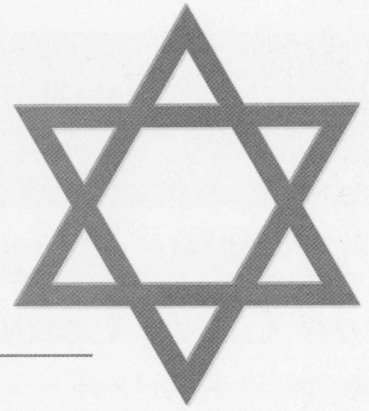




HILLEL

# The Star



WASHINGTON AND LEE HILLEL NEWSLETTER

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DECEMBER 2006

## Director's Corner

The idea of a Hillel House was raised with the Admissions and Academics Committee of the Board of Trustees at the May, 2006 meeting when Bill Hartog and I were invited to present an update of Jewish life on campus. In response to our presentation, the Board committee charged the Administration to appoint an ad hoc committee to consider measures to build Jewish life for at Washington and Lee. Acting President Beckley appointed this committee, which I was honored to chair.

After a process that included reviewing enrollment and programming trends, talking to Hillel Directors at peer institutions, surveying the current Hillel student leadership, meeting with local Jewish families, talking with key Jewish alumni, and discussing the potential for various internal changes with University administrators, the committee recommended building a Center for Jewish Life on a central site on the W&L campus. The full report was presented to President Ruscio and Provost Williams in September, and was well received.

*Having a center for Jewish life at Washington and Lee represents a commitment on the part of the University to improve the quality of life for our Jewish students. While W&L has a vibrant Hillel organization on campus, a building dedicated to Jewish life will strengthen the University's commitment to diversity and inclusiveness. It will have the added benefit of providing a resource for the Jewish members of the Lexington and Rockbridge County communities. I wish to acknowledge the many individuals whose hard work has brought us to this point, particularly Hillel Director Joan Robins, the University's Board of Trustees and its Rector, Phil Norwood.*

Kenneth P. Ruscio  
President, Washington and Lee University

I am thrilled to report that this recommendation to build a Center for Jewish Life has been endorsed by the W&L Administration and Board of Trustees! The University and the committee has planned what should

be included in the Center. The university is currently exploring the finalization of a site that will work best for the Center and fit centrally into future development. We could not have made such real strides toward building a home for Hillel without the Board's commitment to Jewish life on campus. The Center for Jewish Life will be a source of pride for all of us.

I wish to acknowledge the members of the ad hoc Committee for their leadership. They are Dennis Cross, Hank Dobin, Marcia France, Joe Grasso, Mark Grunewald, Bill Hartog, Dmitry Slavin '09, and Dawn Watkins. Special thanks to Mark Grunewald who has been dedicated to improving the quality of Jewish life at W&L for thirty years. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have worked with Mark in bringing his vision to this exciting moment. You'll be hearing from us as the University continues to develop plans for the Center.

*"I am delighted to announce that the Washington and Lee Board of Trustees has endorsed the building of a Center for Jewish Life. We are united in our commitment to make the Center for Jewish Life a reality as early as feasible. The Board believes that W&L would greatly benefit from a tangible presence and symbol of its commitment to Jewish life on campus. Hillel is not only a spiritual and intellectual home for W&L's Jewish students, but it's diverse and vibrant program is a cultural resource for all of us."*

Philip W. Norwood, Rector, Washington and Lee Board of Trustees

## Shalom from the Co-Presidents

*By Justine Dargahi '07 and Carly Cowley '07*

Shalom! We are so excited to tell you about all the amazing things Hillel has already done this year. Participation in everything this year has been great and we have enjoyed getting to know all of the new Jewish freshmen.

Hillel kicked off the year with many welcome back activities such as: a bagel brunch during orientation week, a "big and little" dinner with the freshmen, an "Apples and Honey" Jewish New Year party, and our annual Break the Fast in Evans Dining Hall on October 10th. A few students helped build the Sukkah, and we invited the campus community later in the week for "Pizza in the Hut." We have also participated in community service with Nabors Service Day and the Campus Kitchens Project.

We were honored to have President Ruscio attend the First Fridays at Five service in September. It has become a treasured tradition at Hillel to invite the President of the University to the first Shabbat service of the year. We have been so happy to see such good attendance at our services, particularly the law students and many families during Parents' Weekend.

Although the first semester has flown by, we have accomplished so much. We look forward to our traditional Hanukkah party and finals study break in December. If the beginning of the year is any indication, this will prove to be another great year for Hillel at Washington and Lee.

## Very Interesting Professors

*By Dima Slavin '09*

W&L Hillel has continued to have its highly successful Very Interesting Professor Luncheons. Every month, Hillel members meet with a distinguished university professor and speak with them about Jewish life and their experiences. This September, our guest was Religion Professor Tim Lubin, who talked to us about his travels to India and Asia. Our October guest was Visiting Professor of Journalism Phyllisa Mitchell. Professor Mitchell discussed race and religion in journalism and media coverage of political campaigns. She also told us of her experiences as a Jewish student at W&L Law and the founding of a society for Jewish law students as well as her experiences in nearby Charlottesville. Our November guest will be Mike Walsh, currently Special Asst. to the VP of Advancement in University Development and formerly head of Washington and Lee Athletics. We look forward to meeting with Mr. Walsh and talking to him about Jewish athletes as well as many more successful luncheons next term.

## From the Law School: JLSA Founded and Growing

*By Jessica Berenyi '08L*

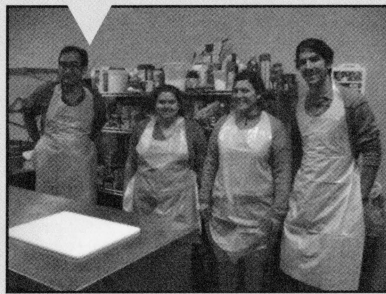
I knew the move from living and working in New York City to attending law school in Lexington would require a transition. When I arrived, Washington and Lee had everything I had imagined: a picturesque campus, a close-knit faculty and student body and rigorous coursework. Nonetheless, I found myself homesick. I was so accustomed to being around people who, if it is possible in a heterogeneous mecca like New York City, were "like me" that I felt a huge adjustment to learning with students who were from parts of the country like Kentucky, Alabama, Tennessee and Texas. Though those very students are now some of my best friends, when I began school here, I needed that initial common bond with something or someone to help increase my comfort level with my new surroundings.

It was my parents who had the brilliant idea of contacting Joan Robins and the undergraduate Hillel. "You can go to services" they suggested, "meet the other Jewish people on campus. You will have something in common with them." As parents so often are, they were correct.

However, my first encounter with Jewish life was, appropriately, at the Law School. I had not been able to identify any Jews in my class by last name, but apparently others found me. Soon I was meeting Goldmans and Wises and Rosenthals. Dean of Student Services at the Law School, Sidney Evans, suggested we start a club for Jewish students. So, last year, along with fellow first-year student, Lindsay Wise, I founded the Jewish Law Students Association (JLSA). Interestingly, JLSA, or its ancestors, has a storied past. A few years ago a Jewish student and a Christian pastor/law student had tried to form, or perhaps resurrect, a fledgling club. But, after a short lived existence, this old organization also fell away.

However, with the support of Joan Robins, Sidney Evans and the entire Student Bar Association, JLSA is thriving. This year we have about 25 members—and were recently recognized as a formal organization at the law school which guarantees a budget for activities. We have held Rosh Hashanah potluck dinners, Jew-a-palooza, a Chanukah gift exchange and, during Diversity Week, we co-sponsored lectures on the intersection of religion and the law when professors discussed Stem Cell research and Intelligent Design. We have also participated in numerous Hillel events including First Fridays Shabbat services, the Passover Seder, the breaking of the Yom Kippur fast and trips to services in other cities. Thus far our experience has been great and we have been shown a great deal of support. We hope to attract more Jewish students to the law school and look forward to increased participation in JLSA!

*Students and faculty help with the Campus Kitchens "Turkeypalooza."*



*Students meet with Journalism Professor Phyllisa Mitchell during Hillel's "Very Interesting Professors" lunch series.*

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**Washington College of Law—American University**

**Mr. Samuel I White '50L:** High Holy Days

**Mr. John Zamoiski '74:** Reunion Weekend

## Homecoming 2006

## By Dan Einstein '83

Homecoming 2006 was an extraordinary weekend! The usual Homecoming activities were supplanted by the Inauguration of Ken Ruscio as President, an interesting panel of national educational leaders discussing liberal arts education—a relevant discussion to W&L's own strategic deliberations, athletic events by teams that have achieved notable and heroic success, reunion events, the Alumni Board meeting, the Law Council meeting and the list goes on.

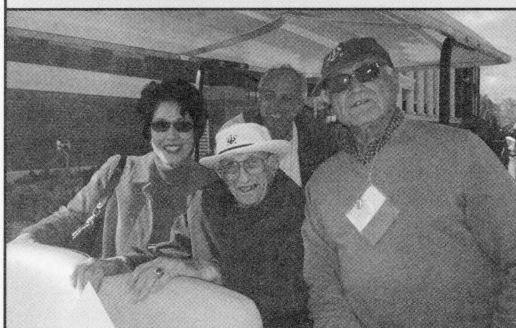
Search. Current projects include a mentoring program for new alumni in select cities and preparing to recommend three Alumni to the Trusteeship Committee of the Board of Trustees. It is a busy time.

For those of you who have not been able to return to Lexington, I can report to you of the significant positive feeling that one gets just setting foot onto campus. The University community is energized by the return of Ken Ruscio and you can really sense the excitement. Ken's approachable style, the strength of his character and intellect, and his unique knowledge of and love for W&L brings us to an exciting point in W&L's history. Under Ken's leadership, we are poised for more great things.

I am humbled by the leadership demonstrated by the Board of Trustees and Administration as they plan to establish a Center for Jewish Life at W&L. Clearly, this strategy supports the notion that the (robust) vibrant Jewish community of the past enriched the W&L experience for many. Today, W&L and

the greater Lexington community have an active Jewish community and the creation of a physical space for the Jewish community to gather, worship and share gives us an opportunity to reconnect with the rich past and bring those same opportunities to our current and future community. We need to work together to bring the Center to life and I hope that you will join us in this endeavor. You will hear more about the Center as the University continues to develop its plans.

*Dan Einstein '83 is President of Rosenfeld Einstein, a risk management and employee benefits firm in Greenville, SC. Dan and his wife Liz have three sons, Andrew (16), William (13 1/2) and Charles (12) all of whom joined him on his recent trip to Lexington.*



*Enid Hillman, Al Fleishman '41, Henry Fleishman '70, and Don Hillman '46 enjoy beautiful weather after the inauguration of President Ruscio.*

I am in the second year of a four year term on the Alumni Board, a body whose role it is to represent our collective Alumni constituency in W&L affairs. The Alumni Board's work is robust with a significant number of initiatives and activities underway. We represent Alumni in W&L's Strategic Planning process that is moving to a conclusion, and had specific participation in the Presidential and Alumni Executive Director

## Jew Crew '06-'07

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# Khatami Came for a Visit

By Hila Yashar '09

Yesterday, Tuesday October 31st, His Excellency Seyed Mohammad Khatami, the former President of Iran, came to St. Andrews to receive his Degree of Doctor of Laws from the university. Yesterday at 5pm Khatami carried out his speech about Dialogue of Civilizations, while people were protesting against his visit outside.

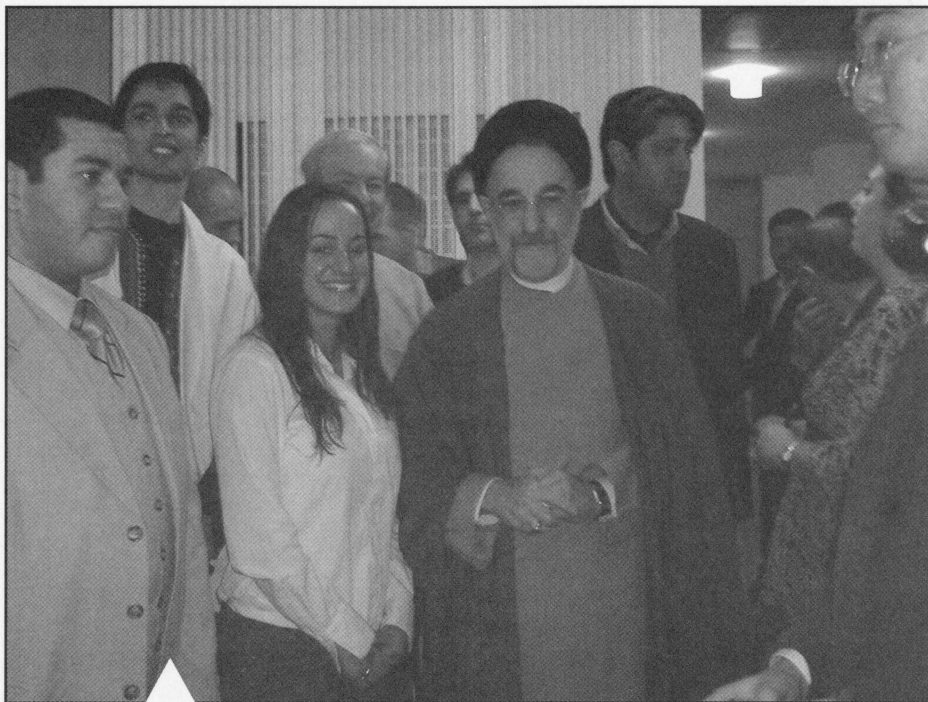
During the speech Mr. Khatami spoke in Persian, being translated to the people in English. Fortunately I got to sit at the upper balcony, very close to Khatami, with my Iranian friend Narkis and VP of the Jewish society, Barrie. His philosophical theory about the Dialogue of Civilizations (contrary to Huntington's Clash of Civilizations) was very interesting and metaphorical. He said that "the principle issue of human's creation is the human to human connection," and finished with "Borderless friendship will save the world."

Today, Wednesday November 1st 2006, I had the great honor to be one of four people to represent the Jewish society on campus in an exclusive discussion with Mr. Khatami. Fortunately the media was not allowed into the

room and notes were not taken in order to create a friendly, open atmosphere. At the beginning Khatami, sitting next to his personal translator, listened to what each religious group (Jewish, Muslim, Baha'i, Christian, Hindu) had to say about their activities on campus, and then asked for a few minutes to talk about his opinions on the issue of dialogue between the different faiths. When a short time was left for us to ask him our question, the first question was raised by Ahmad, a PhD student from Egypt who represents the Muslim society. His question was about what Khatami thought about the Caricatures in the newspaper, and what he thought of the Iran-Egypt relations. Khatami thanked him and talked to him in Arabic a little bit and then started answering to the second question. He said that Iran and Egypt are the two wings of Islam, and that efforts are being made, and were made during his presidency, to improve the relations. But that "not everything happens in one day."

Noticing there was not much time left for discussion I decided to be a little aggressive and insisted on asking him a question. I started with "I am an Israeli, and my grandparents immigrated from Iran to Israel about 60 years ago..." and all of a sudden he smiled

and started conversing with me in ENGLISH. He asked me "were you born in Israel" – "yes" – "Do you speak any Farsi" – "Unfortunately not" – "Not even a little bit" – "No..." – "I'm sorry" with a smile, and everyone started laughing. "Where did your parents come from in Iran?" – "From Shiraz" – "Have you ever been to Iran?" – "No, I don't think I can" – "I invite you to come to Iran!" and everybody laughed again. Completely blushing, I started asking the question about the Jew in Iran, while his translator translated to him in Persian. My question was "Why are Jews, protected under the law like other minorities, still being discriminated against; and why does Iran try to stop them from immigrating?" He said that he thinks Jews are happy and protected in Iran. Twice he mentioned the fact that each minority has a Member in Parliament, including the Jews. He said that he went to Jewish events of his Jewish friends and enjoyed the celebrations. What amazed me the most is that he added that no one can deny the Holocaust, because of course it happened. He said "I have a friend, Dr. Schneider, whose seven family members had been killed in the Holocaust."



*Hila Yashar '09, who is studying in St. Andrews, Scotland, meets Seyed Mohammad Khatami, former President of Iran.*

After he answered my question, the Baha'i representative asked

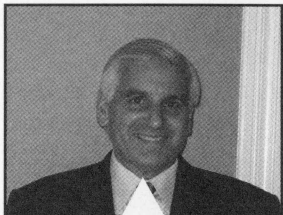
him a question about the difficulties of the Baha'is in Iran, and why they are treated this way. Khatami answered this question first by speaking to the guy in German and then talked about how everybody is a dictator in one way or another. Again, he went back to the fact that the Baha'is are protected under the minority laws in Iran, although there is still a lot to do and improve in their treatment.

When the meeting ended everybody rose, and again he said how he believes in dialogue and peace between all the religions. While he asked me a question about my non-existent Persian he took my arm and asked me to stand beside him for the pictures. He then looked me in the eyes (I swear we stood less than half a meter from each other!) and told me "You know Katzav? He lived next to Shiraz" – "I know!" – "So you don't know any Farsi?!" – "No..." – "Say...----, it means goodbye" he repeated it again and asked me to repeat it. So I did, even though I was speechless by such an honor! Later, one of the people who came with him asked me about my passport – British or Israeli, and of course I have an Israeli one. He told me that we need to check it. Who knows, maybe next year in Tehran, searching my genealogy? With people like him in control, maybe there is an optimistic future to Israel-Iran relations...

# Interview with Mark R. Eaker '69 *By Joan Robins*

*Hillel Director Joan Robins spoke recently with Mark Eaker, class of 1969. Eaker was elected to the W&L Board of Trustees in May and took office at the October 26th meeting.*

**I n c o m i n g**  
Trustee Mark Eaker and I met in October when he was on campus to attend the October meeting of the Board of



Mark R. Eaker '69

Trustees. Eaker discussed his new challenges as a trustee and reminisced about his experience as a student and how both adversity and diversity changed him for the better.

Eaker, like so many other devoted alumni, loved his W&L experience and noted that attending the school was "the best decision I ever made." But rediscovering W&L as a more inclusive place has become an additional source of pride for him. Arriving on campus for President Ruscio's inauguration, Eaker looked around the University and was pleased to notice how diverse the student body had become. He remarked that "it was a fabulous feeling to see how different W&L looked" since his college years, when students were almost exclusively white men. Among Eaker's goals as a trustee is the hope to diversify the University even more.

Eaker explained with great emotion the debt he felt he owed to the University. Eaker told me that when he entered W&L in the fall of 1965, his father had been ill with cancer. Sadly, his father died during Eaker's first year. Eaker told the Dean that he needed to withdraw from the University for financial reasons and was quite surprised when the Dean responded that W&L would take care of him. Without applying for or signing any loans, the University paid the entirety of Eaker's tuition. He worked at Evans dining hall for meals and had fraternity positions that covered his board.

Eaker continued to recount his memories of the historically Jewish fraternity Zeta Beta Tau. During his senior year, Eaker served as the president of ZBT at the time that the fraternity system was beginning to include members of different faiths. Eaker had befriended a black student while working at Evans, and thought he would make a great ZBT brother.

Nominating him wasn't an easy decision for Eaker to make, as many alumni and fraternity brothers were resistant to change. Like many of his frat brothers, Eaker was brought up in the segregated South (in Dallas) and had never really had a black friend. The issue surrounding the inclusion of a black member at ZBT forced the fraternity to realize that black students, like Jewish students, confronted bigotry as well.

Eaker's experiences at W&L prepared him well for his career. He is a Professor of Business Administration at the Darden Graduate School of Business of the University of Virginia and a General Partner in the Sire Group of Partnerships (Sire). Eaker has published widely on topics related to foreign exchange, futures markets, and international portfolio diversification. He is the author or co-author of five books, including *International Corporate Finance*, *Managing in the Global Business Environment*, and *The New Portable MBA*, Fourth Edition.

Eaker graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Washington & Lee in 1969. He has his M.B.A., A.M., and Ph.D. from Stanford University. Prior to joining the faculty at Darden, he taught at Stanford, Duke, SMU, and the University of North Carolina. He has lectured and consulted extensively on issues ranging from international investment to risk management to business transformations. Eaker's teaching honors include selection as commencement speaker by Southern Methodist University's Executive MBA Class of 1980; selection as Class Marshall by the MBA Class of 1988 at the University of Virginia; and the Outstanding Teacher Award, 1992, UVA Darden School (the first recipient of the award established by the 1992 MBA class). Prior to completing graduate school, Eaker served in the Navy as a supply officer aboard a nuclear submarine. In 1991, he co-founded Sire with Jud Reis (W&L'64). Sire, based in New York, is an investment management firm that manages ten limited partnerships which invest in hedge funds. At Washington and Lee Eaker was a member of Zeta Beta Tau fraternity, Beta Gamma Sigma, the Inter-fraternity Council, and was Senior Class Vice President. Eaker has two sons, Noah and Adam.

*"When we refer to Jewish life on campus, we are not talking about something that is exclusively religious; we are equally concerned with the cultural and social components of Jewish life and the contribution it can make to the campus community as a whole. Meaningful growth and development of Jewish life depends upon our attaining two closely-related objectives--first, having a critical mass of Jewish students here, and second, offering programs and services that meet their interests and needs. Both symbolically and practically, a Hillel House should advance those objectives and at the same time serve to broaden the Washington and Lee experience for all its students."*

Mark Grunewald,  
James P. Morefield Professor of Law,  
Chair, Hillel Advisory Board

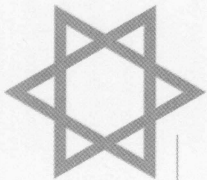
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## BECOME A SPONSOR!

W&L Hillel needs your help to ensure that quality Jewish programs reach Jewish students at W&L. Please consider a contribution to sponsor a Hillel event. Below are some exciting possibilities for the 2006 - 2007 academic year. When sponsoring an event, your name will be listed in the next issue of *The Star*, and also during the event.

<b>First Fridays at Five,</b> Shabbat Services and dinner ((8 per year)	\$1000 per Shabbat
<b>High Holy Days</b>	
Rosh Hashanah (lunch, transportation to synagogues)	\$500
Yom Kippur (Kol Nidre dinner, transportation to synagogues, and Break-the-Fast)	\$2000
<b>Sukkot</b>	\$1000
<b>Hanukkah</b>	\$1000
<b>Purim</b>	\$600
<b>Passover</b>	\$2000
<b>Very Interesting Professors</b> (9 per year)	\$200 per lunch
<b>Freshmen Welcome Bagel Brunch</b>	\$500
<b>Student Activities Fair</b>	\$500
<b>Social Activities</b> (interfaith events, films, etc)	\$3000
<b>Study Breaks</b> (3 per year)	\$200 per break
<b>Trips</b> (one to the Holocaust museum, one "bonding" trip)	\$3000 per trip
<b>Officers' Planning Meetings</b> (dinners with director and advisor and interested members—3 - 4 per year)	\$300
<b>Parents' Weekend</b> (bagel brunch, invitations)	\$1000
<b>Reunion Weekend</b> (bagel brunch, invitations)	\$1000
<b>Community Service</b> (purchase supplies, transportation to service areas)	\$500
<b>Speakers</b>	\$2000
<b>Birthright Israel</b> (orientation sessions)	\$500
<b>Conferences</b> (3 per year: Hillel Student Leadership Conferences)	\$800 per conference
<b>Rabbi Consultation</b> (pastoral counseling, campus visits)	\$1000
<b>Recruitment of Jewish Students to W&amp;L</b> (travel to high schools, Jewish college fairs)	\$1000
<b>Newsletters</b> (2 per year—sent to Jewish alumni and parents)	\$2000 per newsletter
<b>Jewish Film Series</b> (2 per year)	\$600 per film
<b>Website/CD Rom</b> (A video/web project which would appeal to prospective students and their families. Could also be distributed at high schools.)	\$6000
<b>Holocaust Remembrance Week</b> (films, speakers, service)	\$1000

**I am pleased to support Jewish Life at W&L  
 through a tax-deductable gift.**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

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My gift is \_\_\_\_\_ in memory of \_\_\_\_\_ in honor of \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ A check is enclosed for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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