ADL to Give Two Gainesville Area Talks Feb 12 & 13

Virginia Brissette Hirshik
President & CEO, JCNCF

We in the Jewish community, and indeed in all minority and vulnerable groups, are aware of the increase in anti-Semitic and other hate based speech and activity in Florida and nation-wide. The Jewish Council of North Central Florida as the “umbrella” organization for our community has begun to take steps to meet this resurgent challenge.

Step One: Information Gathering
Understanding a situation is always the first step. Therefore, we are pleased to announce that David Barkey, the Southeastern Area Counsel for the Anti-Defamation League, will speak to the community on Sunday, February 12 at 7 pm at Temple Shir Shalom. The talk will be on *Hate Crimes: Elements, Impact and Offenders*. Mr. Barkey provides legal, legislative and public affairs counsel to two ADL regional offices in the Southeast on issues of extremism, hate crimes, discrimination, free speech and religious freedom. He regularly works with and trains federal, state and local law enforcement on legal and non-legal aspects of hate crimes.

Mr. Barkey’s talk is being co-sponsored by the Bob Graham Center at the University of Florida. If you cannot attend his presentation at Temple Shir Shalom on Sunday evening, he will also be speaking at the Florida Free Speech Forum on Monday, February 13 from 11:30 am to 1 pm at the Wyndham Garden Conference Center. His topic at the Forum will be *Hate Crimes and Hate Speech and What’s the Difference*. Please check their website at floridafreespeechforum.org. The talk is open to the public. Lunch ($20) is optional and requires a reservation. You are welcome to attend both talks.

Continued on page 2

Tikkun Olam with Gilda Josephson and Jeff Weingarten

Dawn Burgess-Krop
Past President, JCNCF

It all began at a conference. A counseling conference, no less. Who knows what kinds of things happen under those conditions?

In 1980, a young widow with two small children decided to seek a Ph.D. in counseling and relocated to Gainesville to enter graduate school. She attends a conference in Orlando, and meets a charming elementary school counselor from Jacksonville. There begins the next chapter of the story of Gilda Josephson and Jeff Weingarten.

Gilda is from Brooklyn, New York, and met her first husband, Richie, at her father’s Jewish summer camp when she was 16 years old. Richie was two years her senior and they married when Gilda was 19. Richie went on to become a psychiatrist while she was a secondary school science teacher. During the Vietnam war years, Richie was assigned to the Coast Guard. They had a son, Douglas. When Douglas was two years old, her husband developed a brain tumor, although the medicine at that time was not sufficiently developed to accurately diagnose and treat him. After surgery and radiation, Richie improved and was retired from the Coast Guard. The family then moved to Tampa, where he secured a job in the new medical school at University of South Florida and at the Tampa VA Hospital. Francine was born. When Francine was a year old, the cancer returned, and Richie suffered a stroke during surgery, becoming very impaired, and ultimately succumbing to the cancer three years later. A therapist suggested to Gilda that she return to graduate school and she earned a master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling prior to coming to Gainesville for her doctorate in the Counselor Education Department. At 35, she and Douglas and Francine started a new life.

Jeff is from Philadelphia and still has family there. By serendipity, he went to college in Alabama and lived there afterward, teaching special education, working as a school counselor and an...
Continued from page 1

Step Two: Preparing for Action

JCNCF’s next step was to invite community members to meet and determine how to proceed further. Eight individuals met on January 22 to form the JCNCF Community Relations Group. The group “brain-stormed” and began to chart a local course. Several ideas are in the development stage:

1) To engage with other faith-based groups in our community to strengthen understanding between our religious institutions and to be of mutual help to each other in case of need. A sub-committee was established and will be contacting the Southern Poverty Law Center for guidance in setting up such a program.

2) To bring the youth of various religious affiliations together to meet and begin to understand each other. They are the future. This suggestion stems from several reports of incidents in area high schools.

3) JCNCF has for several months been working to establish a local communication network. Committee members have already worked with Gainesville Police Department, the Alachua County Sheriff’s Office and UF Police to update their current contact information for all Jewish entities in the county. They are currently exploring a community contact information system for problems or alerts.

4) More ideas and help are needed! The Community Relations Group will be meeting again on a Sunday afternoon to be determined after Mr. Barkey’s talk. Please consider joining us. Contact Virginia Brissette Hirshik, President & CEO of JCNCF, for how you can get involved. We are all in this together.
Center for Jewish Studies Playing For Peace Concert

By Jack Kugelmass,
 Director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the University of Florida

This event features two world class musicians. Mira Awad, singer, song-writer, actress (*Arab Labor*) and cultural activist, was born in Rameh, a village in the Galilee, to a Palestinian father and Bulgarian mother. She studied at the Rimon School for Jazz and Contemporary Music, and currently lives in Tel Aviv. Awad has released two solo albums, and collaborated with various international artists, including Noa, Idan Raichel, Andrea Boccelli, and Bobby McFerrin. Awad’s music is a unique fusion of sounds, weaving Arabic and its oriental ornaments with Western harmonies.

Yair Dalal is a composer, violinist, oud player and singer and has had an important role in the global world music scene. Dalal’s family came to Israel from Baghdad and his Iraqi roots are embedded in much of his music. Over the last decade he has released 12 albums representing a fusion of Israeli, Jewish and Middle Eastern music. Dalal also devotes his time to teaching at the Rimon School and preserving the musical heritages of the Jews of Iraq and the Bedouins of the Sinai.

This event is made possible through a grant from the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, the endowments of the Center for Jewish Studies, the Jewish Student Union and various gifts.

For more information about this event please contact the Center for Jewish Studies (352) 392-9247.
African Jewry Scholars to Speak in Gainesville

The Jews of Africa
and the Complexity of Origins

Presented by
Professor Tudor Parfitt of Florida International University
and author Remy Ilona of the Igbo Tribe, Nigeria
and graduate student at FIU

The talk will offer two different perspectives
on the origins of Igbo Jewish ancestry and
it will shed light on the complexity of African Jewish history.

February 2, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
Oak Room, Oak Hammock

Professor Tudor Parfitt founded the Centre of Jewish Studies at the School of Oriental and African Studies, London and was its director from 1993 to 2011. In 2012, he was appointed President Navon Professor of Sephardi and Mizrahi Studies and SIPA Research Professor at Florida International University (FIU). Parfitt has been featured on PBS and frequently is referred to as “the British Indiana Jones.”

Remy Ilona is currently a graduate student at FIU, studying with Professor Parfitt. Ilona is a lawyer by training, but he is also a historian of the Ibo or Igbo tribe and has authored six books on their history and connections to the Jews of the Land of Israel.

Sponsored by The Institute for Learning in Retirement, Oak Hammock, Gainesville, in collaboration with the Jewish Council of North Central Florida, the Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica, George A. Smathers Libraries, and Judge Karen Miller
By Ralph Lowenstein

New Gaza Fence

Israel has budgeted $870 million dollars (3.34 billion shekels) for the construction of a sophisticated barrier around the 40-mile border of the Gaza Strip. Proposed as one of the largest construction projects in the history of Israel, it will be a “smart” fence — similar to the one on the Egyptian border, but with concrete walls stretching underground. It will be able to detect tunnels, and will be equipped with offensive and defensive capabilities. Already in initial stages of design and construction, it is expected to be completed in two years. (Yediot News)

No Grants for Terrorism

Disturbed that some funds received by the Palestinian Authority from European nations has been used to pay monthly awards to families of terrorists, Prime Minister Theresa Gray of England has ruled that British appropriations may be used in the future only for salaries of “health and education public servants on a vetted list.” The Prime Minister stated: “Let me be clear; no British taxpayers’ money will be used to make payments to terrorists or their families.” (Jewish Chronicle-UK)

Ban Ki-Moon Sees Israel Bias

Upon completing his term of office on Dec. 31, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon told the Security Council that he had noted a “disproportionate number of resolutions, reports and committees against Israel at the UN,” making it difficult in many cases for the UN to fulfill its role effectively. In response, Israel’s ambassador to the UN, Danny Danon, noted that in past 10 years the UN passed 223 resolutions condemning Israel, while only eight resolutions condemned the Syrian regime “while it massacred its citizens over the past six years.— that is absurd.” There are 193 nations that are members of the UN. Only one is Jewish.

Lots of New Israeli “apps”

Israel, the “start-up” nation, made a good showing at the annual Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas in January. Some 16 companies had exhibits of new devices. Here are a few of them:

- Upright Technologies: A sensor placed on the small of your back, tuned to your I-Phone, for ages 12 on up. It provides a gentle buzz when you slouch too much.
- Lexifone: Device instantly translates verbally whatever you say into the language of whomever you are speaking to, and vice versa. Lexiphone works in 15 languages.
- HearPhones: A hearing aid technology that can slow down rapid speech to make it easier to understand.
- Sensibo: A small disc that you stick on your air-conditioner or heater already set to automatic mode. The device will heat your house before you get up, or cool it down before you get home from work, reducing energy usage by up to 40 percent.
- GreenIQ: It adapts your sprinkler system to the weather forecast, increasing water volume on hot, dry days, or shut off the system when it’s already raining.

Israel’s Population Increases

Israel population reached 8.63 million at the end of 2016, the Central Bureau of Statistics reports. The Jewish population reached 6.45 million (74.8%), the Arab population 1.796 million (20.8%), while 384,000 (4.4%) are defined as other. Almost 90% of all 16 million Jews in the world now live in either Israel or the United States.
B’nai Israel’s Jewish Food Festival Set For February 26

Sandwiches stacked with fresh corned beef or pastrami on rye, with a kosher pickle and a side of coleslaw. For people, the image this presents brings forward memories of wonderful kosher delis one might have attended in larger cities both as a child and even now, as an adult. Foods such as knishes, kugel, rugelach bring to mind traditional food when you think of a delicatessen. That is what B’nai Israel aims to do with their first ever, Jewish Food Festival.

On Sunday, February 26th the community is invited to attend a festival dedicated to tradition, to sitting with your friends and family enjoying great food, music and conversation. With a $25 ticket, attendees will receive one deli plate that consists of a deli sandwich, side salad and a kosher pickle. A vegetarian option is available with a salad sampler plate which will include three salads, hummus and pita. A Kid’s Ticket is available offering a hot dog, potato chips, and a drink along with full access to the kid’s activities.

The Jewish Food Festival is part of Congregation B’nai Israel’s year of programming that focuses on the role food plays in our societal interactions and our families. Food plays such an important role in our lives and how we interact. From a Kiddush lunch following services to Shabbat dinners, meal time is important to building bonds between each other.

We hope to welcome our community to B’nai Israel on February 26th to continue to strengthen the ties (or meals!) that bind us together.

Purchase Your Tickets Today on WWW.BNAIGAINESVILLE.COM!
Deli Plate or Vegetarian Plate $25
Kid’s Ticket $20

B’nai Israel Community Day School Adds New Ones Class

Debby Kinman-Ford
Director, B’ani Israel Community Day School

Welcome to our new Ones class! On January 9, we opened a third One year old classroom. This expanded our school to 98 children, the largest in B’nai Israel’s history! We are incredibly proud to be able to work with so many wonderful families every day. About half of the families at our school are not Jewish and those that run the gambit from very observant families to families of more than one faith.

We are so proud we can share Jewish beliefs and customs with our community. The Day School is very committed to educating all our families about Judaism and proud of our rabbi, David Kaiman and his dedication to being a resource to everyone that comes through our doors. In fact, a huge part of our program is our family component. Whether we are hosting a holiday program, working together with PJ Library or coordinating neighborhood Shabbat dinners, we believe a major part of early childhood is the connection children have with their families and helping them create their own unique family identity. Whatever part of that we can be involved in is our honor and privilege.

The end of January into February we will host a Tu B’Shevat program, coordinate Shabbat dinners connecting day school families together by zip code, a parenting program on investing for college and an art show and silent auction coinciding with the B’nai Israel Jewish food festival. Our hope is that our families will attend these events and connect with other families building relationships that will last long after their attendance at our school. What an amazing mission to be a part of!
Tikkun Olam with Gilda Josephson and Jeff Weingarten

Continued from page 1

assistant principal. Jeff’s career has largely been centered around education and counseling in rural schools. His knowledge of special needs populations and rural schools has shaped his life. Living in Jacksonville when he met Gilda, he commuted to Gainesville until he was able to secure a job in Alachua County schools. He served as an elementary school counselor at Williams and Talbot Elementary, and ultimately spent 19 years at the High Springs Community School as a middle school counselor before recently retiring.

Gilda specialized in interpersonal violence and women’s issues. She opened a private practice in 1983 and just retired in 2015.

The Josephson and Weingarten team have dedicated their many talents to their community for decades. Gilda served for 18 years as the Chair of the Sexual Battery Committee of the Gainesville Commission on the Status of Women. She has offered workshops and training in educating the community on these issues. She has advocated for standards and guidelines for sexual harassment issues and has served as an expert witness in legal cases concerning sexual abuse and sexual harassment.

While at the High Springs Community School, Jeff facilitated an ongoing three-year grant through JCNCF for Holocaust studies at his middle school. Through this grant, and the dedication of outstanding teachers, seventh graders spent the year reading Holocaust literature and engaging in related projects, culminating in a trip to the Florida Holocaust Museum in St. Petersburg. Their knowledge of the Holocaust and its impact deeply impacted these students over the years.

Because Gilda grew up Orthodox, she never had a bat mitzvah. In 2000, she decided to have a bat mitzvah and continues to regularly chant Torah and Haftarah at Congregation B’nai Israel services. Both Gilda and Jeff have served on the B’nai Israel board and Gilda served as B’nai Israel president in 2000. Jeff had been treasurer for the Men’s Club for 11 years. Since 2001, Jeff has been instrumental in providing and securing security for events and services at B’nai Israel. Although this talent is best kept secret lest he be inundated, he also provided technical support at the schools where he worked and the organizations he serves.

The renovated kitchen, social hall, and entrance lobby at B’nai Israel are due to the dedication of Gilda and Jeff. For countless years, their leadership of the Renovation and Aesthetics committee has extended from fundraising to meeting with contractors to securing art for the walls.

More than 20 years ago, Gilda and Jeff participated in the community workshop that led to the transformation of JCNCF from a pass-through organization to an organization with a combination of local Jewish programming coupled with support and advocacy for Israel and world Jewry. Out of that community commitment, a mission statement for JCNCF was developed and The Chronicle was born.

Like every organism, growth, adaptation and change is vital to organizations just as it is to humans. Our Jewish community is richer from the contributions of individuals like Gilda and Jeff and JCNCF has been the beneficiary of their commitment. Life is not always easy and the path is not always smooth. Gilda and Jeff have blended their life paths and used their experiences to better their community, and we are all the beneficiaries.

Gilda and Jeff love to travel and learn. They are blessed with Douglas and Francine and their spouses, Kim and Paul. Douglas is a pediatrician in Atlanta and Francine is an attorney, living in Gainesville. Their six grandchildren are adored and spending time with them is cherished. Todah rabah, Gilda and Jeff!
North Central Florida Chanukah Celebrations

The Lubavitch Chabad Jewish Student & Community Center held their annual giant menorah lighting in Bo Diddley Plaza where they passed out sufganiyot. There was also a celebratory dinner for the community.

Temple Shir Shalom celebrated with a Chanukah feast, a craft project complete with edible dreidels and a game of “Hot Latke.”

Congregation B’nai Israel celebrated with a delicious Chanukah spread and attendees shared in the lighting of a collection of beautiful hanukkiot.

Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning of Ocala, The Villages and Tri County, held their own Menorah Lighting on the Ocala City Square (above). They also celebrated with a Chinese Chanukah party at their facility (photo at top center).

PIJ Library families celebrated Chanukah early on Dec 14 at Congregation B’nai Israel. Parents and kids enjoyed latkes and Debby Kinman-Ford’s homemade kugel. Families took photos with the mensch on the Bench and each child received a Chanukah Chabad Center for Jewish Life and Learning of Ocala, The Villages and Tri County, held their own Menorah Lighting on the Ocala City Square (above). They also celebrated with a Chinese Chanukah party at their facility (photo at top center).

Rabbi Jaye of Temple B’nai Darom and his wife lit the Chanukah candles (Pictured above), following the service led by Rabbi Allen. Sonia Peterson led a Chanukah program (bottom center photo) at Brookdale Assisted Living for B’nai Darom’s Sisterhood group.
Mazel Tov to Alisha and Nadav!

Alisha Kinman and Nadav Katz were married under the chuppah on January 7, 2017 at the UF Hilton with Rabbi David Kaiman officiating.

Alisha, daughter of Michael Kinman and Debra Kinman-Ford, acts as a marketing coordinator at UF Health. Alisha graduated with honors from the University of Florida with her Bachelor of Science in Public Relations and Communication Studies.

Nadav Katz, son of Yossi and Tova Katz, serves as an assistant director for University of Florida Division of Enrollment Management. Originally from Jerusalem, Nadav graduated from the University of Florida with his Bachelor of Science in Psychology, and his Master of Business Administration.

The couple met at Congregation B’nai Israel.

Mazel Tov to Rachel Parks!

Rachel Parks, daughter of Bob and Nancy Parks, granddaughter of Allen and Myna Neims, celebrated her Bat Mitzvah on January 21st at Temple Shir Shalom. She is a 7th grader in the Academy at Howard Bishop Middle School, where she also plays clarinet in the band and is on the soccer team.

In Memoriam

Our community mourns the passing of these beloved friends and family members:

Barry Bogdanoff,
Son of Lester Bogdanoff, z”l

Kenneth Kellner,
Husband of Irene Kellner
Father of Adam and Tracy
and Even and Colleen
Grandfather of Morgan, Aubrey, Ella, Ethan, and Daniel

Murray Lowenstein,
Brother of Ralph and Bronia Lowenstein

Vivian Steel,
Wife of Laurence
Cousin of Harvey Budd and Ilene Silverman

May their loved ones find solace in their memory.

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Transitions: Community Life Events

Do you have a life cycle event you would like to share with our JCNCF community? Please submit items to chronicle@jcncf.org. Submissions may be edited as space allows. Pictures are welcome and encouraged! Transitions may include birth, engagement and wedding announcements, bar and bat mitzvah, graduations, promotions and honors, and memorials.

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TELEPHONE (352) 376-6046
IN FLORIDA (800) 637-4545
North Central Florida Congregations & Organizations

Gainesville

B’nai Israel Community Day School (DS)
Debby Kinman-Ford, Director
www.bnaiisraelcds.org
352.376.1508, ext 101

Center for Jewish Studies
at the University of Florida (CJS)
Dr. Jack Kugelmass, Director
Sandra James, Office Assistant
web.jst.ufl.edu
PO Box 118020, Gainesville, FL 32611
352.392.9247

Congregation B’nai Israel (CBI)
Rabbi David Kaiman
Jenifer Petrescu, Executive Director
Shauna Sikron, Coordinator of Jewish Learning
Casey Leopold, Programs
Denise Thompson, Administrative Assistant
www.bnaigainesville.com
3830 NW 16th Blvd, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.376.1508

Gainesville Chapter of Hadassah (HAD)
Meredith Bacharach, President
mwbacharach@gmail.com
352.256.7631

Isser and Rae Price Library of Judaica
at the University of Florida (LIB)
Dr. Rebecca Jefferson, Director
cms.uflib.ufl.edu/Judaica/Index.aspx
George A. Smathers Libraries, University of Florida
Gainesville, FL 32611
352.273.2865

The Tabacinic Lubavitch-Chabad Jewish
Student & Community Center (LCJC)
Rabbi Berl & Chanie Goldman, Directors
Rabbi Aharon Chaim & Pessie Notik, Co-Directors
www.jewishgator.com
2021 NW 5th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.336.5877

Temple Shir Shalom (TSS)
Rabbi Michael Joseph
Ross Van Boven, Director of Religious School
Ann Eisenstadt, Office Manager
www.shirshalom.net
3855 NW 8th Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32605
352.371.6399

UF Hillel (HLL)
Rabbi Adam Grossman
www.ufhillel.org
2020 W University Avenue, Gainesville, FL 32603
352.372.2900

Ocala and Surrounding Locations

Chabad Lubavitch Jewish Center of
Marion County & The Villages (CLJC)
Rabbi Yossi & Chanie Hecht, Directors
www.jewishmarion.org
13030 CR 103, Oxford, FL 34484
352.291.2218

Congregation Beth Israel (CBI-O)
Rabbi Karen Allen
www.bethisraelocala.org
7171 SW Hwy 200, Ocala, FL 34476
352.450.2056

Congregation Beth Sholom (CBS)
Hazzan Mordecai Kamlot
www.bethsholomcitrus.org
102 Civic Circle, Beverly Hills, FL 34464
352.746.5303

Temple Beth Shalom (TBS)
Rabbi Ze’ev Harari
www.jewishocala.com
1109 NE 8th Avenue, Ocala, FL 34470
352.629.5837

Temple B’nai Darom (TBD)
Rabbi Harold Jaye
www.facebook.com/TempleBnaiDarom
49 Banyan Course, Ocala, FL 34472
352.624.0380

Temple Shalom of Central Florida (TSCF)
Sheldon Skurow, Spiritual Leader
www.templeshalomcentralfl.org
13563 County Road 101, Oxford, FL 34484
352.748.1800

Volunteers Needed

The JCNCF Board is putting together a committee to help plan and organize an interfaith seder for the Gainesville community. Last year’s event was coordinated with members from several African-American churches and organizations and was well attended and received. Community members interested in being part of such an event should contact the JCNCF office at 352.371.3846 or office@jcncf.org.
Community Calendar for January 2017

**Wednesday, February 1**
- Friendship Circle at CBI, 10:30 am to 1 pm (Repeated February, 8, 15 & 22)
- CBI Lev Tov at St. Francis House, 5:30 pm (also February 15)
- Four Week Cooking Class with Alice Robar. CBI, 6 to 8 pm. Continued on February 8. $72 per person. For more details contact Casey@BnaiGainesville.com
- Caregiver’s Support Group at TSS, 7 pm. For more information contact Lori Waxenberg, loribwax@gmail.com

**Thursday, February 2**
- The Jews of Africa and the Complexity of Origins, 7 pm, The Oak Room at Oak Hammock.

**Tuesday, February 7**
- Torah Study with Rabbi Joseph at TSS, 9:30 am (Repeated February 14, 21 & 28)
- Torah on Tuesday with Rabbi Kaiman at CBI, 12 pm (Repeated February, 14, 21 & 28)

**Saturday, February 11**
- PJ Library Havdalah, 6 to 7 pm, TSS. To RSVP please email office@jcncf.org or call 352-371-3846

**Sunday, February 12**
- *Hate Crimes: Elements, Impact and Offenders* A talk by David Barkey, Southeastern Area Counsel to the Anti-Defamation League, 7 pm, TSS

**Social Dancing Classes**
Beginner series started the end of January. Dance sessions held at Congregation B’nai Israel
- Israeli Dancing, Argentine Tango, Hustle, Salsa and Swing.
- Cost is $5 to $15. Israeli Dancing is free for college age and under.
- For details, contact Andrew Weitzen, 352-327-3672, publish@gainesvilledance.com

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Save the Date for the Seventh Annual Gainesville Jewish Film Festival

The best of international Jewish cinema returns to the Hippodrome Theater for a seventh year starting Sunday, March 19 and continuing on through the end of the month. The March edition of the Chronicle will include the full festival schedule and descriptions of all the films.

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DIPLOMATES OF THE AMERICAN BOARD OF RADIOLOGY
Jewish Council of North Central Florida, Inc.
P.O. Box 357963
Gainesville, FL 32635

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<td>February 2, 7 pm</td>
<td>Professor Tudor Parfitt Talk</td>
<td>The Oak Room at Oak Hammock</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11, 6 pm</td>
<td>PJ Library Havdalah</td>
<td>Temple Shir Shalom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23, 2:30 pm</td>
<td>Helping Hands Clinic Dinner</td>
<td>First United Methodist Church</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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