





Flemington Elks Lodge #1928

March 2025





Our 71stYear



Elks, Andrea Kennedy and Annie Scully, congratulate Greg Fritz, who won 1st place in 2025 Chili & Chowder Cook-Off. (see <u>page 8</u> for story) Somerville Ells 1068 Annual Chilli & Chowder 2025 Cook-Off 1st Place Chilli

March 2025

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Questions/Comments/Corrections Email us at <u>ACFKS1@gmail.com</u>

PLEASE EMAIL SUBMISSIONS FOR APRIL ELKS TALE TO: <u>ACFKS1@gmail.com</u> by Friday, March 21

March 2025

Flemington Elks Lodge #1928

<u>OFFICERS</u>

2024-25 Exalted Ruler	. Vern Ainslie
2025-26 Exalted Ruler	. Gregory Fritz
2024-25 Estgemed Leading Knight	Gregory Fritz
2025-26 Estgemed Leading Knight	Bruce Totten, PDD
Estgemed Loyal Knight	Lee Trautman, PDD
Estgemed Lecturing Knight	Vincent LaSpada
Secretary	Barry Sheppard, PER
Treasurer	George Upton, PER
Tiler	Todd Hunt
Inner Guard	Erik Anderson
Csquire	Shirley Lewis
Chaplain	Andrea Kennedy
Chaplain Emeritus	Mauro Fanelli, PER
Trustee - 1 st Year	John Lombardi
Trustee - 2 nd Year	Jason Karpi
Trustee — 3 rd Year	Bruce Totten, PDD GER
Trusteed — 4 th Year	David Rockafellow
Trusted — 5 th Year	Robert Mikesh

AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	Patti DeLuca
Vice President	Deborah Keyes
Treasurer	Suzanne Lucas, PP
Secretary	Laura Karnoff
Trustee	Linda Upton, PP

2024-2025:

Elk of the Year ~ tba

Citizen of the Year ~ tba

Officer of the Year ~ tba

Elks Information

Monthly Lodge Meetings

Lodge Members

Wednesdays at 7:30pm

March 12 and 26 April 9 and 23 **Auxiliary Members**

<u>Tuesdays at 7:15pm</u>

March 11 April 8

WHERE TO GO ON-LINE.

For more information on the Flemington Elks, upcoming events, lodge happenings, pictures, functions and more, visit us online at: <u>www.flemingtonelks.com</u>

or go to Facebook: Flemington Elks (public): West Central District (members only):

Flemington Elks Lodge #1928 West Central District

Additionally, there are nationwide groups where members can find information about the world of Elkdom: BPOE News We Are Elks I am an Elk from New Jersey

Let the Lodge Secretary know if your information changes

The lodge is always updating its membership files so it's vital that you send any changes to your information (i.e., change of address, new phone number or e-mail address) so that the lodge can keep you informed... Don't miss out!

> Contact Barry Sheppard, PER Lodge Secretary c/o Flemington Elks Lodge #1928 P.O. Box 261 Flemington, NJ 08822

(or drop your new information in the Secretary's Mailbox at the Lodge)

Reminders & Notices

MEETING

NOTICE

Attend the lodge meetings. Let your voice be heard. It will make a difference!

Lodge Officers are required to attend on a regular basis (it is what you volunteered for after all).

March Meetings: Wednesday, March 12 and 26

After the meetings, join us for dinner (prepared by Chef Shirley) in the bar/grill and spend some quality time with fellow members.

Life Membership Election

At a regular Lodge session (Mr. Stephen Maksymovich, Jr. of 110 Taylor Terrace, Hopewell, NJ 08525-1611) has requested Life Membership in Flemington Lodge. Under Grand Lodge Statue 14.260 and the Flemington Lodge By-Laws, Article 111, Sec. 2, this member has met the necessary requirements.

At the regular Lodge session of March 12, 2025 a secret vote will be taken concerning this matter.

Barry l. Sheppard, Secretary



It's never too late to send in your dues. Remember, as a delinquent member, you are not allowed to use the facilities, attend meetings and cannot be sponsored by a member in good standing. Additionally, dues help us to pay our bills. Everybody's membership dues help.

Please remit your dues of \$86.00 for year 2024-2025 to the Lodge Secretary.

As of today there are 298 members of this lodge with 16 members who have yet to submit their dues.

Lapsation List ~ 2024-2025

Lisa Coffer	Ralph Fortunato
Jospeh Gherardi	Michel McClernon
Charles Miller	Thomas Mullen
Dawn Schenck	John B. Smith
John Stefanchik	Gerald Troisi
Douglas Wachter	

Thomas Freund David McPherson Fred Rynearson Scott Steele Richard Vail

In our Thoughts and Memories



Elks are never forgotten, never forsaken. Morning and noon may pass them by, the light of day sink heedlessly in the West, but ere the shadows of midnight shall fall, the chimes of memory will be pealing forth the friendly message: "To Our Absent Members."

<u>Recent Absent Member</u> William P. Cody, PER ~ 01/11/2025

Absent Members from the Past Year

Kenneth Whalen ~ 01/30/2025 Robert John Ferrence ~ 10/29/2024 James Susliewicz ~ 07/25/2024 John Mackay ~ 06/19/2024 Roger L. Cramer ~ 04/26/2024 Thomas E. Higgins ~ 12/19/2024 Joseph M. Iselin ~ 09/29/2024 Daniel J. Petitt Sr., PER ~ 06/30/2024 William M. Creighton ~ 06/08/2024

Funeral Services

A reminder to all members and their families that should a Lodge Member pass away, the Lodge Officers will conduct a Funeral Service at the family's request. Please contact the Exalted Ruler or Lodge Secretary for arrangements.

Sickness and Distress

If you know of a Lodge Member who is ill, home bound, in the hospital or going through something distressful, please notify Gregory Fritz (908) 386-0407, the Exalted Ruler or the Lodge Secretary.

Our brothers and sisters need to know that they are in our thoughts during times of illness or distress.

March 2025

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In the News

Congratulations go out to our very own Greg Fritz. His Chili won 1st Place in the Somerville Elks Motorcycle Committee 2025 Chili & Chowder Competition, beating out almost 25 other competitors.

Way to go Greg!



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 Somerville Elks 1068 Motorcycle Committee

ili & Chowder 2025 cook-Off 1st Place

Congratulations to all who participated in the NJSEA Hoop Shoot that took place

Sunday, February 2 at South Plainfield H.S.

The results are below. Lena Zmigrodski, sponsored by WCD's Middlesex Lodge, won the 10-11 Girls Division with a score of 20 out of 25. She now advances to the Northeast Central Regional Semi Finals in Wilkes-Barre, PA, which will be held on 14 - 15 March. She will compete against the state champions from New York and Pennsylvania. We wish her the best of luck.

Girls 8-9

1st - Marina Lazur - Southeast (Howell) 19/25
2nd - Camryn Madison - South Central (Eatontown) 15/25
3rd - Julia Hamer - Southwest (New Egypt) 10/25 2/5 OT 4th - Holly Heinrichs - West Central (Flemington) 10/25 1/5 in OT

Boys 8-9

1st - Dylan Boganski - North Central (Cedar Grove) 25/25 2nd - Stephen Ramos - South (Egg Harbor Township) 24/25

3rd - Xavier Laihee - Northeast (Clifton-Garfield) 20/25

Girls 10-11 1st - Lena Zmigrodski - West Central (Middlesex) - 20/25 2nd - Elise Zuklie - represented Northwest but actually was the West Central Runnner- up (Somerville) -19/25 3rd Brielle Pantiliano - Northeast (Paramus) - 17/25

Boys 10-11 1st - Sebastian Del Rey - Northeast (Rutherford) - 21/25 2nd - Ryan Steiner - Southeast (Mansquan) - 20/25 3rd - Tyler McQuiller - Central (South Amboy) -= 19/25

Girls 12-13 1st - Reagan Gravatt - Northwest (Lake Hopatcong) 19/25 2nd - Raya Bhatt - Northeast (Paramus) - 18/25 and 6/10 in 2OT 3rd - Camryn Begley - Southeast (Manasquan) 18/25 and 5/10 in 2OT

Boys 12-13 1st - Joshua Oliver - Northeast (Dumont) - 19/25 2nd - Sebastian Ma - Northwest (Parsippany) - 18/25 3rd - Charles Belinsky IV - Southwest (Mount Holly) - 17/25 and 17/20 in 4 OTs 4th - Brayden Moreno - North (Passaic Valley) - 17/25 and 16/20 in 4 OTs

My thanks to our volunteers & advisors for supporting the program & South Plainfield Lodge for their hospitality after the shoot.

Committee Chairs – 2024-2025

Accident Prevention	Robert Mikesh	(908) 644-0526
Americanism	Vern Ainslie	(908) 399-2144
Army of Hope	Bruce Totten, PDD	(908) 246-0526
Auditing & Accounting	Robert Paolella	(908) 303-7855
Better Parades	Gregory Fritz	(908) 386-0407
	Patti DeLuca	(908) 528-7328
Building & Grounds	Robert Mikesh	(908) 644-0526
Communications	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522
Community Affairs	Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Community Activities.	Eric Anderson	(908) 439-2532
Drug Awareness	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Elks Tale Newsletter	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522
	Barbara Purcell	(609) 915-2324
Fraternal Committee	Lee Trautman, PDD	(908) 996-6724
Fundraising	John "Gemini" Lombardi	(908) 295-4345
Government Relations	Eric Anderson	(908) 439-2532
Hoop/Soccer Shoot	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
House Committee	William K. Miller, Jr.	(908) 303-1322
	Tiffany Quick	(908) 788-6737
Lodge Activities	John Lombardi	(908) 295-4345
	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522
Long Range Planning	Bruce Totten, PDD	(908) 246-0526
Mediator	Lee Trautman, PDD	(908) 996-6724
Membership	Barry Sheppard, PER	(908) 963-7835
National Foundation	Cynthia Orsi- Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
National Service	Gregory Fritz	(908) 386-0407
PER Association	Kenneth Whalen, PER	(908) 391-7290
Public Relations	Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Scholarships	Dr. Jeff Anderson	(908) 439-2532
Sickness and Distress	Gregory Fritz	(908) 386-0407
Social/Community Welfare	TBD	
Special Needs Children	Suzanne Lucas	(609) 309-5238
Standing Relief	Lodge Officers	
Youth Activities	Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl	(732) 966-5704
Website	Andrea Kennedy	(908) 581-2522

If you would like to participate in any of these committees, please contact the Chairperson. The lodge can always use an extra hand in accomplishing our goal of supporting the community and it will make it easier for that committee to succeed.

If you wish to become a Chairperson, then contact the Exalted Ruler for more information.

March 2025

THE AUXILIARY OF LODGE #1928

What's Happening!

February 2025

February is here and we are inching towards spring. The Auxiliary kept busy during the month of January with the January 15th Fireside Roast Beef Dinner and on January 18th running the Snack Shack for the Frag Fest. Want to take a guess on what that is?

At the February 11th meeting, a bylaws committee was formed to go over and tweak the bylaws. Some of the items that will be looked at are ... How many members and officers need to make a quorum, How many members and officers for a nominating committee and to be able to zoom meetings.

The Auxiliary also discussed the members who are up for life membership. These members are Mary Cestra, Julie Quiram, Suzanne Lucas, Ingrid Kirshner, Deborah Keyes, Laura Karnoff, Kim Graper, Kathy Graper, Mary Schomp and Patti DeLuca.

It's that time of year that the Auxiliary is looking for new officers. We are putting together a nominating committee that will be talking with members about being an Auxiliary officer for the 2025-2026 year. The offices available are President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. If anyone is interested please let Patti DeLuca know.

At the February meeting the Auxiliary also went over the available shows and the most popular ones were:

- 1. Pippin at the Music Mountain Theater in Lambertville. The show date is Sunday, May 18th at 3pm. Tickets are \$35. Ticket cost must be in by the March 11th meeting to reserve a seating.
- Queens of Country Music at Hunterdon Hills Playhouse. Show date is Saturday, June 28th. Doors
 open at 11am. Tickets are \$88 and include a luncheon menu. Ticket cost must be in at the April 8th
 meeting to reserve a seating.

The Auxiliary will no longer be buying tickets ahead of time with out full payment in advance by members and guests.

The St. Valentine's Feast on Friday, February 14th was a great success. There was around 50 guests who enjoyed the dinner entrees with friends and family. A shout out goes to Sergeantsville Grain & Feed, Saunder's Jewelry, The Gilded Lily Florist, Flemington Floral and Andi Kennedy for the donations of items for the Tricky Tray. The lucky 50/50 winner was new lodge member Nancy Pamula who received \$640.00. Congratulations!!

And again, I want to send a great big THANK YOU to PER Greg Bodnar for spending his day in the kitchen watching over the prime rib and to Suzanne, Pam and Janice for all the help during the evening.

The Auxiliary's next event is the St. Patrick's Dinner. Don't miss it! Make sure you get your RSVPs in!

Continued on next page...

March 2025

THE AUXILIARY OF LODGE #1928

(continued from previous page)

St. Patrick's Dinner Friday, March 14, 2025 at 6pm.

Corned Beef & Cabbage ... \$30 Fish & Chips ... \$25 Includes ... Soup, Salad, Potato, Vegetable, Dessert, Coffee and Tea Music & Pipers

This event is open to the public so invite your, family, friends and neighbors. Permit # 131017

The Birthday girl of the month is Stacie Gowell. Happy Birthday!

The next Bingo is March 6th. Doors open at 6pm and games start at 7:30 pm. Snack bar open at 6pm.

The next Auxiliary meeting is March 11th at 7:15 pm. Hope we see you then!

Happy Valentine's to all!

February trivia ... A frag is a baby coral. So a frag fest is all about baby coral for fish tanks. Who knew?

President, The Auxiliary of Lodge #1928

SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN COMMITTEE

We apologize to everyone for having to cancel the first revival of the Last Sunday of the Month Breakfast but due to the current egg prices, we needed to postpone until March 30th if things are better with the hens. Since our last breakfast endeavor the cost of eggs was \$2.99 and now the average is \$8.79 a dozen. Watch the email notifications for our current plans.

We received an inquiry from Miranda Jensen for consideration of assistance for social skills therapy for her special needs twins Julian & Kieran. We have supported the twins several years now and were glad to award them \$3,000 for 2025.

The New Jersey Elks Special Children's Committee is holding their Kenneth V. Cantoli/Arthur Mayer Jr Memorial Golf Outing on Monday, April 28th at Bunker Hill Golf Course. The cost to play is \$140 per golfer with registration @ 7:30am with a 9am Shotgun Start. For more information give me a call @ (609) 309-5238. West Central District Special Needs Committee is tentatively planning a Lodge Hop for March 29th - details will be posted on the website and/or email notifications.

> Until next time, Suzanne Lucas Special Needs Children Committee Auxiliary Treasurer

YOUTH ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

Report from State Youth Meeting 2/17 meeting in Metuchen

March is "Read Across America." All lodges should be either completing their reading programs or planning the next one. #1928 should discuss in March a forward plan.

Student of the month is in the last half of school year and will be completing with student of the year in May. #1928 has not previously participated in this Grand Lodge program. We have presented information to our school system with hopes for the next school year. Information on this can be found on Elks.Org.

Batters Up-Local Lodge Event to be determined in April.

Batters Up State Invitational is set for August 16 at 8:30am in Howell. All are welcome to attend.

Tee It Up golf event will be posting place and dates in April. It needs better marking in communities!

The first of every month every lodge should be reporting activities electronically to the state committee. Next Meeting is in Metuchen on April 21 at 7pm.

Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl Chair, Youth Activities Committee (732) 966-5704 (cell) ElksEvents.info@gmail.com (email)

The Grill Room





The Lodge's Grill Room is a gathering place for members and their guests/family members, a place to socialize and enjoy friendships.

Come in to watch sporting events, such as NASCAR, Golf, Basketball, Football and more.

It's open every day (except Monday) for you and your guests' enjoyment.

Your hosts in the Grill Room are:

Annie Carlos Donna Gayle Greg Shirl Sue Tiffany







Hello Everyone,

Well, the price of eggs is crazy down here. They are blaming it on the bird flu. Do you know the difference between bird flu and swine flu? One requires tweetment and the other requires oinkment.

At work the other day a lady asked me if I would help her get a job as a professional scrabble player. I put in a good word for her. I recently got a job as a bus driver. Ten people called me a terrible bus driver. I don't know where they get off! I phoned my work this morning and said, "Sorry Boss, I can't come in today. I have a wee cough." He said, "You have a wee cough?" I said, "Really? Thanks Boss, see you next week."

Recently I accidently drank a full bottle of invisible ink. I was at the hospital all night waiting to be seen. By the way, how do you know when you are out of invisible ink?

I just read that cowboys would hang a lantern on their saddles at night so they could find the trail when they were far from home. I guess this was early saddle light navigation. Also, one cowboy dreamed of adopting a dachshund. He wanted to get a long little doggie.

Did you ever wonder why the United States is the only country where a housewife hires a woman to clean her house so that she can do volunteer work at the day care, where the cleaning lady leaves her child?

That's it for this month, but one last thought. Why do people yell "Head's Up" when you should actually duck?

Keep on smiling until next time!

PDD Rich

March 2025





DONATING BLOOD SAVES LIVES!

and it's easy to do at the Flemington Elks Lodge located at 165 Route 31South, Flemington, NJ

FOR DATES AND TIMES VISIT www.FlemingtonElks.com

Walk-Ins are welcome but Appointments are preferred. Schedule your donation through: NY Blood Center Call: (800) 933-2566 or

Visit: www.NYBC.org

Questions: George Upton, PER (908-612-2167)



Appointments are accepted* as well as walk-ins.

All safety protocols are enforced.

Check our Facebook page for updates and any changes that may occur.

*You can schedule through the NY Blood Center by calling 800-933-2566 or visiting <u>www.nybc.org</u>.

BLOOD DRIVES UPCOMING DATES:

- Monday 3/3 & 3/17
- Friday 4/4 & Monday 4/21
- Monday 5/5 & 5/19
- Monday 6/2, 6/16, 6/23 & 6/30
- Monday 7/14 & 7/21
- Monday 8/4, 8/18 & 8/25
- Monday 9/8, 9/15 & 9/22
- Monday 10/6 & 10/20
- Monday 11/3

Why Donate Blood?



- ✓ Save multiple lives:
 - It's needed every two seconds in the U.S.
 - It helps patients with cancer, blood disorders, traumatic injuries and more
 - A single unit of blood can be separated into four components that can help save multiple lives

✓ Benefits to you:

- A free health screening
- A healthier heart and vascular system... donating at least 1x a year can help improve your blood flow and reduce arterial blockages
- Lowers your risk of cancer
- Balances your iron levels
- Added bonuses:
 - Burn calories... your body burns ~500 calories to replace the blood that was removed, so it's like burning calories without doing anything
 - A free snack for you after donating

Blood and platelets can't be manufactured, so they can only come from volunteer donors but only 3% of age-eligible people donate blood yearly, so it's important that people who meet the requirements donate as often as possible.



Birthdays

Best Wishes to our members who are celebrating their special day this month!

- 1.
- 2. Christopher Unger
- 3. Paul Kuhl, Jr.
- 4.
- 5. Michael Stager
- 6. Christopher Grimes; William Lesiak
- 7. Lillian Ibach; Robert J. Serridge, Jr.
- 8. Allen Rake; Erin Wade
- 9. Jerry Trstensky, Jr.
- 10. Robert Tronolone; William S. Martin
- 11. Joseph Kovi
- 12. Cynthia Orsi-Kuhl; Judy Gold
- 13. Philip DeStefano
- 14.
- 15. Joseph Gherardi
- 16. Adam Papa; Todd B. Hunt; Michael Snisc
- 17. Patricia Cunningham
- 18. Patrick McDonough
- 19. Carl Ondrak; John Slaughter; Donna Agulis
- 20.
- 21.
- 22. Ralph Alexander
- 23. Gary Strouse; Shirley Lewis; Michael Lucash
- 24.
- 25.
- 26.
- 27. Richard Vail
- 28. Peter Nemec
- 29. Paul Blodgett
- 30.
- 31.







Johnny's Corner





So what is the origin of using the word "buck" as a term for a dollar?

Assuming that you are anxious to know, here's the answer:

The theory is that way back in the 1700s, animal skins, especially deer skins, were used as currency to buy goods. The skin of a buck or male deer was the most common and popular form of payment. After currency became the common method of payment, the term "buck" remained as a slang term for a dollar.

In light of that I feel it would be more appropriate that a deer is portrayed on a one dollar bill. That's my two cents anyhow. Pictured here are a couple of bucks, one adult and one juvenile.

I'm guessing that the juvenile is really only worth half-a-buck!



Frank Grasso Photography, Milage Messenger, January 2025

John Lombardi Trustee, 5th Year

March 2025

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Our Sponsors

We can't thank our sponsors enough. Please support these amazing organizations.



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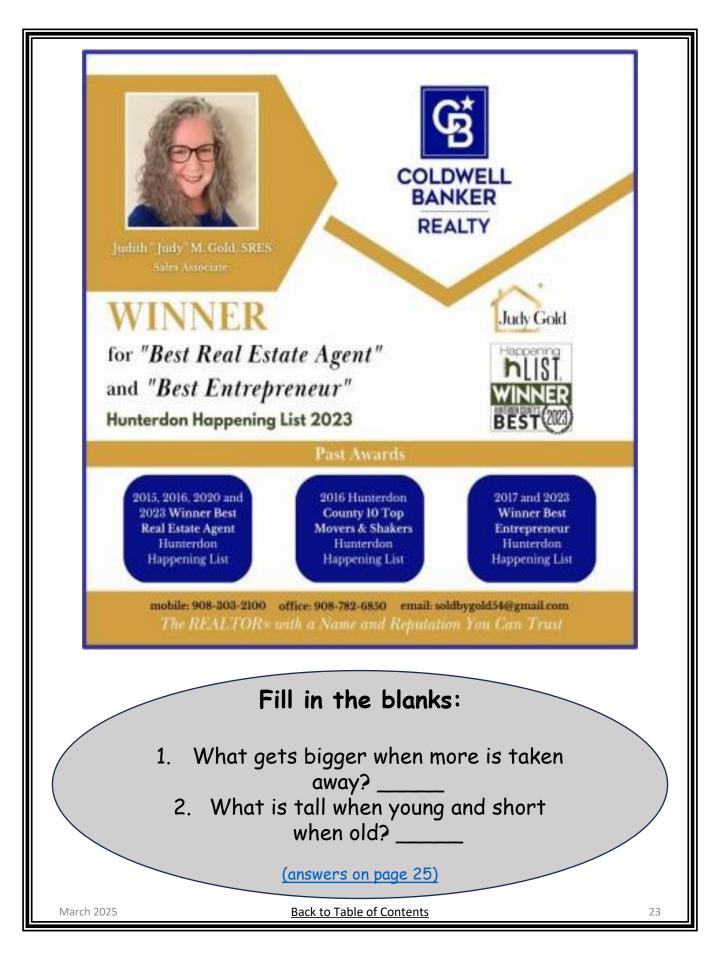








March 2025







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Answers to "Fill in the blanks": 1. A hole 2. A candle

TRADITIONAL VALUES, MODERN CONCEPTS, GOLDEN RULE SERVICE

At Your Service. At Your Side.

When a death occurs, your family can depend on us.

We devote ourselves to your family's needs before, during, and after any service you plan with us.

What makes us different:

- Educational seminars
- Grief support dog
- Valet parking
- Live funeral webcasting
- · Fully ADA compliant facility

We are committed to treating your family exactly how we would like our own loved ones to be treated.

That's our promise to you.



Daniel James "D.J." Wright Owner, Executive Director N.J.Lic. No. 4537

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