



**"A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS"**  
**REV. KATY SHEVEL, ASSOCIATE PASTOR**

*Isaiah 43:19: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert."*

This coming fall, we are so excited to open our doors for a full restart of our church programming! Our church-wide theme will be "A Way in the Wilderness," based on the above passage from Isaiah 43:19. Our theme will ground the spiritual formation of our congregational life together and provide a biblical point of contemplation as we consider the wilderness journey of this past year. Just as we remember God's promise to the Israelites to lead them at long last out of their wilderness exile, we give thanks for the way God is guiding our Wayne Presbyterian family forward into a new and hopeful future.

Our theme from Isaiah 43:19 will inspire everything from our wide-ranging program of Bible studies for both men and women, to our Youth and Children's Ministries. Our "Way in the Wilderness" theme will even inspire our fall Sunday worship together. Kick-off Sunday for our new program semester will be Sunday, Sept. 12th. Each of our Adult Education classes offered will be inspired by the biblical motif of spiritual journey, especially focusing on stories of human resilience and the good news of God's grace in the wilderness places of our lives.

On Kick-off Sunday, join us for two Sunday worship services at 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Our Adult Education

running for four consecutive Sundays with a compelling roster of engaging speakers. Joe Modica's Sunday Bible study will resume in September, as will our robust Women's Bible study program. We are committed to a hybrid learning model that will provide both virtual and in-person options for participation. Our Men's Thursday Bible Study group is continuing to learn together all summer and into the fall, constituting our first Adult Ed class to study both in-person and virtually!

Looking ahead to October, we will celebrate our fall reopening with Homecoming Weekend on Oct. 8-10. We can't wait to welcome back old friends and celebrate our past in order to look ahead to our future together. Just as God's people yearned for home after their long exile in the desert, we can't wait to celebrate the joy of coming home to Wayne Presbyterian Church after such a long year apart.

We have so many exciting opportunities planned for you this fall. It's simply impossible to list them all here! Speaking for Adult Education, make sure check our website this summer (and our new and improved Adult Ed webpage) for continued updates about the many exciting upcoming classes and events coming your way.

Yours in Christ,  
Rev. Katy Shevel





# 144 YEARS OF HOPE AND HEALING PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S VILLAGE - PART 2 - THE ORPHANAGE YEARS

By Jane Beatty

The year was 1877 when 30 concerned Philadelphia Presbyterian women asked a growing societal question: How to best care for orphans and "near orphans," children with only one parent, in a nurturing, compassionate, home-like way instead of in government-run almshouses and large, barrack-like orphanages?

Losing little time, in 1878 these determined women arranged to host 12 children between three and eight years old in a house at 1319 South Broad Street (eight came from Bethany Presbyterian Church's Home for Orphans which was closing). They challenged area Presbyterian churches to contribute money, furniture, and food. The churches responded: \$1,000 was raised and furniture and food, from jam to eggs, appeared. A cook and a "competent" teacher were hired, and the children attended the nearby Presbyterian Holland Mission Church. The "lady directors," led by Mrs. Daniel Haddock, Jr. organized daily life while ten "gentlemen advisors," including John Wanamaker, oversaw finances. (It was not until 1943 that men joined the Board.)



The Presbyterian Orphanage was conceived and constructed through the energy of 30 Presbyterian women and their generous supporters. Nine acres of land at 58th St. and Kingsessing Ave. had been donated by Mrs. Anne Gray Thomas. Pictured is one of the first dormitories which would house 20 children and their mentor. The original administrative building is now part of the Myers Recreation Center operated by the City of Philadelphia.

The Orphanage grew quickly. By 1879, with 36 children cramming the Broad Street home, the Directors searched for "a spacious home in the country" and accepted the gift of nine acres in Southwest Philadelphia from Mrs. Ann Gray Thomas, across Kingsessing Avenue from the stately Presbyterian Home for Widows and Single

Women established five years previously.

The women researched "best practices" and raised an astonishing \$14,621 to build four handsome and home-like cottages, each housing 20 children and its housemother. (Today, two of those cottages at the corner of 58th Street and Kingsessing Avenue form the nucleus of Cornerstone Christian Academy, which Wayne supports with considerable volunteer and financial help.)

In 1890 the Directors voted to keep girls until they were 18, "...seeking to train them... to take their places in the world as Christian women and feeling we might guard them better under our own care..." They voted to keep boys until they were 15 (eventually, 18) so that "...we could hope for a better educated, more intelligent set of boys...who are our future citizens, controlling the ballot box and the government of our country." The children attended school on the campus until 1900 when all of the children except kindergartners were sent to local public schools. In 1915 they transferred to the newly built S. Weir Mitchell School two blocks away. (105 years later, Mitchell Elementary still serves the community, with dozens of Wayne Presbyterian members involved in a volunteer partnership with the school since 1990 through our CityLights program.)



After school enrichment: Serious young ladies at the Presbyterian Orphanage at the turn of the century carefully thread their needles to hem table place mats. During school hours they attended local public schools. Beginning in 1915, they trooped up Kingsessing Avenue to the new Mitchell Elementary (which is still nurturing Southwest students today!)

The spiritual life of the children was greatly enhanced beginning 1906 when Westminster Presbyterian Church was built on the adjacent corner of 58th Street and Chester Avenue. One young boy recalled that while the children mostly adhered to Orphanage rules, at least one girl and boy held hands beneath a shared hymnal during



during church services, breaking the rule that girls and boys were not allowed to develop relationships!

The Orphanage flourished during the first 30 years of the 20th century, building the Mershon Infirmary, creating an endowment, and receiving gifts of two Jersey Shore vacation houses (one from John Wanamaker), requiring girls to acquire and wear beach coats. At some point, there was a merger with the Haddock Memorial Home which brought infants and babies to the Village for the first time.

Frugality was the watchword. In 1928 the daily cost per child was 37 cents and the Managers (formerly the Directors, still all women) were admonished to keep expenses down! In 1931, the 36 Managers “promised to be friends of some of the children, occasionally taking them home and on outings, a custom that prevailed until the early 1980’s. The extent of Wayne Presbyterian involvement during this period is not recorded.

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This is the second of five monthly installments of Jane Beatty’s history of the Presbyterian Orphanage in Southwest Philadelphia and its relationship with Wayne Presbyterian Church. The next of three more segments will appear in July Wayne Press. It will cover the transition from an city-based orphanage catering to mostly White children to the Presbyterian Children’s Village. PCV continued to provide a home for at-risk children but extended a broad range of services to burgeoning number of Black families in Southwest. The two key events in this change were the reorganization of the Orphanage management in 1943, with involvement of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, and the generous donation of his 43-acre estate and mansion in Rosemont PA by Samuel Robinson, ACME Groceries’ co-founder.

Jane’s full Village memoir is found on the Church website Resources under “150 Anniversary Stories.”

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## A DEPRESSION KID’S MEMORIES OF WAYNE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

By George Aman

In a way, my story of growing up in Wayne Presbyterian Church (WPC) could begin six decades before I was born in Wayne on March 2, 1930. My grandfather, George Matthias Aman, and his bride, Annie Lincoln Aman, moved to Wayne in 1866. They must have become involved in WPC shortly thereafter because the 100-year history of the church notes that George M. Aman prepared the deed conveying the land donated by developer George W. Child for the new larger church building.

Grandfather Aman served Wayne Presbyterian twice as a trustee. He and Annie lived on West Wayne Avenue in a house later demolished to build the present Post Office.

The location was convenient to the Church—so much so, that Mr. Aman (according to my father, George M. Aman, Jr.) assumed the duty of arriving very early on Sundays to shovel coal into the furnace to warm the building for the morning service.

My father was born in 1890 and baptized in WPC—an event recorded in church records. George Jr. was the third son in a family which ultimately grew to include six sons and one daughter. (The daughter, Mary, a lifelong member of WPC, lived with her mother on West Wayne Avenue for most of her life.)

**Happy 95th Birthday** was sung to life-long resident of Wayne, George M. Aman, Jr., at a party held at the Ravenscliff home of his son and



daughter-in-law George and Ellen Aman. Pictured with Mr. Aman are (seated) granddaughter Cathy, daughter Emily and, standing, son John, grandson Peter and host George M. Aman, 3rd. Relatives, neighbors and friends celebrated the event

My baptism in WPC came shortly after I was born. But my earliest memory of church was sitting through the Sunday service and counting the rows of small light bulbs along the trusses of the roof that were the sole source of lighting. I also learned that the long pastoral prayer was near its end when it got to blessing the President and all the other leaders of government.



This is a photo of my mother, sister, brother and me. My siblings and I were all raised in the Wayne Presbyterian Church. The dog’s name was “Tootsie.”

I recall puzzling over the hymns in Church, for instance not understanding why the kings would throw their crowns in the ocean (“... casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea”). The hymn book then



used by WPC contained a section called “The Psalter” which included selections from the Psalms. These were read responsively every Sunday. Another aspect of worship then was a “preparatory” service on the Thursday evening before each quarterly Sunday communion service.

Sunday school must have been more interesting than the church services to a little boy. At least the songs were more tuneful, like, “There is a green hill far away...” and “... I Come to the Garden alone, while the dew is still on the roses...”. Sunday School was at 9:30 and the service was at 11:00. In between there was nothing like a “coffee hour,” so my friend Ted Kennedy and I jogged across Lancaster Pike (then only two lanes) to the Wack Apothecary Store for a soda (7 cents without ice cream or 15 cents with). One of our more exciting adventures during that interval was to open the door from the back of the church that led to the tower. We would climb the stairs inside the tower, the last stage being a ladder. We thought it was perfectly safe, and from the top we had a good view of the town.

The minister in the ‘30s was Dr. Charles Schall, and I don’t recall much about him except that he was friendly to kids. In that era, the customs included church members, with their children, paying Sunday afternoon calls on the minister at the manse (then located on South Wayne Avenue). My family made such a call when I was about five, and Dr. Schall gave me a brass Army insignia “US” which I treasured for years.

The custom of giving Bibles to children when they were in primary grade at Sunday School continued even during the Depression. At the appropriate age I received a leatherbound King James version, although I do not remember a special ceremony surrounding the gift. As we moved through years of Sunday school, we always started by singing together in a vaulted assembly room (since subdivided). That was followed by lessons taught in little cubicles that were created in each floor by pulling down partitions like garage doors. The classes were separated by sexes, and the boys were taught by men. The collection was taken in baskets in each class which were then picked up by Isabella McKnight (a duty she performed for decades thereafter). We also enjoyed annual Sunday School picnics, at least one of which was held at a YMCA camp in Downingtown.

As a teenager, I was among a small group confirmed as full members of WPC at a Sunday when the senior pastor was Dr. S. Carson Wasson. I was recently reminded by Janice (Whetstone) Hill that Dr. Wasson promised when he arrived at Wayne Presbyterian that he would visit each member family once a year. Dr. Wasson also participated in one of the costume tableaux staged in 1945 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of WPC. My older sister, Emily, enjoyed posing

as a Victorian era church member in one of those settings.

I attended and finally led a Sunday evening youth group called the Westminster Fellowship. We teenagers planned our own programs, with songs and discussions. I remember one time hastily arranging a program that I had been scheduled to lead, while I was being driven to the church for the meeting. The Westminster Fellowship also visited residents at the Eliza Cathcart Home, then a Presbyterian nursing home in Devon, and once each year we led a worship service in its chapel. The members of the Fellowship also joined in a few youth activities planned by the Philadelphia area Presbyterian churches. The most unusual was a week-long summer conference at Lafayette College.

Emily also sang in the adult choir, alongside Janice Whetstone. Janice later married John Hill whose family were active WPC members. Janice and John raised eight children in WPC, and she is still an active member. Janice even now recalls the challenge of teaching young Johnnie Galloway in first or second grade Sunday School.

A bit more on the choir: After it was revived during World War II, the Church acquired a paid quartet, and I was happy to sit next to the bass because (then as now) I was not good at reading music.



**I took this picture of Harold Davenport around 1948, then a student at Princeton Seminary. He had recently graduated from Harvard. He was only here as a part-time associate, and upon graduation and ordination around 1950 he started a long career as a**

**missionary in the Middle East. He came back to Wayne to visit and preach several times.**

One of my most formative experiences growing up in WPC was getting to know Harold Davenport. A part-time assistant pastor, he was recruited while a first-year student at Princeton Theological Seminary by Dr. Galloway shortly after he arrived in 1948. Harold (or “Hank” as we called him) started serving on weekends at Wayne. Hank lived at the home of my Aunt Mary on West Wayne Avenue, which was convenient to my home and to the tennis courts in Wayne. Hank and I played tennis there a few times, and he gave me a copy of “The Screwtape Letters,” by C.S. Lewis.



In the summer of 1949, Hank helped plan a young adults' retreat on a Sunday afternoon. I recall stopping at the home of one member of the Fellowship to remind her about the event. I was met at the door by her father, a retired Presbyterian minister, who told me that the family observed the Sabbath, and so she could not come. Yes, times have changed. That event, or a similar one, is pictured on page 28 of the WPC 100-year history, and the picture includes Hank. During his tenure here I took a large group picture of the Daily Vacation Bible School, which also includes Hank as a teacher. The other teachers shown include my sister Emily and Marilyn Peacock. When Hank graduated from the Seminary, a delegation from WPC attended the event. Hank left that year and spent most of his career as a missionary in Iraq and the Gulf States, but he visited and preached at WPC.



Wayne Presbyterian Summer Vacation Bible School around 1948. Who do you recognize?



Another picture I took with the faculty of the Summer Bible School circa 1948 (Harold Davenport at the back)

Many things have changed about WPC since the 1930s and '40s, just as in the town itself. For instance, during the war a member named Mrs. W.H. Sayen was still being driven to Sunday service by her chauffeur.

However, one custom continued to the present, the regular welcome by one or more designated greeters outside the back entrance to the church. The earliest I remember was Mr. Maginnis. I remember especially Felix Lockwood (shown in action in the 100-year history), Jim Rowbotham, and, of

course, John Davidson. The warmth is still there.

## PROVIDING EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN IN PAKISTAN

As part of the Global Mission annual giving, your tithes and offerings go to support seven female students at the Martinpur Christian Girls' High School in the Punjab district of Pakistan and six female students from Kasur Christian Girls' High School, south of Lahore and close to the Indian border. These students are very poor and their parents find it very difficult to pay for their schooling. It is a huge benefit for these students to receive our financial help.

During the past year, the students were not able to attend school due to COVID-19, so they studied at home, or met in small groups in their home communities to learn together. Some teachers would go from village to village to see their students and provide lessons. Many of the parents lost their jobs and were unable to pay school fees given the lack of day laborer work during COVID times. Our scholarships were a great blessing which allowed the parents to focus on survival while their students did not have to leave school.

The Presbyterian Education Board (PEB) in Pakistan was founded by Presbyterian missionaries over 150 years ago. Today PEB runs 22 schools and four boarding houses in Pakistan, serving over 6,000 students. The purpose of PEB is to provide high quality education fully informed by and rising out of its Christian values and roots. The schools serve needy children regardless of race or creed. Veda Javaid Gill, the Executive Director of PEB has visited WPC many times as WPC has supported PEB schools and students for over 10 years. Some WPC members have visited PEB schools during that time. If you plan to travel to Pakistan, let a Global Mission committee member know so you can connect with PEB while there! To learn more, go to [www.friendsofpeb.org](http://www.friendsofpeb.org) and [www.peb.edu.pk/](http://www.peb.edu.pk/)





## **"MISTER ROGERS TOLD ME!" HOW BRIAN KNEW HE WAS SPECIAL**

### **Epilogue**

After sharing this story with the Wayne Presbyterian Church Deacons, Carol looked up Brian in Westchester, and had the chance to re-connect 30 years later. Here is a picture of their meeting:



## **THIS TENDER LAND**

**by William Kent Krueger**  
**One Book, One Church**

Since 2014 our church community has enthusiastically embraced the One Book, One Church (OBOC) program. This year the committee has chosen *This Tender Land* by William Kent Krueger for our all church read. It begins in the summer of 1932 and chronicles the story of four orphans who flee abuse at their Indian training school. They travel along the fictional Gilead River in southern Minnesota, ultimately following the Mississippi River to St. Louis in search of a safe haven. They encounter loss and challenges and come to experience revealing lessons in faith, grace and forgiveness.

Read the book this summer and join us in September for discussions, classes and a Zoom visit with the author. Visit our website for more information [www.waynepres.org](http://www.waynepres.org)

### **September 12 - Book Club Discussions**

Join a small group for a lively discussion of this popular and thought-provoking book.

### **September 19 - Carlisle Indian School Project**

*This Tender Land* begins with the main characters orphaned and living in Minnesota at the fictional Lincoln Indian Training School. The Carlisle Indian Industrial School, of Carlisle, Pennsylvania, was the first government-run Native American boarding school in the country. Learn more about this piece of history when Dickinson College Library Archivist Jim Gerencser joins us by Zoom to share information from the college's research materials and answer your questions. <http://carlisleindian.dickinson.edu>

### **September 26 - Author Kent Krueger**

We are excited to welcome back author Kent Krueger for a Zoom conversation. A celebrated novelist, whose work includes Christian themes, Krueger is also known for his award-winning Cork O'Connor mystery series. He last joined us in 2016 for our OBOC read of *Ordinary Grace*.

### **October 3 - Rev Katy Shevel**

Our own Rev. Katy Shevel closes our discussions. She will take ideas from the novel - a Tornado-God, a tent revival, snakes, miracles, and love - and will weave them together to give us a deeper understanding of faith, forgiveness, grace, and God's presence.

## **WINGS WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY FALL SEMESTER**

**WE'RE BACK IN-CLASS !!!  
(WITH ZOOM OPTION, TOO)**

**WEDNESDAY CLASSES : START SEPTEMBER 8**  
**WORD BEFORE WORK: 7:00 - 8:00 AM,**  
**BI-WEEKLY. (ALTERNATE WEEK FOR PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP.)**

**WOMEN IN THE WORD: 9:30- 11:15 AM, WEEKLY.**  
**WOMEN AFTER WORK : 7:00 – 8:30 PM, WEEKLY.**

**THURSDAY CLASS: BEGINS MID-SEPTEMBER**  
**MOMS. (MINISTRY OF MOTHERS)**  
**MEETS WEEKLY FROM 9:30 – 11:30.**

\*Check out the NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BLOG later this summer in the Women's Ministry Section of the WPC website. All specific course information, will be available at this site.\*

Contact: Angela Tait. 215-470-1450 or  
[taitmaryangela333@gmail.com](mailto:taitmaryangela333@gmail.com)

## **WINGS SUNSET SOCIAL**

On Thursday evening, May 13, 50 women gathered on the veranda and grounds of the Hilltop House in Devon for the 1st annual Sunset Social.

The perfect weather, the beautiful location, as well the recent mask-less mandate, added to the positive energy radiating though out the celebration.

Participants reconnected with old friends, mingled with new ones, and sipped and dined on light fare. Christine Bowman (who grew up at WPC), played soft background music on her keyboard during the event.



All the women in attendance agreed this was a much needed gathering after a long pandemic year to simply reunite in fellowship.

Your WinGS Board: Robin Hebert, Nancy Barnes, Pamela Jensen, Jeanne Kauffmann, Avis Rueger, Angela Tait, Linda Teets, and Debby Vogel

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## THANK YOU TO SARAH!

We would like to express our sincere and deep gratitude to Sarah Hostetter for her many dedicated years of ministry here at Wayne Presbyterian Church. Her compassionate and innovative leadership has shaped the life and work of our congregation in innumerable ways, especially in the vital areas of faith formation and mission. Sarah, we wish you the very best and cannot wait to see where God calls you on your next adventure in ministry!



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## JULY & AUGUST 2021 THURSDAY MORNING MEN'S MINISTRY 7:00 AM VIA ZOOM

**July and August — We will continue meeting through the summer months. We will kick off July with Katy and David:**

- **Katy Shevel, Associate Pastor for Congregational Life** led our discussion on July 1 and July 8 with a preview of her upcoming "Companions in the Wilderness" Adult Education class scheduled for Sunday mornings this fall. She will explore the faith of the early Desert Mothers and their unique monastic experience.
- **David King, Pastoral Intern 2021** led on July 15th with a discussion of Psalm 139 and Theologies of Surveillance. David will be back on July 22nd to talk about Race, Representation, and Resurrection. David just completed his first year of seminary at Princeton Theological Seminary, and is a graduate of Haverford College, having earned B.A.'s in Philosophy and Religious Studies, with high honors in the latter. Welcome David!

Please keep an eye on the weekly News & Views email blasts and the WPC website for further details regarding programming for July 29th and the month of August.

Thursday Morning Men's Ministry is an informal group of Wayne Presbyterian Church that meets (via Zoom until further notice) at 7:00 am each Thursday. It is a wonderful opportunity for relationships, prayer, and learning. The program year runs from September through June.

For more information or to get on the email Zoom invite list or on the list to attend in person please contact Tim Pretz at [tpretz@eastern.edu](mailto:tpretz@eastern.edu) or Sal Ambrosio at [sambrosio55@gmail.com](mailto:sambrosio55@gmail.com)

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## RADICAL WITNESS: THEOLOGY AND PRACTICE

**by David King, Summer Intern**

'Radical Witness: Theology and Practice' is an Adult Education class led by our summer intern, David King. It will begin on July 11th and run for five weeks. It focuses on five significant figures in the 20th century Christian tradition whose lives are a radical example of Christian discipleship. They are witnesses without whom the Church cannot live precisely because they sought to encounter Jesus Christ in places others refused to look.

**July 11th** - Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German Christian involved in the Church's resistance to Nazi Germany. Bonhoeffer's writings and active resistance to Hitler's regime has had profound effects on both theologians and Christian activists.

**July 18th** - St. Oscar Romero was a Catholic bishop in El Salvador in the mid-20th century. As bishop, Romero was converted to a radical, Christ-centered social witness as he encountered the suffering of his parishioners, especially the families of those who were 'disappeared.'

**July 25th** - Dorothy Day was a Catholic social activist and labor organizer. Day dedicated her life to helping organize ordinary workers, emphasizing their dignity and humanity. Day's witness helped shape much of modern Catholic social teaching.

**August 8th** - Ida B. Wells was a Black journalist whose coverage of the lynching of Black people in the early 20th century earned her both assassination attempts and a Pulitzer Prize. Her journalism is a lasting testament to her courage and faith in the face of brutal inhumanity.

**August 15th** - James Cone, often called the founder of Black theology, called for a revolution in American theology, a revolution that moved theology away from

## LIFE EVENTS

### Baptism

We rejoice in the baptism of...

Bennett William Hellberg  
June 6, 2021

Martha Bell Armstrong  
June 6, 2021

Harper Lee Hobyak  
June 20, 2021

Corinne Lisa Broll  
June 27, 2021

Tanner James Broll  
June 27, 2021

### Deaths

We give thanks for the life and the ministry of...

Marj Jensen  
May 11, 2021

Barbara Tremblay\*  
May 27, 2021

Don Clarke  
May 31, 2021

Jean Gillespie  
June 17, 2021

\*former member

Continued from page 7

high-flung doctrinal language and towards answering the cries Cone Cone heard from his Black brothers and sisters.

All are welcome to join for any of the sessions, either virtually or in-person. You can sign up on our website: [www.waynepres.org](http://www.waynepres.org)



David King

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Wayne Presbyterian Church  
125 East Lancaster Avenue  
Wayne, Pennsylvania 19087

For information regarding these articles, or to reach our staff, please contact us at:  
Wayne Presbyterian Church  
125 East Lancaster Ave  
Wayne, PA 19087  
t: 610-688-8700  
f: 610-688-8743  
e: [MKendus@waynepres.org](mailto:MKendus@waynepres.org)  
Office Hours: Monday-Friday  
8:30 am–4:30 pm

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