

The Willow Word

A Publication of the Willow Glen United Methodist Church

God's Family Growing Through Caring, Sharing and Serving

Fourth Annual WGUMC Yard Sale:

What You Need to Know

Saturday, September 10, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Pastor Rebecca is back and in charge of the yard sale this year. So please clean out your closets, garages and storage units! Even if you don't have items to donate, we need you to get the word out to friends, neighbors and family members.

Donations: All donations should be clean, in good repair and in working order. We are looking for baby and children's clothes, electronics, furniture, sporting goods, books, garden & patio items, toys, costumes, tools, holiday decorations, collectables, clothes, jewelry, kitchen items, linens, office equipment – and everything else. No need to price your items in advance.

Drop-Off Days: Like last year, we will have two drop-off days on Thursday, September 8, between noon and 7 p.m., and Friday, September 9, between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. If you need help transporting large items, please contact Brian Ganz at specialprojects@comcast.net, or missionpossible@WGUMC.org.

Volunteers: We still need lots of volunteers for drop-off days, set up, cashiering, security and more. Please contact Jan Leonard if you can help!

Supplies: We need canopies, boxes, bags and more. If you own a pop-up canopy tent, please bring it to the church, marked with your name, on Thursday or Friday. Everyone, please bring boxes and paper/plastic bags to pack up purchases for our customers. We also need hanging racks and hangers!

Bake Sale: Please bring homemade bread or goodies for our bake sale. Contact Rosa Soler for more information.

Cash Donations: Don't have anything to donate? Can't volunteer on September 10? We are happy to take cash donations of any size! You can donate via text or on our website (www.wgumc.org), or contact Ingrid Quigley for assistance.

Change the World Barbecue

Saturday, October 1, at Noon on the Woodhaven Patio

On Saturday, October 1, we will welcome our houseless friends and neighbors here in San Jose to join us for a barbecue on the Woodhaven patio. In addition to wonderful food and gracious hospitality, we will also provide a free necessities store filled with donated toiletries and clothing, and have the Dignity on Wheels truck on site with shower and laundry facilities. There will be plenty of time to gather around the table and hear one another's stories, enjoy some creative activities and make community connections. This is a welcoming event for our entire congregation. Please sign-up to attend and help as you are able with food, set-up, clean-up and hospitality. Sign-ups sheets will be available after worship. Financial donations are also welcome –

Continued on Page 3



September 2016

In This Issue:

Pastor's Page	Page 2
General Church News	Page 3
Children & Family Ministries	Page 4
Women's Page	Page 6
All Around Willow Glen	Page 7
Conference News	Back

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m.
Sunday School

10:00 a.m.
Combined Worship

11:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time

Church Staff

Rebecca Ireland
Senior Pastor

Susan Smith
Pastor of Children &
Family Ministries

Lisa Jacobs
Director of
Joint Youth Ministries

Lorene Sheridan
Director of
Weekday Ark Ministries

Robert Birnstihl
Organist & Director
of Music Ministries

Tom Mounts
Director,
the Willow Glen Ringers

Dee Davis
Office & Facilities Manager

Times of Change

I signed my daughter up for driver's training recently. She turned 16 in May, but she was gone a lot this summer. Fall is here and challenge awaits us. Mom is suddenly realizing that her daughter is growing up...fast. Things are changing quickly, not just in our family, but also in the church.

The first of those changes came in July when Karen Kwon, our faithful wedding coordinator, retired from that position after many years of dedicated service. Thankfully, she saw us through our wedding season this year. Then in August, our Office and Facilities Manager, Dee Davis, found full-time employment with San Jose City College. For the past several years, Dee has been a great asset to our ministry and we are sorry to see her go. As we look for a permanent replacement, we are blessed to have Becky LaBree back as interim office manager. She is just finishing up her MSW and is currently looking for a job in the field of social work.

Meanwhile, our organist, Bob Birnstihl, had knee replacement surgery and will be on leave for several weeks this fall. Cecilia Lung, who has played for Good Samaritan and Santa Clara UMCs, is filling in for Bob on the second and fourth Sundays. We give thanks for her and for the Praise Band, which is here every Sunday. For years, our Band Director, John Brewer, has been a devoted worship leader for our youth group as well as our contemporary service, and he has really been picking up the slack lately. But not for much longer. John and his fiancée, Heather, are going to be married in October. Because his life is going off in new directions, John will be leaving his position as Praise Band Director on October 9.

All these changes come in the midst of a conversation that we've been having about changing the shape of worship on Sunday mornings. Our original plan was to return to two worship services after the rummage sale and then decide about the future of worship at our Church Conference this fall. Summer just didn't seem like a good time to try to get people together to make that decision. However, our plan has had to change primarily because we don't currently have the staff resources to go back to two services. So, going into the fall, we will remain in one service at 10 a.m. and will offer Sunday School for children and adults at 9 a.m.

For planning purposes, Pastor Susan and I would like to continue that schedule until the end of this year. But whether or not we will return at some point to two services, combine services or create new options altogether is yet to be decided. Watch for announcements about upcoming congregational meetings to discuss the options. Meanwhile, we will be watching closely to see if the 9 a.m. hour works for our Sunday School children and their parents. We are praying that they will be able to commit to this schedule change and support the spiritual growth of our kids with their gifts and their presence.

Even for a busy church, these are a lot of changes coming at one time, and they can be both upsetting and exciting. But I do believe that all things work together for good for those who love God. [Romans 8:28] And I'm excited because we have a once-in-a-generation chance to really rethink what we are doing at Willow Glen. Now is the time to ask the Holy Spirit to help us explore what worship could be like and have those passionate "what if" and "why not" kinds of conversations that are harder to have when change is not in the air. I have some ideas and I know you do, too. So I thank each one of you for your prayers, your wisdom and your faithfulness in this time of transformation.

Rebecca



TVs in the Sanctuary!

As promised, the TVs arrived this summer and have been working beautifully. Pastor Rebecca prepares the slide show for each Sunday that follows along with the printed bulletin, but also includes photos of church events and the full text of the Scripture passage for the day. She would love for you to take photos of church activities or small groups that you participate in and send them to her so that she has a ready supply for use in worship. For the serious photographers in the congregation, she is looking for good photos of the church and grounds and other suitable subjects that will help us illustrate various spiritual themes.

We are also looking for a few more people to take a turn running the slide show on Sunday mornings. The laptop is located in the balcony, and it is a very simple job to follow along with the service and advance the slides. If the pastor can do it, so can you. Please contact the church office if you can volunteer once a month or so.



Thank You to Karen Kwon

Members of the SPRC and church want to recognize Karen Kwon for her long years of service as the Wedding Coordinator at Willow Glen. She has facilitated many weddings in the sanctuary and at Woodhaven. Karen not only helped the pastor and wedding party by setting up and running the rehearsal, then staying for the ceremony and reception, but she also made sure that everything was cleaned up and in good shape for worship on Sunday morning. Karen would now like to pass on the job to someone else and is willing to train them for the position. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Elwyn Erickson, Chair of the Staff-Parish Relations Committee.

Fall Sermon Series: Conversations with Paul

It is not uncommon for Christians to love Jesus but have reservations about St. Paul. For one thing, Jesus often seems more human than Paul, certainly more humble. Jesus tells stories; Paul issues orders. Jesus heals; Paul argues. Jesus liberates; Paul tells slaves to obey their masters.

For all these reasons, Pastor Rebecca has preferred the Gospels to the letters ever since seminary. But now she is making a concerted effort to try to understand and appreciate Paul more. So she is planning to tackle Paul's letters in a sermon series called "Conversations with Paul" during worship in September and October. She will preach on some of the major themes in the Thessalonian and Corinthian correspondence, Galatians, Romans and Philippians. Along the way, she will invite Hank to give us some insights into Paul's Jewishness.

Because there is no way to cover Paul in twenty minutes on a Sunday morning, she will also lead a Thursday evening session that will double as Bible study and sermon preparation. When choir practice starts up again, we'll change the schedule if necessary. Our first class will meet on September 15, 7:30 p.m. at Woodhaven.

Change the World Barbecue

Continued from Front Page

simply mark checks with memo "Building Hope." Please join your Building Hope team as we open our hearts and our home, offering respite and relationship to our houseless brothers and sisters.

Donations needed for our Free Necessities Store

Please bring the following items to stock our free store for October 1:

- Gently used clothing (fall to winter season), especially men's
- New socks and underwear
- Bars of soap
- Shaving cream and razors
- Feminine hygiene products
- Toothpaste and toothbrushes
- Washcloths and hand towels
- Raingear and ponchos
- Blankets, sleeping bags, tarps

Donations can be delivered to the boxes in Wesley Room by September 25. Thank you!



Back to School: Beginning September 18

Join us for Sunday School at 9 a.m. and Children's Chapel During Worship

Our children and youth are in a constant state of discovery and our Sunday School classes are a place where they can begin to experience for themselves who God is, how much God loves them, and all that God wants for their lives. Together, we explore God's big story and discover the active part we play in it. If you have not been a regular participant in our Sunday School program before, now is the time to join. We find that the kids who engage their faith during Sunday School are confident in making faithful decisions throughout the week.

Each month, our curriculum focuses on a different value and, using Scripture and experience, helps children discover how they can better apply that value to their faithful living. From trust to courage to honor and much more, our children will explore stories of the Bible and develop their values through music, games, crafts, and friendships. For the remainder of 2016, Sunday School classes will meet at 9 a.m. each Sunday.

In addition to Sunday School, Children's Chapel will continue to be offered during worship. This program gives younger children a chance to interact with the Bible and worship in their own way. Following the Children's Time in worship, our preschool through first graders will participate in Godly Play, hearing Gospel stories about the life of Jesus in a quiet and thoughtful way that allows them to enter into the story themselves and learn it from the inside out. If you have wondered what we do after we leave the service, come on over and find out! There's always something great happening in the ARK!

Classes and locations are as follows:

9 a.m. Sunday School

Nursery Care:	ARK 109
Preschool & Kindergarten:	Old ARK Art Room
First & Second Grades:	ARK 102
Third, Fourth & Fifth Grades:	ARK 106
Junior & Senior High:	Youth Room (Basement)

10 a.m. Worship Service

Nursery Care:	ARK 109
Children's Chapel:	ARK Circle Room



Protecting Our Children and Youth

God has given us a sacred opportunity and a great responsibility to nurture and protect children and youth. For this reason, Willow Glen UMC has established procedures intended to provide a safe and supportive place for children, youth, and the persons who work with them, and to protect children and youth from abuse on our campus and in our programs. This set of procedures outlines the respectful ways in which we treat children at WGUMC and the screening procedures for volunteers and staff who work with children and youth. We ask all parents and volunteers to complete a simple disclosure form which will be kept on file with the Children's Pastor. A fingerprint screening must also be completed. If you have any questions about the policies or need volunteer forms, please call Pastor Susan (ext. 30). Thank you for supporting our efforts to make WGUMC programs wonderful and safe for our children and youth.

CrossWalk: Faith and Fellowship for Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders

Friday, September 9, 7-8 p.m. in Woodhaven

Theme: CrossWalk is...

All third, fourth and fifth graders are invited to CrossWalk. We meet once a month to learn about ourselves and our faith, and have a lot of fun! CrossWalk is a lot of things including what our kids make it so we will spend some of our first gathering determining just what we want CrossWalk to be and do this year. Of course, we'll get to know ourselves and our friends better as we laugh and play and explore God's word together. Come and share your ideas. As always, feel free to bring a friend!



E-mail Pastor Susan (susan@wgumc.org) to ask any questions, let her know you are coming, or just say "hi!"

Learning to Trust God in Sunday School

Trust: Putting Your Confidence in Someone You Can Depend On

The circus can be a fun experience, but have you ever watched the circus through the eyes of a child? Suddenly they point to the sky as they notice the courageous men and women who walk, skip, and even ride bikes three stories above you on the high wire. Inching their way out onto the wire and for what you hope is only dramatic effect these talented performers bobble and tinker on the wire only millimeters from losing their grip.

The audience collectively gasps and your child grabs you and whispers “Are they going to fall?” You reassure them that of course not, these guys are pros. They won’t fall ... you look up at the wire praying you didn’t just lie to your kid. They finish their routine and the audience goes wild! Nothing like a daring trip to the circus to experience what it means to trust.

The performers trust that the wire will stay tight, their legs will stay strong, and their toes won’t let go. And the audience trusts that the performer will expertly complete their routine and not give anyone the opportunity to explain, “That’s why we don’t have a high wire in our backyard.” Whether on the high wire or in life, trust is important. If we don’t trust, we might miss the opportunity to watch God show up and do what only God can do.

This month, we’ll unpack this idea of trust by looking at the story of one guy in the Old Testament, Joseph. After all, his entire life was built on his trust in God’s faithfulness. Joseph found himself in some of the craziest situations throughout his life, yet time and again Scripture tells us that Joseph trusted God and found hope in Him. So each week this month, we’ll take a closer look at Joseph’s life and discover something about how we can trust God and the people He’s put in our lives.

Our Memory Verse is Proverbs 3:5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Do not depend on your own understanding,” (NIV). It’s easy for us to choose our own path, but it’s not always best for us. When we trust in God, He’ll give us the best path for our lives.

Our Kids Need Your Support!

There Are Lots of Ways for You to Help in our Children’s Ministry Programs

When we think of volunteering in children’s ministry, we often assume that our programs just need teachers and folks who will work directly with our children. Of course, we are always looking for nurturing leaders for our Sunday School classes and fellowship groups, but there is a lot more that happens to support our children, families and teachers. Below I have listed just a few of the ways you can get involved in our children’s programs. We’d love to have your help in any of these areas, so give Pastor Susan a call at extension 30 if something sounds good to you!

Prayer and Care for Children and Families: Send birthday cards to children. Meet together to pray for our kids and their families. Send notes to encourage them and celebrate with them.

Coordinate/Prepare Supplies: Cutting out pieces for craft projects. Gathering the supplies Sunday School classes will need each week.

Organize Supplies: Have you seen Susan’s office a.k.a. the Sunday School supply room? Keeping it all organized is an ongoing job. If you like everything in its place, have we got the task for you! Help Susan keep it all together, making sure everything has a place and gets back in it after its use.

Crossing Guard: Serve as a small group leader for our third, fourth and fifth grade fellowship group which meets the second Friday of each month in the evening. Play games, engage in faith-filled discussion and support our upper-elementary kids as they continue to discover who they are as people of faith.

Sunday School Teachers: Spend one or two Sundays a month leading a lesson with a class of children or youth. Curriculum is provided, and supplies are prepared for you. Come and be with our kids as they learn and grow in faith.

Music Leaders: Help our kids’ choir learn songs for Christmas eve worship. Coordinate some of our young instrumentalists to play together in worship. Choreograph and teach a dance. Or help the children learn a song on the handbells.

Family Activities: Do you have an activity you’d like to see us do as a church family? Attend a baseball game? Go bowling or ice skating? Coordinate events for families to have fun together with other church families.



Women's Groups

Open to all, newcomers are welcome. Please call the contact listed below for information.

Heart & Hand

Thursday, September 8
7 p.m. in Kohlstedt Hall
We will help with set up for the Yard Sale
Susan Smith

Friendship Circle

Wednesday, September 21
12:30 p.m. at Woodhaven
Sue Johnson

UMW Executive Board
Monday, September 12
9:30 a.m. in Wesley Room

UMW is open to all women regardless of church membership.

For more information about UMW, call Patricia Madsen.

The deadline for the October *Willow Word* is September 25. Please send your story ideas and submissions to Leslie Chamberlain.

Make Sure You're in Church on October 2

Willow Glen United Methodist Women have asked for the opportunity to conduct the worship service on October 2. Guest speakers will be Nan McCurdy and Miguel Mairena, who are active United Methodist Missionaries with the General Board of Global Ministries, currently serving as Mission Advocates for the Western Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church.

They have interesting stories to tell of the work they have done with the people of Nicaragua, where they served from 1985 to 2014. Both Nan and Miguel have worked for 15 years serving youth and children through the Women and Community Association in San Francisco Libre, where they promoted community development, gender equality and prevention of violence against women.

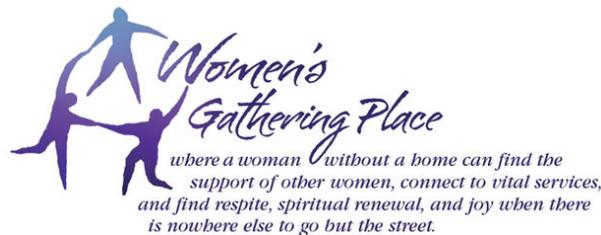
Nan and Miguel have been married since 1995 and have a blended family of three daughters and three sons.

Upcoming Events for UMW

Watch for information about these events:

Saturday, October 15
UMW California/Nevada Conference Celebration at Santa Rosa UMC

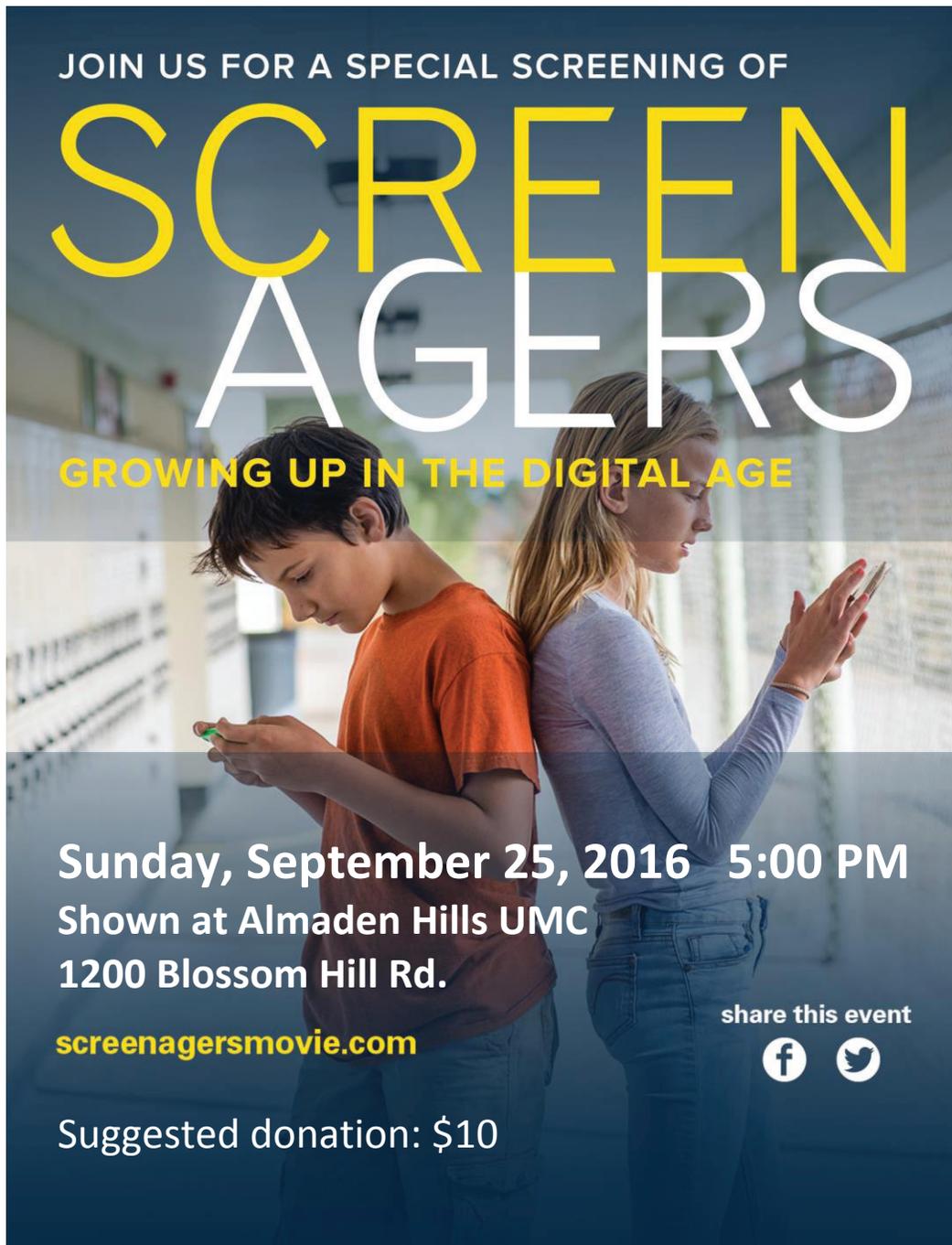
Saturday, October 22
UMW El Camino Real District Celebration at Palo Alto First UMC



Ongoing Outreach

UMW members and friends will continue to take lunch and friendship to the Women's Gathering Place downtown on 4th Street at the First Presbyterian Church on the first Monday of each month: September 5, October 3, November 7 and December 5. Donations of personal items and good used clothing and shoes are appreciated and may be left in the marked box in the Wesley Room. For additional information about WGP, please contact Pat Farrow at patricia.farrow@gmail.com.





JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL SCREENING OF

SCREENAGERS

GROWING UP IN THE DIGITAL AGE

Sunday, September 25, 2016 5:00 PM
Shown at Almaden Hills UMC
1200 Blossom Hill Rd.

screenagersmovie.com

share this event

Suggested donation: \$10

Willow Glen UMC and the Joint Youth Ministry are pleased to present the film "Screenagers," as a family conversation-starter about how technology impacts our kids' development and the challenges of parenting in a digital world. We invite you to come and view the film with your upper elementary children, middle school and high school youth. Child care will be provided for younger children. Discussion and potluck dinner will follow.

Sunday, September 25, at 5 p.m.
Shown at Almaden Hills UMC, 1200 Blossom Hill Road
Suggested donation: \$10/person, \$20/family

Jesus Christ Is the Same Yesterday and Today and Forever

Dear Brothers and Sisters of the California-Nevada Conference,

We, the members of the California-Nevada Conference Cabinet, greet you during this time of transition in the name of the One who does not change. For the first time in eight years, we as an annual conference are experiencing a transition in Episcopal leadership with the August 31st retirement of Bishop Warner H. Brown, Jr.



We have been blessed by Bishop Brown's leadership for the last eight years as he has led us towards our strategic direction to re-position the Conference—every aspect of its structures, human resources, financial resources, and program emphases—to foster, encourage, and support the work of local churches to act as agents of God's mission in the world.

We are thrilled to welcome Bishop Minerva G. Carcaño as our Episcopal leader beginning September 1st. Bishop Carcaño comes to us from the California-Pacific Conference where she has served for the last four years. During Bishop Carcaño's tenure in the California-Pacific Conference, their budget has finished in the black the past four years, and this past year, for the first time in many, they fulfilled their connectional apportionment giving at 100 percent. Additionally, they streamlined their ministry structure, and fully staffed their conference ministry team with called and skilled leaders.

Bishop Carcaño is a prophetic leader in our denomination who is committed to full inclusion, and the call of Amos to "let justice roll like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

We look forward to Bishop Carcaño's leadership, as we continue to work with the gifted clergy and laity of the California-Nevada Conference towards our three foundational goals:

- Equipping congregations to develop clear paths to discipleship, with depth and relevance to their own context;
- Creating a culture of collaboration and innovation; and
- Creating new places for new people, until all people are fully included in the life of the Church.

During this time of transition, we find hope in the words of an old hymn:

*Time is filled with swift transition; Naught of earth unmoved can stand
Build your hopes on things eternal; Hold to God's unchanging hand*

We ask that you join us in prayer for Bishop Brown as he enters a journey of retirement, Bishop Carcaño as she joins us in Northern California and Northern Nevada, and all of the churches of the annual conference as we continue being agents of God's mission, making disciple of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Let us hold to God's unchanging hand.

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