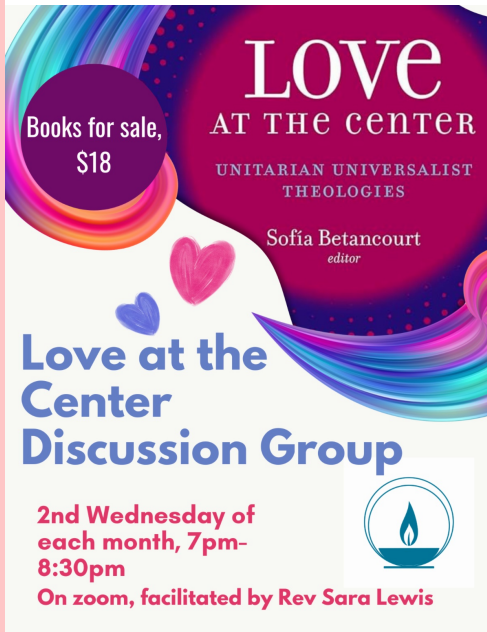
Peanut-free facility

One of our young ones has a severe peanut allergy and we are moving to become a peanut-free facility in response. This is one of the ways we take care of each other! Please do not bring any peanuts, peanut butter, or products that contain peanuts (including peanut oil)

to OUUC. Thank you for helping keep our community safe for all.



This Week's Gatherings



Love at the Center Discussion Group

Wed Sept 10, 7:00pm

Online

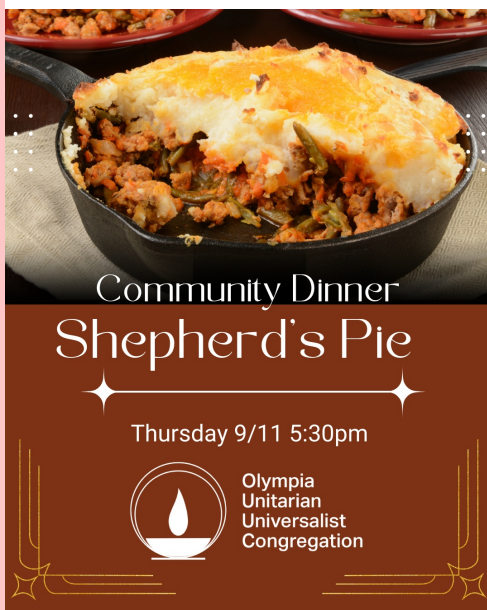
All are welcome to join us for a discussion group around the book "Love at the Center"

UUs regularly re-examine our covenant and values, we do this work to live into the Unitarian Universalism of the future. Following Article II's adoption, it is clear that the value most describe as central to their faith, to their living, and to the mission of their congregations is love itself. Our pressing task now is to ask how this understanding calls us forward, individually and collectively.

In these pages, you'll find personal testimony to love's power, reminders of the centrality of love throughout the long histories of Universalism and Unitarianism, and theologies of love drawn from many different expressions of Unitarian Universalism—from the natural world to the justice rally, to a loved one's deathbed, to the quiet moment before a worship service begins.

Monthly meetings will discuss 3 essays each session.

[Click Here to Register](#)



Community Dinner:

Shepherd's Pie

Thurs Sept 11, 5:30pm

OUUC Commons

All are welcome for food and fellowship at 5:30pm at our weekly community dinner on Thursdays. This week's menu theme is Build Your Own Shepherd's Pie. If you can volunteer to help cook starting at 3:30pm or set up tables at 4:30pm, or to clean up after at 7:30pm, please email Rev Sara at dcfd@ouuc.org

Game Night

Thurs Sept 11, 6:30pm

All ages are invited for our monthly game night following the community dinner on Thursday. We will have some games and cards, bring any games you'd like to share as well.

OUUC Book Group

Thu Sept 11, 6:30pm

OUUC

The group will be meeting on the 2nd Thursday at OUUC at 6:30 (following the community dinner) beginning in September (skipping December). The meeting will also be multiplatform on zoom.

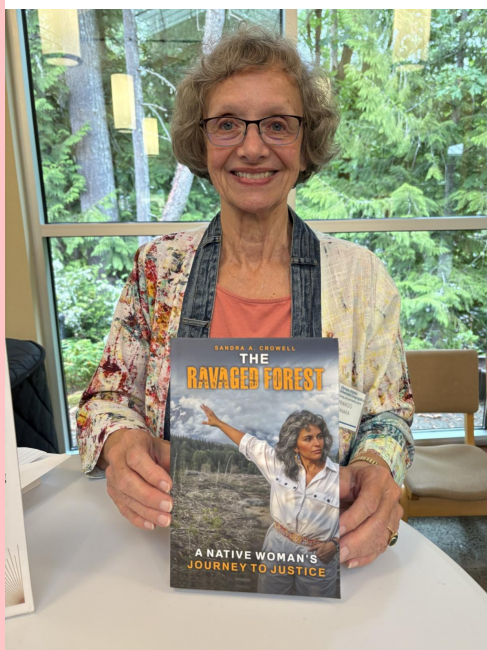
Our first book will be The Ravaged Forest by Sandra Crowell which tells the story of Helen Mitchell Sanders of the Chehalis tribe and her fight for justice for Native Americans who had been cheated out of receiving the full value of their forest land from the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The author will be meeting with us in September to answer any questions you have.

Please share any book recommendations you have for October or November with Frances Tanaka.

Copies of The Ravaged Forest will be available to borrow or for purchase for \$20, contact Frances to get a copy.

[Click Here to Register](#)



**Last call to help remove invasive plants at
OUUC**



Sat Sept 13, 10:00am
OUUC

Join the Environmental Action Team for our last invasive removal party of the season! Bring water, sunscreen, garden gloves and weeding utensils. Contact John Crutcher for more information at olywash@gmail.com



OUUC Picnic

Sat Sept 13, 12:00 pm
Squaxin Park, Rose Garden

Join us for the OUUC Picnic at the Rose Garden shelter at Squaxin Park. It's a potluck (no peanuts please) and the 2nd Annual Zucchini Bread competition will return! Bring your best bread treat made with those late summer squashes for a chance to win a prize. Parking is limited, so carpooling is encouraged. What else to bring: reusable plates and cups, maybe a table cloth, lawn chairs, serving utensils, a card with the ingredients of your dish. Questions? Contact Rev. Sara



Quick Faith in Actions for the week of September 7th

Put your faith into action! Check out these quick impactful actions you can take from home to make change in our community, updated every week.

[Click here to get started!](#)

Upcoming Events



Nia Dance

Tue Sept 16, 9:00am
OUUC

Sense. Notice. Mindful. Movement. Power. Barefoot. Just a handful of words to describe the dance that is Nia. We're bringing Nia to OUUC this fall. Join us! Every Tuesday from 9-10 a.m. Cost: Donation. Bring a yoga mat, water bottle, wear comfortable workout clothing and be prepared to take off your shoes. Get in. Be moved. Be you.



Soul Matters registration open now

Wed Sept 17, 1:00pm
OUUC

Soul Matters Groups meet monthly to explore our spiritual theme of the month through deep discussion and listening. We have one drop in group that is open to anyone, and closed groups with the same people meeting together each month. Register now for the closed group facilitated by Claudia McNeill and Marina Kuran on 3rd Wednesday of each month, 1-2:30p. [Register here](#)

Get Grubby!

Wed Sept 17, 4:00 pm
GRuB Farms

The OUUC community has been invited to help on the Grub farm on Wednesday September 17th from 4-6 pm. Then



workers will help Sara select Grub grown food for the Community dinner on September 18th. We are hoping for at least 4-8 volunteers to support GRUB and procure food for our community dinner. Please contact Sara Lewis, dcfd@ouuc.org to sign up for this great opportunity to help a community partner and gather locally sourced organic food for dinner.



New UU Class

Sun Sept 21, 2:00 pm

OUUC

Are you wanting to know more about OUUC or UUism or interested in becoming a member of OUUC? Our New UU class will be offered on Sundays 2-3:30pm starting on 9/21. **Find out more here!**

TRANSITIONS:

Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging



Transitions: Finding Meaning & Spirit in Aging

Wed Sept 24, 3:00pm

Online

Where do we find meaning as we age? How does what matters to us change, and how does it remain the same? What is the spirit, the life-force that keeps us active and dynamic, that sustains and renews us?

This class will focus on these questions we face as we age. Each of us approaches aging as individual beings and may feel alone; yet we share the condition with everyone – our peers, those who came before us and those yet to come. In this way, we are profoundly connected.

The class format is based on that suggested by Bruce Marshall in his book, *In Later Years: Finding Meaning and Spirit in Aging*.

Led by Rev. Carol McKinley, Affiliated Community Minister
Via Zoom on Rev. Carol's account.

Wednesday Sep 24 – Friday Dec 12, 2025, 3-4:30pm

Register Here

Lessons of Loss for ages 5-10

Thurs Sept 25, 6:30 pm

OUUC

In this 8 week class children will explore the important subject of death. Lessons will explore how change and loss are part of life, that death is bodies stopping working, that grief and hurt are normal and OK, how important it is to find ways to say goodbye well and to remember the lost, and what sources of resiliency and healing are. This class tackles a big tough topic in an age appropriate way, and is appropriate for children who have experienced loss and for those who have not done so yet. Suggested Donation of \$50-\$100.

Register here



Worthy Now: A Harm Reduction program for UU Youth

Sun Sept 28, 1:30 pm



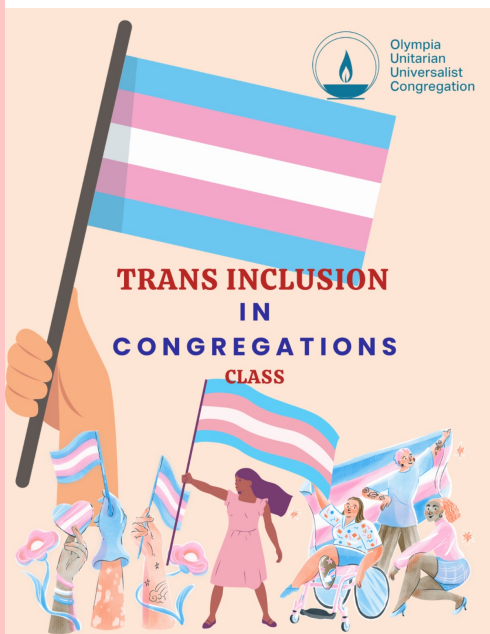
OUUC
 "Christian cultural urge to punish sin"
 VS
 "Worthy now theological frameworks"

Youth will explore the concept of harm reduction as it relates to a variety of possible harms (substance use, mental health needs, violence prevention, and more) and increase their skills around harm reduction and decision making. Six sessions, Sundays 9/28-12/7 1:30pm - 3:30pm
Register here



Estate Planning Presentation
Thurs Oct 2, 6:30 pm
 OUUC

Do you have questions about estate planning? Know the value of having a will? Want to understand trusts or powers of attorney? Please join us Thursday, October 2 from 6:30-7:30 pm at OUUC for a free presentation about estate planning by local estate planning attorney Lauren Pitman. Lauren has presented this popular overview at OUUC in the past. Whether you're just beginning to contemplate your decisions or have already made plans, you will appreciate her warm, compassionate and knowledgeable approach to estate planning and her ability to make a complex and often emotionally difficult topic accessible and understandable. She'll share practical information about wills, trusts, powers of attorney, beneficiary designations, LGBTQ couples' estate planning, charitable and legacy giving and more. OUUC's Legacy Giving Committee offers this presentation to empower individuals and families to protect their assets, achieve personal goals for the future, and bring peace of mind through thoughtful planning. Achieve two things at once and plan to attend a regular Thursday evening Community Dinner before the presentation. Please plan to attend – and bring your questions!

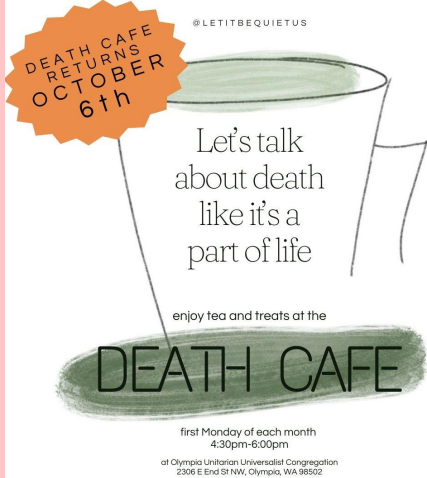


Trans Inclusion in Congregations
Thurs Oct 2, 4:30 pm
 OUUC

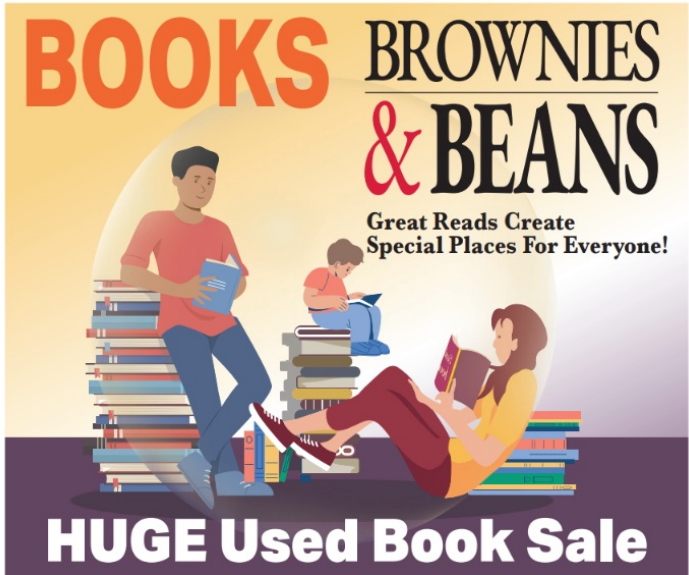
This in-depth program is for anyone who wants to take their knowledge and skills to the next level in terms of trans identity and how to build congregations that are fully inclusive and affirming of the full breadth of gender diversity. Over six sessions we will deeply explore the intersection of trans identity, spirituality, and faith community and gain the grounding, context, and skills to transform as individuals and as a congregation. The course is based on six video lectures with discussion materials, with the videos available to watch online on your own or together as a group. We will show the videos from 4:30-5:30 on Thursday, take a break for the Community Dinner, and then hold the discussion from 6:30-7:30. Facilitated by Hearthorn Campbell, Allyx Steffens, and Kedo Baye **Register here!**

Death Cafe
Mon Oct 6, 4:30 pm
 OUUC

A group-led, open conversation about all things death and



dying in a safe, confidential, and judgment-free space. Come share your thoughts, feelings, and experiences around death. All are welcome. Death Cafes are intended to be discussion groups rather than grief support/counseling. For more information contact Jenée Wolfram



22nd annual Books, Brownies & Beans Used Book Sale
Friday and Saturday, October 24th and 25th 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
OUUC

The Olympia Unitarian Universalist Congregation is preparing for its 22nd annual Books & Brownies & Beans (BBB) used book sale. Several thousand books are being collected and sorted.

The book sale will be both Friday and Saturday, October 24th and 25th. Friday is books only while Saturday will feature the book sale, brownies and beverages and musical entertainment.

Our goal is to raise funds for our three partner recipients - Community Youth Services, The Pink Haven Coalition and The Washington Coalition for Police Accountability - as well as to share our love for reading and learning, and to create an opportunity to make community connections.

Book donations can be dropped off at OUUC, 2306 East End Street or in the boxes located in various places around town. If you have books to donate but cannot get them to the church, please email Pam Davidson to arrange a pickup. Book donations will be accepted through mid-October.

If you do bring book donations to the church, please take them to classroom 4 and put them in the rectangle on the floor marked with tape (please don't leave them in the Commons, hallway or in staff offices). Thank you!

Please help spread the word about the sale and join us! Every Sunday morning there will be one or two people in The Commons between services to sign up volunteers and answer questions about the book sale.

Please mark your calendars: October 24 and 25, 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

Ways To Get Involved

Help Wanted for Gregory Robinson's Celebration of Life
Fri Sept 26, 6:00 pm
OUUC

On Friday, Sept 26th, from 7-9 pm, we will celebrate the life of



Gregory Robinson with stories, wine, and music. We are expecting about 100 people to fill The Commons, so lots of volunteers are needed. Set-up will start at 6 pm. Food should be delivered to the kitchen by 6:30 pm. Karmel has requested gluten-free cookies using recipes from <http://www.glutenfreepalate.com>. Gregory's favorite cookies were snickerdoodles, chocolate chunk, and ginger. Clean-up will start at approximately 9 pm. See below for the link to sign up to help. [Contact Melanie Ransom](#) with questions.

[Sign up here to volunteer](#)



Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed

Our coffee hours are only possible through the help of volunteers who make the coffee, set everything up, and wash the dishes after.
Sign Up Here To Help



September Volunteer Newsletter

This year we will be creating a monthly newsletter for all volunteers at OUUC.
Check out the September edition by clicking here!



*A Neighbor's
Independence
Depends On You*

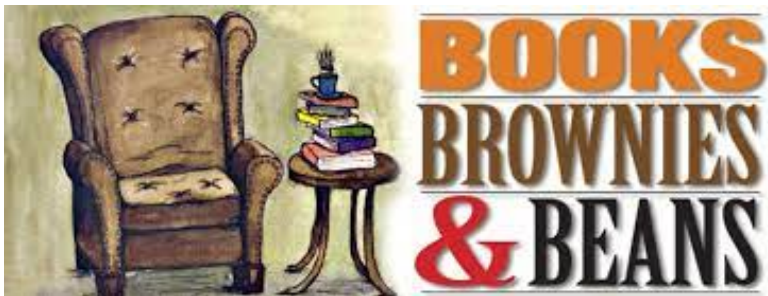


September Faith in Action Digest

Here are collected opportunities for engaging with Faith in Action in September.
Faith In Action Digest September 2025

OUUC Side with Love Shirt

Get ready to represent OUUC and Side with Love at gatherings and justice events by ordering your yellow T-Shirt ahead of time!
Click Here to order your shirt

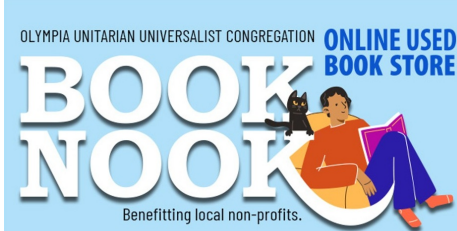


Books, Brownies & Beans Entertainment

Do you have a talent that you would like to show off in a low-key non-threatening environment? Do you sing, play a musical instrument, write poetry, tell funny jokes? We are

looking for OUUC members and friends who would like to perform at the Books, Brownies & Beans sale on Saturday October 25 between 10 AM and 4 PM. Soloists and small combos are encouraged. Lots of time to prepare something if you want to. We anticipate having time slots ranging from ten to thirty minutes, depending on what you want to do and how much time you need to do it. We are just starting to put together a roster of interested participants and will try to accommodate everyone who is interested. Will be finalizing a roster and schedule around the end of September or beginning of October.

If you are interested, please **email Karl Johnson**. Let them know what you plan to do, how much time you want, your preferred time of day, and how to reach you.



Book Nook, OUUC's new online used book store for all Olympia-area shoppers is now open 24/7 365 days a year! Shop/pay online and pick up in Olympia! All proceeds will be lovingly passed on to the Thurston County Food Bank, where our support is needed to keep the shelves stocked and the lights on! New items are

added to Book Nook frequently, as community book donations are received. Visit Book Nook

often for great reading, viewing, gift ideas, AND help feed families!

Shop Now Here

Learn More Here

Community Connections



Public Affairs With Kim Dobson: The current situation in Gaza and the West Bank

Thurs Sept 11, 12:00 pm

KAOS 89.3FM

Bill Dole will be joining members of the Olympia community on **KAOS 89.3FM, Parallel University**, this Thursday to discuss the situation happening in Gaza and the West Bank, and what can be done about it. Parallel University airs noon to 1pm every Thursday.



Fellowship of Reconciliation Vigil for Peace

Fri Sept 12, 4:30

4th & Water Street, downtown Olympia

The Rachel Corrie Foundation for Peace and Justice invites you to show your support for Palestine at the Fellowship of Reconciliation Vigil for Peace every Friday from 4:30 pm - 6:00 pm at Percival Landing 4th & Water Street, Downtown Olympia

Guest Chef Night

Sat Sept 13, 5:30

ASHHO Cultural Community Center

A self-made chef, bold flavor-creator, and the driving force behind ASHHO Cultural Community Center, Chef Khurshida has inspired and fed thousands through our Community Feeding Program and sold-out cultural dining experiences. Now, she's bringing her fire, heart, and world-class flavors to this milestone evening.

This special 5-course Taste of the World Dinner, cooked with love by Chef Khurshida and our Culinary & Hospitality Job Training students, will take you on a journey across continents—featuring bold, mouth-watering dishes inspired by her roots, travels, and vision for unity through food.

Proceeds benefit our Culinary & Hospitality Job Training Program.

Come hungry. Leave inspired.

Reserve your seat here!



Fort Worden Camping Trip

Sep 22 - 25

Fort Worden Historical State Park

Let's go camping! Make connections in the congregation by



Join us for an evening of
Fort Worden on September 2nd.

sharing our love of nature, engaging in meaningful conversations, walking the trails and sitting around the campfire. Bring your tent, car, or RV- all are welcome! Sometimes we even rent cabins or yurts. Hike, bike, play board games, roast marshmallows, or just hang-out. Join us on our next trip to Fort Worden on September 2nd. Sites are limited, so make your reservations soon! Contact us for more information.

Contact & Hours

Sunday Worship:
9:00 am (in-person only)
10:45 am (in-person and online)

Office Hours:
Tuesdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Thursdays 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Sundays 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

Phone: (360) 634-2005

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2306 East End St NW
Olympia, WA 98502

Find us on the web:

Website: OUUC.org

Facebook: [@OlyUUC](https://www.facebook.com/OlyUUC)

Instagram: [@OlyUUC](https://www.instagram.com/OlyUUC)

YouTube: [@OlyUUC](https://www.youtube.com/OlyUUC)

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