

- ❖ Set your Writing Goals
- ❖ Dan Sullivan Poetry Contest
 - ❖ Words in Whitby
- ❖ Workshops for the New Year

Goal Tending

By Susan Lynn Reynolds

At our writing group, between Christmas and New Year, we did an exercise that required us to: "Write a letter on this day, a year from now, back to this group, telling us how your writing has gone in the past year." There was a lot of laughter as we shared the exercise later – one writer's letter was from Chicago where she was appearing on Oprah the following day to promote her book, at the same time duking it out for first place on the *New York Times* bestseller list with Dorothea Helms' new work of fiction!

My letter was more of a list: *I finished this, I started that, I finally submitted the other. I took this workshop, I went on that retreat.* By the end of the exercise I was hyperventilating – I wasn't even out of 2001, and I'd already run out of time for what I wanted to do as a writer in 2002.

It was a wake-up call. As a small business owner, I do a review of my goals and my current performance at least once a year. I realized that I should be doing this



for my career as a writer as well: setting priorities, identifying desires, and plotting steps to reach them.

Imagine that you are dropped by helicopter, blindfolded, into the middle of an unknown forest. The man who drops you there tells you, "You're 50

kilometres from Ottawa." He gives you no other information: direction, current relationship to your destination, compass, map... nothing. You have 360 degrees of choice and no hints. The chances you'll get to Ottawa any time soon are slim. Setting a goal is like giving yourself a map in the middle of the wilderness called life that shows you where you are, what direction you have to go in, how far you have to travel, and what kind of landscape you might have to conquer in between.

Goal-setting coaches will tell you that to be useful, a goal must be three things: specific, measurable and attainable. To set a goal of "I want to win the Toronto Star Short Story Contest next year" is specific and measurable, but not necessarily attainable. However, to set a goal of "I want to develop three polished short stories this year and submit them to a minimum of five contests", fulfills all three criteria – and may end up enabling you to win the Toronto Star Short Story Contest!

These coaches will also tell you that you should set goals for one year, as well as five to ten years ahead. The long-term goals should be at least lofty, and maybe even outrageous; this is where Oprah or the bestseller list belongs. But it's the current year where you're going to begin taking concrete baby steps to get to that destination: "Join a writing group to have my work critiqued." "Get up early 3 days a week and work one hour each day on my manuscript". "Take a dialogue workshop."

Now's the time to plan those baby steps and begin to walk the distance you have to travel. Spending an hour at the beginning of this year to plot your advancement as a writer is a great investment. So pull out your daytimer and get going! See you on Oprah!

Susan Lynn Reynolds, novelist, workshop facilitator, as well as Treasurer and Membership Director on the WCDR Board, is planning a great line-up of writing goals this year.

Stepping Out

- ✓ Start by listing your ultimate goals as a writer. Have fun with these but keep them specific. “I’d like to work from my home office, making an income of at least \$50,000. a year doing freelance non-fiction writing.” “I’d like to be 4 weeks on the Globe and Mail’s fiction bestseller list
- ✓ List the current obstacles to your goal. “I don’t *have* a home office.” “I don’t write fiction.” “I need an agent.”
- ✓ Next, list exact steps you can take to overcome these obstacles. Break the steps down into the smallest components. Don’t just say, “Get an agent.” Write things like, “Get copy of Writers’ Market from the library”; then “Write query letter to 20 U.S. agents attaching 15 sample pages of my manuscript.” Breaking it down into these tiny parts means you will realize which steps are missing, such as “*Write 15 sample pages*”.
- ✓ Take 15 to 20 of these steps and assign dates by which they can reasonably be done within the next 3 to 6 months.
- ✓ Get out your daytimer and schedule blocks of time and deadlines you’ll need to meet to reach your short-term goals. When you’ve accomplished most of your first set of deadlines, revisit your long term desires (they will change), and set yourself another set of short term steps to take you in your ultimate direction.

Susan Lynne Reynolds

News from the Board

*By Alexandra Savage-Ferr
Vice-President/ Events Coordinator*

Happy New Year everyone! As WCDR Special Events Coordinator I’m delighted to tell you that we have great things to look forward to this year. Our third annual “Words in Whitby” promises to be the Durham event of the year. The committee is pulling out all the stops to bring you a line-up of authors like no other.

On the evening of Friday, April 5, in historic Trafalgar Castle School, right here in Whitby, there will be a wine and cheese reception with media, local dignitaries—and you!—to meet and greet Richard B. Wright, winner of the 2001 Giller Prize and the 2001 Governor General’s Award for Fiction. We’re thrilled that author and CBC Radio commentator Ted Barris returns as our host this year. Following the reception, we’ll move to a different part of the castle to hear Ted and Alex Barris share a father/son discussion of their recent book collaboration *Making Music*. Ted will then interview Richard B. Wright and you’ll hear about the story behind the story of *Clara Callan*. Books will be available for purchase and author signings. This evening is not to be missed.

On Saturday, April 6th, you’ll return to the splendour of the castle in daylight to hear Ted interview Joan Barfoot and Giller nominee Sandra Birdsell, both winners of the Books in Canada First Novel Award, and the prestigious Marian Engel Award.

Next, it’s a Gala Luncheon in the Great Dining Hall. Our guest speaker is none other than the hilarious Don Harron, writer, performer, and our own Charlie Farquharson. He’ll be reading excerpts from his upcoming book about Charlie turning 50.

But wait, the day’s not over yet. Whitby’s own internationally known author Susanna Kearsley joins Ted on stage. Then, drum roll please, you’ll be in awe as Ted talks with one of Canada’s most distinguished authors—Pierre Berton.

It’s an unbelievable line-up, isn’t it? The WIW committee is doing an incredible job. If you’d like to help out at the event please let us know soon. Ticket prices were not finalized as we went to press with this newsletter, but tickets will be available for purchase at the February breakfast. Members will get a one-time special discount offer on that morning. Call our central phone message for updates on prices, times, and/or to offer to volunteer, at (905) 259-6520.

A Truly Gentle Soul

By Marjorie Green

On November 30, WCDR said good-bye to one of its earliest members and friends, when Richard Ferrier succumbed to lung disease at age 72.

Although we knew him as a writer of children's books, Dick earned his living as an artist - for many years as art director at Maclean-Hunter and later through gallery sales. His massive landscapes hang in major corporate collections across Canada.

A deeply compassionate man, Dick, along with his wife Barbara, gave countless hours to Scarborough's Centenary Hospital, producing its newsletter and working as a volunteer in various departments, often

reading his own beautiful stories to frightened children in Emergency.

For WCDR, Dick and Barb worked on countless *Word Weavers*. When our quill pen logo began looking shabby, he quietly took it upon himself to re-draw it; when we needed posters we had but to ask. Dick assisted in the creation of our first web site, and since 1995, has been the glue that held the writing circle, Volume Two, together.

Those who shared reading time with Dick will remember the soft voice, the spontaneous laugh that could dissolve into giggles, and the gentleness of soul reflected in everything he wrote. Our sincere condolences to Barb and the family; we consider ourselves privileged to have known him.

Marjorie Green is a professional writer/editor, founder of WCDR and its first president.

Writers' Circles

Sherry Loeffler is the contact person for writing circle updates. If you would like general information on writing circles, Sherry will be glad to help. If you would like to join a circle, please contact the appropriate person listed below. Group leaders, if you change dates, times, or meeting locations, please contact Sherry at (905) 640-6315 or by e-mail at loeffler@primus.ca.

Circle for Children's Writers

First Wednesday of each month.
Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 13, 7-9pm.
Oshawa Library, Northview Branch
250 Beatrice St. E., Oshawa.
Mike Ward, wardswords@hotmail.com

Durham Write-On

Tuesdays every two weeks.
Feb 12, 26, Mar 12, 26, Apr 2 7-9pm.
Call for location.
Ruth Walker, (905) 728-7823

Inkwell (formerly Bowmanville Writer's Group)

Third Tuesday of each month.
Feb 19, Mar 19, Apr 16, 7-9pm.
Boardroom, Hamilton and Mutton
1 Division St. Bowmanville.
Lynda Allison, (905) 623-0365

Markham Village Writers' Group

Merets once each month.
Feb 6, Mar 6, Apr 10, 7-9pm.
Donna Marrin, katnip 40@sympatico.ca

Newcastle Poetry Club

Third Monday of each month.
Feb 18, Mar 18, Apr 15, 7-9pm.
261 Mill St. S., Newcastle.
Philippa Schmiegelow, (905) 987-4856



Northword Edition

Tuesdays every two weeks.
Feb 5, 19, Mar 5, 19, Apr 2, 7-9pm.
Uxbridge Public Library.
Dorothea Helms, (905) 852-9294

Oshawa Scribes

First and third Tuesday of each month.
Feb 5, 19, Mar 5, 19, Apr 2, 1:30-3:30.
Oshawa Library, Northview Branch
250 Beatrice St. E., Oshawa.
Grace Stevenson, (905) 725-0760



Senior Scribes of Uxbridge

Second and fourth Friday of each month.
No December meeting
Jan 11, 25, Feb 8, 22, 1:30-3:30pm.
Township Hall, Uxbridge.
Joyce Whitney, (905) 852-3414

Word Players

Newcastle Writing Group.
Call for dates, 7-10pm.
261 Mill St. S., Newcastle.
Philippa Schmiegelow, (905) 987-4856.

Write In Whitby

Second and fourth Tuesday each month.
Feb 12, 26, Mar 12, 26, Apr 9, 7-9pm.
Whitby Public Library.
Lloyd Blair, (905) 430-0075

Write Now

Thursdays every two weeks.
Feb 14, 28, Mar 14, 28, Apr 11, 7-9pm.
Uxbridge Public Library.
Sue Reynolds, (905) 985-1962

Writers' and Editors' Network

Breakfast meeting.
Third Saturday of each month.
Feb 16, Mar 16, Apr 20, 9-11:30am.
Stemms Eatery,
3300 Bloor St. W., Etobicoke
Mickey Turnbull, (905) 824-5035
mickeytc@ica.net

Odds and Eds

Beginnings and endings: it seems that every time I turn around, there is another. This issue is full of them...

Beginnings: Susan Lynne Reynolds gets you started with her article on setting your writing goals. (page 1) Then, make sure you add "Enter the Dan Sullivan Memorial Poetry Contest" to your goals list. (page 4)

Want to make new writing friends and writing contacts? Consider getting involved in one or more of the many WCDR events, like Words in Whitby (page 2, 5), writing circles (page 3), or workshops. (page 6).

Read the winning entries that met the challenge of beginnings – writing the "hook" (page 7), and enter this month's challenge on endings.

Talking of endings, my stint as Editor of the *Word Weaver* ends with this issue. I have set my writing goals for 2002, and to achieve them, have decided to reclaim some time and hand over the editing reins of the *Word Weaver* to the new Editor, Annette McLeod. You'll meet Annette, who comes on board with the next issue, at February's breakfast (page 5).

Being Editor has been a rewarding experience. Thank you to all who have helped me along the way, and especially to you, *Word Weaver* readers, for your support and good wishes. I know that under Annette's guidance, the *Word Weaver* can only get better.

Whatever your plans for 2002, may the muse be with you.

Gwynn Scheltema, Editor

LAST CALL!

Dan Sullivan Poetry Contest

The 2002 contest is now underway.

Don't delay. Get your entries in before the February 15th deadline.

Contest guidelines are available on the WCDR website at www.wcdr.org or can be requested by mail.

Prizes: **Adult:** First \$300, Second \$200, Third \$100

Youth: (under 18 at Feb 15, 2002) First \$150, **Second \$100, Third \$75**

Children (under 12 at Feb 15, 2002) First \$75, Second \$50, Third \$25

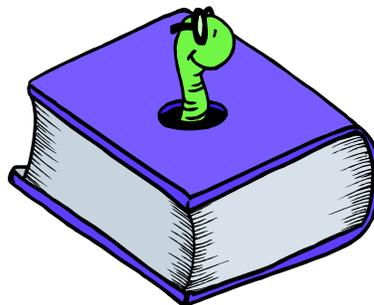
The Washington Post published a contest asking readers to supply alternate meanings for various words.

Coffee (n.), a person who is coughed upon.

Flabbergasted (adj.), appalled over how much weight you have gained

Bookworm

By Sherry Loeffler



What did you read as a child?

Aprille Janes, WCDR president, started reading fairly young. When she had her tonsils out at age 7, Aprille's mother gave her a book which impressed her so much that from then on her "nose was always in a book". The book was one of the Bobbsey Twin series, and Aprille realized that day "what an adventure reading could be".

What one book stands out in your mind?

"*The Divine Secrets of the Ya Ya Sisterhood*, in which the author uses all the senses for the reader to 'experience' it with the characters, to make it real."

What genre or authors do you like?

Aprille loves a good mystery/suspense novel, especially those by Sue Grafton and Mary Higgins Clark. Joan Barfoot's book *Plain Jane* is keeping her occupied at the moment; however, on the two-hour commute to work, she is listening to a book on tape by Anne Tyler titled, *When We Were Grownups*.

What book has influenced your writing?

Julia Cameron's book, *The Artist's Way* influenced Aprille to sign up for a writing class, and she has never looked back. She recommends this book to any beginning or experienced writer to help get past the "Inner Critic". Also, *Writing on Both Sides of the Brain* by Henriette Klausner, to help you learn how to use that "Inner Critic". "Both are wonderful books for any artistic pursuit and especially good for writers," says Aprille.

Sherry is a WCDR member who followed her first published piece in November with two more in December and February. How's that for being on a roll!

Join us for Breakfast

February 9

Join us in February, when we welcome Annette McLeod, Senior Writer/Editor in the Toronto Sun's Special Sections Department.

While Annette's current focus is primarily on automotive journalism as editor of "DriverSource" Saturday, she has written for and edited regular products such as "Career Connection" and "New Homes", as well as a wide variety of occasional products.

Annette will share the insights she has gained through 15 years experience in the newspaper industry in diverse roles including paper layout, graphic design and sales. Her talk will address life at a newspaper and the role of newspapers in our increasingly electronic society, writing for the advertorial market, and the importance of copy editing.

March 9

Be ready to be intrigued by witty interviewing techniques. Hamlin Grange, award winning journalist and news anchor, formerly with CBC Television, now President of ProMedia International Inc., a company specializing in television production and media consulting, will join us in March to share his interviewing secrets.

After getting his journalism degree, he worked for various television stations and newspapers, reporting, writing, producing, and interviewing. Hosting **NewsWorld-TVO's Workweek**, and the **CBC's More to the Story**, Hamlin brought his own style to interviews that engaged the viewer and challenged his guests.

Hamlin is currently President of the Canadian Association of Black Journalists and has been recognized for his work with numerous awards

including a B'Nai Brith Human Rights Award for Journalism, a Gemini, the African Canadian Achievement Award, and awards from the New York and Houston International Film and Video Festivals.



April Luncheon

Note : The regular Saturday morning breakfast will be replaced with a gala luncheon at the literary event of the year "Words in Whitby".

Breakfast meetings run from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. at Iroquois Park Sports Complex, 50 Victoria Street West (at Henry Street) in Whitby. Members \$12; Guests \$15. Seating is limited and catering needs to be confirmed by the Tuesday prior, so contact Nancy Rogers at (905) 259-6520 or at write.rogers@sympatico.ca to reserve your spot.



Guess what I heard...

By Ruth E. Walker

The guest list for Words in Whitby 2002 keeps getting better and better. Imagine kicking off the weekend with this year's Governor General Award winner for fiction AND this year's Giller Prize winner -- no need to imagine at all. We've got them both, in the person of Richard B. Wright.

And what else do Sandra Birdsell and Joan Barfoot have in common besides being successful writers and both having won the Books in Canada First Novel award, AND being winners of the Marian Engel Award? They are both coming to Words in Whitby this year!

By the way, just how long do you think tickets will last before being sold out to the interview and reading by one of Canada's most distinguished authors? Not only has this author produced more than 50 books and been awarded too many prizes and accolades to even begin to list, if you check out the latest issue of the *Oxford Canadian Dictionary*, you'll find him under Berton, Pierre. You'll also find him on the programme at this year's Words in Whitby.

Add into the mix a return visit by Whitby's very own international writing star, Susanna Kearsley, fresh from the raves of her latest book, and the incredible combo of Alex Barris and Ted Barris, co-authors. Watch Ted and Alex turn the tables on each other as father interviews son, and son interviews father. What family secrets will spill on our stage?

Oh, yes – rumour has it that the Friday night wine and cheese kick-off celebration will be attended by some 'old friends' of Words in Whitby. Head to Trafalgar Castle on April 5th to see just who will be there.

Don't delay ordering your tickets. A dream line-up of authors is coming our way and anyone with an interest in writing won't want to be disappointed. "Standing Room Only" and "Sold Out" are the predictions for this spring's amazing literary event.

Ruth E. Walker serves on the WCDR board as Past President and is also a member of the Wordsd in Whitby committee.



Workshops

To register for workshops, contact Lois Gordon by e-mail at ljgordon@on.aibn.com or by phone at (905) 259-6520. The workshop calendar is posted on www.wcdr.org

The Business of Writing

Dorothea Helms

Saturday, February 16, 2002

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location TBA

Fee: \$50 for non-members, \$45 for WCDR members

Do you believe that it's impossible for writers to make a good living in Canada today? Did you work a tremendous number of hours last year writing for little money? Have you ever heard, "Oh, you're a writer, but what's your REAL job?"

The commonly-held beliefs that writers can't make much money or that you HAVE to write for little or no remuneration are misconceptions. A natural choice for a home-based

business, writing can be a fulfilling and lucrative career, IF approached as an entrepreneurial venture. This workshop provides an overview of what is involved in starting up a writing business - from motivation to targeting markets, approaching editors and keeping pertinent receipts and records. Learn how to

avoid the common mistakes writers make and how to charge for various jobs.

Workshop leader Dorothea Helms is the owner of Write Stuff Writing Services, a thriving home-based writing/editing business. She is also a business trainer, and has helped dozens of entrepreneurs start their own businesses.



Effective Editing

Tricks of the Trade

Gwynn Scheltema

Saturday, March 16, 2002

Time 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location Oshawa Library, Northview Branch

Fee: \$45 for non-members, \$40 for members

Good editing skills will improve your chances of getting out of the slush pile, past the editor's first look, and into print. Increase your publishing track record by eliminating common editing blunders. Whether you write fiction or non-fiction, whether you're an emerging writer or seasoned professional,

this one-day workshop will give you practical information you can use.

You'll find out the difference between copy editing, editing for style, proofreading and content editing; review common structural errors, and punctuation and grammar gremlins; learn how to look at the "big picture" as well as the fine details, and more!

Gwynn Scheltema is a full-time freelance writer and editor and owner of The Write Connection. She is a fiction editor for *lichen* literary journal; editor of Word Weaver, and a contract editor for the Ministry of Education, as well as a national short story contest judge.

Tax Tips for Writers

Gwynn Scheltema

Saturday, March 23, 2002

Time 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Location Oshawa Library; Northview Branch

Fee: \$45 for non-members, \$40 for members

Being a writer means more than coming up with great plot lines, sizzling dialogue and characters that walk off the page and into your readers' hearts - it also means dealing with Revenue Canada regarding taxes. Whether you are a full-time writer swamped with assignments from your editors, or a hobby writer just thrilled to see your name in print, it's up to you to ensure the government doesn't profit from all your hard work more than it should.

This half-day workshop is practical and easy to understand. Income tax returns can be daunting at the best of times, but you'll learn how to maximize your tax saving opportunities, and minimize the fear and stress associated with filing your return.



Gwynn Scheltema is a full-time freelance writer and editor and owner of The Write Connection. Before starting her writing business, Gwynn worked for over 25 years in accounting, teaching and administration. She received her accounting designation in 1974 and has worked in the accounting field as an accountant, auditor and tax preparer since that time

Favourite oxymorons

Act naturally

Almost exactly

Genuine imitation

Outrageous Writing

Dorothea Helms

Saturday, April 27, 2002

10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Pickering Library

Fee: \$50 for non-members, \$45 for WCDR members

If your writing needs a creative shot-in-the-arm, you'll find yourself jolted into uncharted fiction and non-fiction territory in this all-day workshop. Based on Dorothea's popular 8-week Advanced Creative Writing course, this down-and-dirty writing day is not for the timid. Come prepared to participate in bold, courageous on-the-spot writing exercises and pry open your mind with a literary crowbar.

Workshop leader Dorothea Helms is owner of Write Stuff Writing Services, a thriving home-based writing/editing business. She is also a college-level creative writing instructor, and has inspired numerous students to go on to get published and win writing contests.

I Do Different Voices

Rachelle Lerner, PhD

Saturday, May 4, 2002

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Location: Pickering Library

Fee: \$55 for non-members, \$50 for WCDR members

Whether a budding or experienced poet, you'll enjoy this fascinating one-day poetry workshop that offers participants hands-on explorations of a variety of poetic forms such as the lyric, dramatic monologue, confession, haiku, and sonnet. Sharpen your poetic tools through practical exercises using imagery, simile and metaphor. Turn prose into poetry, poetry into prose. Bring in your own poems to recreate in a different form. Additional poems will be available for use during the workshop.

Facilitator Rachelle Lerner, PhD, has been published in literary journals, and served as co-editor of *Descant* for several years. She has taught poetry, narrative, drama and other literary courses at University of Toronto and Trent University.

E-WordWeaver



Thanks to those of you who have opted to receive *Word Weaver* by e-mail. This helps WCDR save printing and mailing costs. Those of you who haven't yet considered it, may like to contact Dorothea Helms, try the test PDF file and let her know

if you'd like your name added to the E-WordWeaver list.

Challenge Winners

Last issue's challenge: "Write a good "hook" that will provide the reader with a reason to keep reading."

In keeping with cold weather we're having lately, **Anne Nielson's** entry "Isolated" may send a shiver down your spine. **Francis J. Theriault's** entry, "Great Lines" has a fictional character indulge in a little wordplay, and push the bounds of political correctness, and winner **Grace Stevenson** certainly got me hooked with her entry that is also about beginnings!

Beginning

By Grace Stevenson

Mildred woke with Bertha's name on her lips. Then she remembered. Bertha was dead. The sister who, for all of her sixty years had made the decisions that controlled her life, was gone. She threw back the covers, her body invigorated by unfamiliar excitement. Today her life could begin.

Isolated

By Anne Nielson

The lake gave an eerie moan, and then cracked. Eileen sat huddled in the fish hut. Dan had been gone now several hours. Cold seeped through her heavy clothes. Their heat and light source was diminishing. She heard unfamiliar breathing. When a snout poked under the opening, Eileen froze.

Great Lines

By Francis J. Theriault

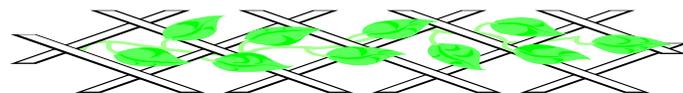
If I said you have a beautiful body, would you hold it against me? Lines. Guys use 'em. Girls love 'em. The better ones include: "I hope I'm alive 'cuz my heart just stopped." And "I must be in heaven 'cuz I'm looking at an angel." Great Lines. Guys use 'em. Girls love 'em.

This Issue's Challenge

This issue's challenge, in contrast to last issue's challenge on beginnings, and in consideration of the fact that this is my final issue as Editor of the *Word Weaver*, is about endings.

The challenge is to write a short short story (under 200 words) or a poem (max 20 lines) about "ending" or "leaving"

Send your entries to the Editor by e-mail or regular mail to the address on the back page, to arrive no later than March 12.





Calendar of Events

Registration: Breakfasts: See page 5; Workshops: See page 6

February 9, 2002

Writers and Editors Dialogue

Featured Guest: **Annette McLeod**

Senior Writer/Editor – Toronto Sun

February 16, 2002

Workshop: The Business of Writing

Dorothea Helms

March 9, 2002

Writers and Editors Dialogue

Featured Guest: **Hamlin Grange**

Journalist and Interviewer

March 16, 2002

Workshop: Editing, Tricks of the Trade

Gwynn Scheltema

March 23, 2002

Workshop: Taxation Tips for Writers

Gwynn Scheltema

April 5 and 6, 2002

Words in Whitby

Authors Reading Series

Trafalgar Castle

(see page 5)

April 27, 2002

Workshop: Outrageous Writing

Dorothea Helms

May 4, 2002

Workshop: I Do Different Voices

Rachelle Lerner

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Please note: The editorial staff reserves the right to edit or reject submissions as it feels necessary.

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