

Spring 2010

www.holyokelibrary.org

What's Happening With the Building Campaign?

Since August, Debra Vega, Administrative Assistant to the Next Hundred Years HPL capital campaign has been on the phone or at her computer, on the second floor of the library, busily engaged in coordinating the team of professionals and volunteers who are diligently working toward bringing a 21st century library facility to Holyoke.

As many of you know, the process of getting to the point where we can actually begin to raise funds toward updating the library has been a long one. It began way back in 1996 when a long-range plan and needs assessment was developed, with the help of the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners (MBLC), outlining what many had long known were serious problems with the current facility. What followed were over ten years of professional evaluations and planning that resulted, in 2008, in a \$4.4 million provisional grant from the MBLC toward a complete building renovation/reconstruction and expansion, estimated to cost between \$14 and \$17 million. That new facility will increase the building from the current 25,000 square feet (nearly 40% of which is now seriously compromised and unusable due to deterioration) to the 37,415 square feet required by the MBLC, for a city of our size, to meet our needs for the next 20 years.

Some of the Differences in Your Upgraded Library

	Current Space	Future Building
Children's Area	1,260 sq. ft.	5,678 sq. ft.
Young Adult Section	10 sq. ft.	1,074 sq. ft.
Computer Area	325 sq. ft.	1,100 sq. ft.
Number of Computers	10	50
Book Stack Space	2,600 sq. ft.	8,523 sq. ft.
Audio/Visual	0 sq. ft.	920 sq. ft.
Staff Areas	280 sq. ft.	410 sq. ft.
Community Space	1,200 sq. ft.	2,425 sq. ft.

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Need for Physical Libraries

Many questioned the need for physical libraries in the age of digital information. But all the evidence gathered in studies of the library's facility needs has led us to conclude that the library, as a source, will be even more highly valued in the future than it is today.

Our new and expanded library will do much more than store books. It will provide an inviting environment in which people and ideas in all formats can come together. This environment will foster intellectual exploration, the pursuit of knowledge and self improvement.

We are social creatures and we crave human interaction. Our library will be the social and intellectual anchor of our community, essential gathering place that will never be replaced by Internet chat rooms, web sites or other "virtual" environments.

In designing the main library expansion, library officials and architects will consult with representatives of other proposed downtown development projects to share information and ensure that the library's plans would complement and enhance other improvements in the downtown area. As word about the library's plans spread through the community, there will be a growing awareness of the potential of the main library expansion to excite the imagination of the community and spark a renaissance for the city's downtown. This action is certain to raise real estate values in the surrounding neighborhood.

1. Why do we need to upgrade the existing library?

We are busy, and crowded! We are behind the times in terms of equipment and facility in comparison to America's new libraries and in terms of the services that Holyoke citizens need and demand. Our building, after 107 years of use, is tired and shows it.

2. Why do we need more space?

With approximately 25,000 square feet on three floors, about 11,000 sq. ft. is usable public access space. The building originally constructed in 1902, has many problems, challenges and is inadequate to serve the many needs and requests of a diverse community of almost 40,000.

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Holyoke History Room

Our Staff

Library Director
Maria Pagan

Assistant Director
Carla Wessels

Reference Librarians
Michael Baron & Cheryl Livengood

Computer Coordinator
Jose Borges

Interim Children's Librarian
Jason LeFebvre

Historian/Archivist
Penni Martorell

Financial Manager
Luisa Neves-Jarrett

Financial Manager Assistants
Millie Brinkman & Florence Stefancik

Technical Service/Acquisition
Linda Kurowski

Technical Service/Cataloger
Martha Oliver

Library Assistants/ILL
Lucy Diaz & Anne Gorman

ILL
Wanda Myslek

Evening Library Assistant
Mayra Rivera

Custodians
Mark Gadbury & Tom Keeler

Board of Directors 2009-2010

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Tom Schwab

Newsletter Editor

Walter Haggerty

Penni Martorell, the library's History Room Archivist/Curator recently returned to Mount Holyoke College, her alma mater, as a guest lecturer in Professor Tony Lee's WHAT IS A PHOTOGRAPH? art history course.

Penni's presentation, PHOTOGRAPHS IN ARCHIVES, introduced the ideas of archival process; how to read and how to research photographs; types of photographic images; condition and preservation issues; legal and ownership topics; determining provenance and authenticity; and privacy and copyright issues.

The presentation was highlighted by a generous selection of historic photos from the Holyoke History Collection. The fifty students in attendance were given the opportunity to examine various types of photographs from the Holyoke History Room, including glass plate negatives, daguerreotypes, carte de visites, silver gelatin prints and a photo album.

The Holyoke History Room has a rich, unique collection of historic prints made from negatives that date back to the 1880s. The Milan Warner collection includes over 300 glass plate negatives that Mr. Warner created during that period documenting Holyoke's most prosperous years. Contact prints have been made from these negatives and may be viewed along with many other historic Holyoke photos at the Holyoke History Room in its temporary location at Holyoke Community College.



Smith Students Explore History Archive

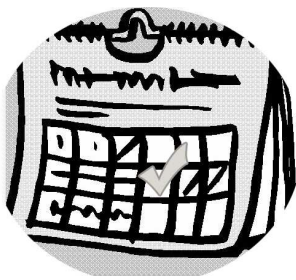
In mid-January, Archivist Penni Martorell hosted a group of Smith College students in the first of several local area archival field trips which they will be making. As part of their participation in a new undergraduate archival studies concentration, the EXPLORING ARCHIVES class was given a behind-the-scenes look at the roles archives play in understanding the past. Through their visits the students will examine how different factors, such as constituent users, available funding, and institutional mission shape different repositories.

Visiting the Holyoke History Room allowed the students to get a feel for the resources that a public institution has available, and introduced them to what patrons may be looking for. They also gained an appreciation of issues that archivists face regularly in terms of housing and preservation expenses, appraisal and acquisition decisions, privacy issues and collection and de-accessioning policies.

Maria Goodwin, Project Archivist in Smith College's Special Collection and Exploring the Archives program commented, "Thanks for kicking off field trip season in style. The students were really excited by the visit."



Save The Date!



Sunday, May 2, 2010 at 6:30 PM is the time and Holyoke Mall at Ingleside is the place for the major social event of the season – the Nineteenth Annual Gourmet Dinner and Live and Silent Auctions to benefit the Children of the Pioneer Valley.

This gala evening supports many of the important programs and activities of the Therapeutic Equestrian Center, Holyoke Rows. The Children's Museum of Holyoke and the Holyoke Public Library.

The evening includes a spectacular gourmet buffet showcasing the specialties of the master chefs from the crème de la crème of the Pioneer Valley's most popular upscale restaurants. A cash bar will be available, with proceeds contributed to the various children's agencies. Music throughout the evening will be provided by the Eric Bascom Ensemble. Dave Madsen of WGGB, "the voice of the Pioneer Valley," will again serve as master of ceremonies for the event, together with George Lewis, who will serve as auctioneer.

As is customary, there will be a wide selection of valuable items, travel opportunities and unique art works included in both the live and silent auctions. Rory Casey, Chairman of the Friends of the Holyoke Public Library Future Begins Here Committee, has reported that reservation forms are available at the library or reservations can be made by calling the library at 413-322-5640, or any of the other participating organizations.



Children's Activities

With the triple threat of snow, ice and below freezing temperatures limiting the possibilities of the library's youngest patrons from attending preschool story hours throughout the winter, Jason LeFebvre, our Interim Children's Librarian, and Library Director, Maria G Pagan, devised a plan that is bringing story hours to the children.



Starting in January, Jennifer Couturier, our popular storyteller, revised her schedule in order to bring "Imagination Celebrations" direct to the children at various day-care centers throughout the city. Each

"Imagination Celebration" follows a specific theme with stories and songs selected to inform as well as entertain the children. "Miss Jennifer" incorporates ample opportunity for participation by the children within the context of each program, creating smooth and natural interaction by the children with her and with one another.

Story hours were held at the Valley Opportunity Center's Churchill Homes Daycare on High Street, St. Paul's Nursery School on Appleton Street, the V.O.C. Churchill Homes Daycare on Barrett Avenue, the Metcalf Preschool on Northampton Street and the Mount Marie Preschool. The story hour outreach program has been so popular and successful, that it has been decided to extend the rotation to various sites through June.

Jason has established several after-school programs for youngsters of various ages, with Lego Building every Monday from 4:00 PM to 5:00PM. That program is open to children from Grades K through 6. Tuesdays from 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM the library hosts Craft Time, with a different project for each week. Craft programs are open to children at all age levels and material for each project is provided by the library. Registration is recommended to make certain that there is enough space and material for all who want to participate. Wednesdays, from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM, the Chess and Checkers Club meets, giving enthusiasts of either game an opportunity to compete with one another or for newcomers to learn a new game. All skill levels and ages are welcome.



For additional information about any of these programs, or to register to participate, please contact Jason at 413-322-5635, between 3:30 PM and 7:30 PM, Monday through Thursday.

Building Campaign Continued from page 1

With the promise of the State Grant in hand, the Library Board hired Financial Development Agency of Amherst to determine how much money the community could be expected to contribute to the building and to help secure the rest of the funds needed to complete the project. A study was conducted, in which local residents were interviewed to determine the feasibility of a capital campaign. Countless other interviews and public forums were conducted to get feedback, not only on what the public wants to see in the updated facility, but also how people feel about the job the library is doing currently.

What resulted has been an outpouring of encouragement and support plus the formation of a new community group, Las Familias Holyokers Unidas por Nuestra Biblioteca (Holyoke Families United for Our Library) which has been working with the Friends of the Holyoke Public Library to raise public awareness of the need for an updated library facility in Holyoke.

The petition that the Friends and Familias Unidas have been circulating has gathered more than 2,500 signatures – nearly 85% toward the 3,000 signature goal. The Friends have organized several popular tours, conducted by Library Board member, Tom Ripa, for people interested in seeing the 108 year-old building first-hand, from top to bottom. These tours have been highly informative in acquainting patrons, Council members and the general public with the many problems and deficiencies of the present structure.

Following an in-depth search and review of qualifications of several project management firms, the Building Committee has selected Diversified Project Management of Newton, Massachusetts as the Owner's Project Manager to oversee the process of hiring an architect and developing final plans for what we anticipate being part - renovation of the existing library, and part being entirely new construction of an addition.

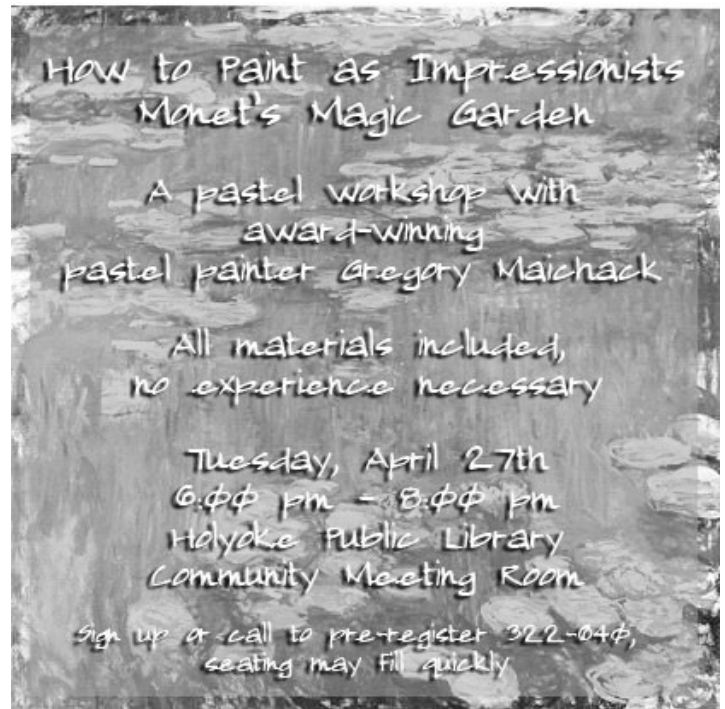
The Board of Directors of the library and members of the Library Building Committee have met with the Finance Committee of the Holyoke City Council to request their support of the library's renovation and expansion project. Following the library's response to questions of the Finance Committee, it is expected that the proposal will next be submitted to the full City Council for their consideration and approval. In a public/private partnership that will be at least a 1:1 match, the library has requested that the city bond for enough funding to ensure that we don't lose the MBLC grant, while promising that we will raise at least as much money as the city is investing in the library project.

As soon as the city gives its approval, the library can sign a contract with the MBLC and the project for a new library for Holyoke will be off and running.

Many members of the public have inquired as to when

they will be asked to contribute to what is expected to be a \$2.5 million capital campaign. The answer is that you will, of course, be asked to participate, but probably not just yet. We are currently in what is known as the "silent phase" of the campaign during which we work to raise money from our inner circle of board members and trustees as well as approach foundations for larger grants. The good news is that we've only just begun this process and we've already raised close to \$200,000 (which includes a \$100,000 pledge from the Friends.)

With some luck by this time next year we will officially launch the public phase of the campaign at which point we will be asking everyone to contribute toward what will be a transformative new public facility serving all of Holyoke! We will also be asking for your help in other ways as well. We will be holding public forums on the historic significance of the building as well as on design proposals for the updated facility. We sincerely hope that you will take part. Naturally, there are always projects for volunteers through the Friends and the Familias Unidas groups. If you want to know more about how you can help, please call the campaign office at 322-5636. Debra Vega will be happy to answer your questions.



This program is supported in part by a grant from the Holyoke Cultural Council, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Center

Friends Embark On Busy Year, Plan for Annual Meeting

The first quarterly meeting of the Friends of the Holyoke Public Library marked a fresh start for the organization. Among items covered during the meeting were midterm changes in the Treasurer and Secretary positions. Wanda Myslek, who has served as Treasurer for many years, wanted to step down, and was succeeded by Rory Casey. Bruce Yarber, having completed six years as Secretary, turned those duties over to Deborah Gold-Avery. Continuing in their current positions are; Timothy Damon—President, Frank Wotton—Vice President, and Sandra Ward—Corresponding Secretary.

Members approved an updated Mission Statement, which now reads: “The mission of the Friends of the Holyoke Public Library is to support quality library service in the community through fundraising, volunteerism, advocacy for library programs at local, state, and national levels, and close cooperation with the Library Director of the Holyoke Public Library regarding current and long-term projects”.

Other subjects addressed included the proposed renovation and expansion of the library. A proposal for tours of the building to acquaint members of the Friends and other interested parties with the problems and deficiencies that have

developed due to the age of the building, was approved. Plans were also reviewed for the Friends role in this year’s Future Begins Here fundraiser at Holyoke Mall. Rory Casey agreed to serve as Friends’ Chairperson for this event. The Friends sponsored Providence House Book Club continues its outreach program of providing service monthly, directly to the residents.

At an organizational meeting held in March, the Friends initiated plans for this year’s annual meeting which will take place on Thursday, May 20, at the library. In addition to the traditional business meeting, the Friends have invited Dr. Timothy Black, Associate Professor of Sociology at the University of Hartford, to read and discuss excerpts from his recently completed, and highly praised book, “When A Heart Turns Rock Solid,” which follows the lives of three Puerto Rican brothers from Springfield, on and off the streets. The story covers an 18 year study which chronicles the lives of the brothers and the difficulties of growing up poor and Puerto Rican in an inner city atmosphere. “When a Heart Turns Rock Solid” has won high praise throughout the country and was selected as a Post Best Book by the Washington Post.

Membership in the Friends is open to anyone who may be interested in adding their support to the library. The annual meeting of the group is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, at 5:30 PM in the Community Room of the library.

Commemorative Birthday Gifts Honor Community Service Volunteer

Several contributions have been received recently by the Holyoke Public Library in recognition of the 95th birthday of one of Holyoke’s most dedicated community service volunteers, Mrs. Alice Childs Smith.

The birthday contributions were made by several members of the Childs family, as well as friend of Mrs. Smith and her family. A Holyoke native, Mrs. Smith was married to Benjamin W. Childs, a lieutenant in the U. S. Naval Reserve, in 1943. Throughout her life she was an active supporter of Holyoke’s various community organizations.

Mrs. Childs first became involved in public service projects in 1935 as a volunteer at Holyoke Hospital, working in the coffee shop, chairing the hospital’s “Follies” fund-raiser and also participating in the production as a member of the chorus. When Mrs. Smith’s first husband, Benjamin, died in 1981, she completed his term as a hospital board member, after which she served a full term on her own. In 1993 she was named an Honorary Chairperson of the hospital’s Centennial celebration. In 1993,

she married the late William Smith of Longmeadow, former president of Holyoke Savings Bank.

In addition to Holyoke Hospital and Holyoke Public Library, Mrs. Smith served as an active volunteer of many additional Holyoke organizations. Among them have been the Girl Scouts of America, the Child Guidance Clinic, which grew into the River Valley Counseling Center. Holyoke Junior League, the Holyoke Y.W.C.A., and local campaigns of the American Red Cross and the Community Chest.



In 1976 Mrs. Smith was honored for her many years of dedicated community service as she was named the recipient of the Dwight Distinguished Service to Holyoke Award, the 10th local woman to be so honored. Mrs. Smith’s daughters, Susan Childs Merrick, Katherine Childs Jones and Eliza Childs Melton, have continued their mother’s dedication to, and support of, community service, including their ongoing support of the Holyoke Public Library.

Mrs. Smith is a graduate of Vassar College and continued her relationship with Vassar as a member of the Alumni Association and in travelling with alumni groups to China, Russia and other nations.

Imagine What Our Most Powerful Group with the Most Powerful Weapon Can Do

Children are one third of our population and all of our future. **Children are the most powerful group in our society.** They know what they want the minute they see it. Children,



whether they are our own, or not, are so important to our learning. For them, life is about learning and sharing what they learned - but it's also about laughter, having fun, experiencing joy and most importantly being true to yourself. Just as our own childhood

shaped and molded a lot of the person we are today, we can also learn a lot about ourselves from observing the children in our lives now.

Angela Schwindt said, *"While we try to teach our children all about life, our children teach us what life is all about"*. Children are our heroes/heroines. With great pride they will share with you what they have learned in school. They can teach us all about recycling, and the importance of eating right; with great concerns will encourage us to stop smoking, stay healthy to keep up with them, even save us from house fires.

"Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world." These are the wise words of former South Africa President, Nelson Mandela when celebrating his 91st birthday.

Now imagine what an educated child can do. The good news is that, in the long term, with guidance, children become productive, well-adjusted, and successful adults. Frederick Douglass said, *"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men"*. Here at the Holyoke Public Library, through our library services, resources and programs, we try to do both...build strong children and provide the opportunity for broken men to repair themselves.

At Holyoke Public Library, we promote lifelong learning that support people of all ages and from all walks of life to explore, discover and learn on their own terms and in their own time through access to information, ideas and learning opportunities.

We provide resources that inspire, enrich, and entertain by building virtual and in-library collections that meet the needs and interests of the community. We provide easy access to books and other materials that expand people's horizons and create opportunities for personal growth.

We promote reading by celebrating books and reading while

introducing library collections and book related programs and services to users of all ages. We offer resources and promote literacy skills for people of all ages. We emphasize early literacy through a wide variety of programs and services to families and expanded collaborations with community agencies serving preschoolers, children and their families.

We create welcoming library spaces. We are a virtual "public commons" – an area that serves as a neighborhood crossroads and gathering places where a diverse Holyoke community connects and shares. We provide opportunities for individual pursuits, and meeting spaces for learning programs and group interaction for people of all ages.



We build community. We celebrate Holyoke's cultural heritage and history, and inspire its future. We encourage civic engagement by offering people multiple opportunities to connect and interact, both virtually and in real time and space. Holyoke Public Library builds partnerships with other community agencies and groups to further Holyoke's goals and meets the needs of its citizens. We promote awareness of the Library's resources, collections, programs and services.

We pursue continuous organizational development and renewal. At this library, we build and sustain an organization that emphasizes ongoing staff development, celebrates diversity, welcomes change and pursues excellence. We make every effort to ensure that cost effective and efficiently managed services provide demonstrable value to the community

Children's Activities

Lego Building

Grades K—6

Mondays 4:00 pm—6:00 pm

Craft Time

All ages

Tuesdays 4:00 pm—7:00 pm

Chess & Checkers Club

All levels

Wednesdays 5:00 pm—6:00 pm

3. What will the expanded library be able to offer?

The Library building program addresses the future space needs of Holyoke Public Library, a community destination place for reading and library resources as well as an exciting place for learning experiences and activities that enrich the lives of all in the community. The plan is for a 37,415 square foot building including the remodeling of a portion of the present building.

The plans will bring the existing library into the 21st century, provide a comfortable place for life-long learning, services and programs to assist in improving the quality of life of our citizens..

Highlights

- Our new **Holyoke Public Library** is certain to be a **Destination Library** with copies of best sellers and high demand AV materials in an area that is designed to look and feel like a bookstore.

- **The Children's Area** will emphasize "**Getting Ready to Succeed.**" This will be a cheerful, open space with three distinct areas that address the interests of reading levels of various age groups.

- Family Learning Place** - a place designed for the youngest child to play and learn with picture books and developmentally appropriate toys and materials. This area supports the interaction between children and their parents/caregiver.

- Early School Age** - space to address the needs of children, Kindergarten to Third grade. The area supports the joys of reading, and assists in improving reading skills with materials to meet the interests of this age group.

- Older Children's** collection will address the needs of children, ages seven through twelve. The area strives to keep children engaged with books and support independent learning.

In addition, the Children's Area will support a parent/caregiver collection and **program room**. A young child's rest room will be in proximity of this area.

- **Teen Area** designed to support personal interest, popular reading materials, and homework assistance. The teen area would be designed to meet the tastes and styles of the teenagers.

- "**Living Room**" areas with comfortable seating arrangements scattered throughout the library

- **Self Service** for customer convenience

- Reserves

- Self-check out of library materials

- 24/7 access to book return

- **High Speed Internet and Wireless Access** throughout the building

- Over 40 computer stations with access to the Internet, the library's catalog and databases, and software for word processing and spreadsheets.

- Customers can use laptops or other personal devices with wireless cards or plug into ports scattered throughout the library.

- A **computer training lab**. Staff would present classes for the community. When not in use for training, the computers would be available for use by the public.

- **Meeting Rooms** for community groups and organizations with wireless access and kitchen facilities:

- A large meeting room accommodating 200 people or divided for smaller groups, with state-of-the-art technology.

- A small group conference room for 16 people

- Three quiet study rooms for individuals, small groups and literacy tutors.

When complete, the excitingly new, 21st Century Holyoke Public Library will be everything that the citizens of Holyoke have needed and waited for all these years. From the very youngest patrons coming to their first story hour, to the senior citizen who comes to view pictures of grandchildren on our computers, this will be the library that meets the needs of every age and every interest. It will be the answer to our prayers and our dream come true, because together we all made it happen.



Did You Know?

Museum Passes Available

Holyoke Children's Museum—Up to 6 guests free

Springfield Museums—Pass good for up to \$30 for admission to all 5 museums (Springfield Science Museum, George Walter Vincent Smith Art Museum, Michele and Donald D'Amour Museum of Fine Arts, Connecticut Valley Historical Museum, and Museum of Springfield History)

Historic Deerfield—2 passes admit 4 each

Holyoke Merry-Go-Round—2 free rides per person for up to 5 individuals

National Blank Book Story

The library is the recipient of a recently published history of Holyoke's National Blank Book Company, received through the courtesy of the author, Richard P. Towne, Jr.. Mr. Towne is a fourth generation descendant of Frank B. Towne, founder of the firm.

Entitled "Nothing But Our Best," followed by a subtitle, "A Holyoke Industrialist & His Company," the book chronicles the history of the company from its founding in 1891, through to its merger with the Dennison Manufacturing Company in 1967.

Mr. Towne's book touches on the extended history of the Towne family, including their role in the social and cultural life of Holyoke as the reader is invited into the family's home on Sycamore Street for special occasions. Mr. Towne also relates his own experiences at "The National," including his introduction to the family business, where he was, quite literally, given the opportunity to "start at the bottom," learning the manufacturing process, well before being assigned to even a low level management position.



The National Blank Book Company, Holyoke

Long-time Holyoke residents will find many familiar names as they traverse the history of this prominent past contributor to Holyoke's economic history. "Nothing But Our Best" is a welcome addition to the library collection tracing the city's industrial history.



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