

#1211 12.2.2019

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1. Reflections

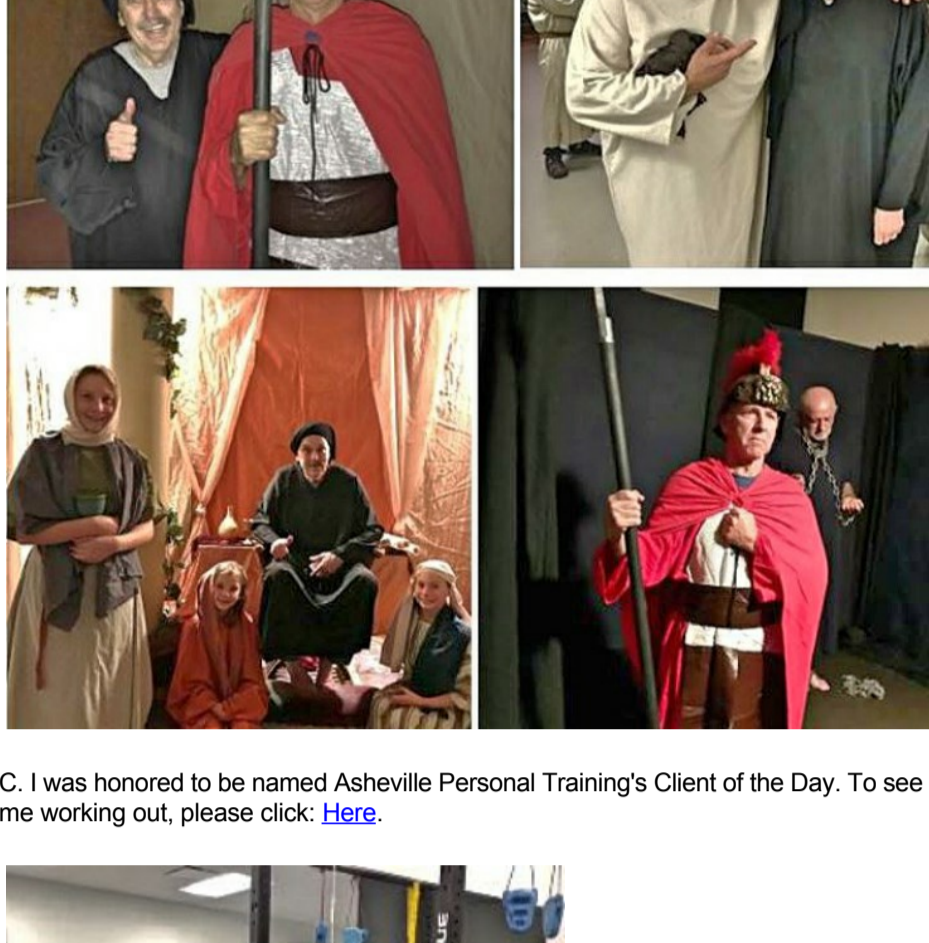
If you're reading this via Facebook or LinkedIn, please be advised that you will get it quicker if you get it via email. Another advantage: You'll never miss it that way because you may not have logged in for a day or two. And in the unlikely event you're not already a subscriber, all you need to do is send an email to: bgnbc@aol.com and put SUBSCRIPTION in the subject line.

A. Cynthia, my beautiful bride, and I:

(1) Had a fabulous time with family members at the Crowne Plaza Hotel & Resort in Asheville, NC. ... Great food and friends; nothing could be finer. ... To see all 16 pictures from the day, please click: Here.



(2) We also got together with many of the same group of folks to see A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD (see also Section 4A) and followed it up with a tasty dinner at the Tap Haus where we received excellent service from Austin Copeland.



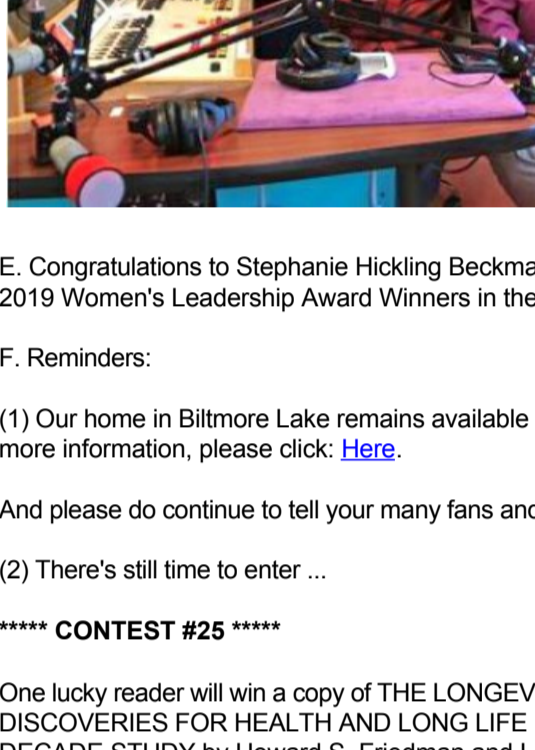
(3) And we celebrated our friend Thomsen Guth's birthday with a balloon and chocolate chip cookie.



B. RECOMMENDATION FOR TODAY ... Get thee to RETURN TO BETHLEHEM at Groce United Methodist Church, 954 Tunnel Rd., Asheville, from 2-6 p.m. on Sunday. Come experience the marketplace as it might have been when Jesus was born in Bethlehem. ... See the following link for when yours truly (Blaine Greenfield) played the rabbi on Thursday night: Here. You can also see Brian's stellar performance as a soldier on the same night by clicking: Here. ... Today, you will see Brad Owen, Chris Oaks and a whole host of other talented folks. ... It is something not to be missed! ... (Thanks, Cynthia Greenfield, for the great pictures and clips.)

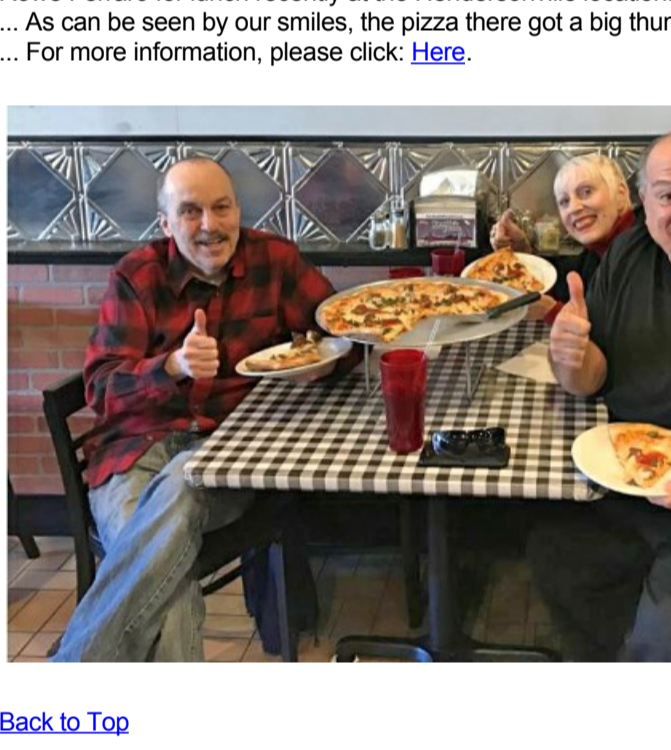


C. I was honored to be named Asheville Personal Training's Client of the Day. To see more working out, please click: Here.



D. Catch my BLAINESWORLD show on WPVM by clicking: Here ... Guests: (first half) Christine Breninger, local music promoter/music blogger; and (second half) Chris Martin, actor and director. ... Volume is low in the first 6 minutes, so if need be, please increase your volume setting in the beginning.

Note: Special thanks to Grail Moviehouse for sponsoring the above. To find out what's currently playing, please click: Here.



E. Congratulations to Stephanie Hickling Beckman on being named as one of the 2019 Women's Leadership Award Winners in the Category of "Arts & Culture."

F. Reminders:

(1) Our home in Biltmore Lake remains available for sale. To see pictures and/or get more information, please click: Here.

And please do continue to tell your many fans and friends about this property.

(2) There's still time to enter ...

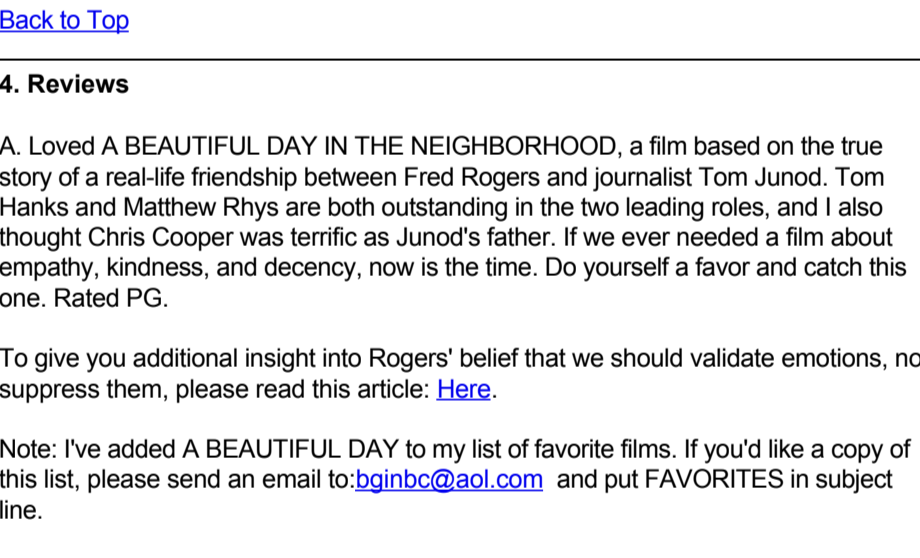
***** CONTEST #25 *****

One lucky reader will win a copy of THE LONGEVITY PROJECT: SURPRISING DISCOVERIES FOR HEALTH AND LONG LIFE FROM THE LANDMARK EIGHT-DECADE STUDY by Howard S. Friedland and Leslie R. Martin. According to Malcolm Gladwell, author of The Tipping Point, "[i]t uses one of the most famous studies in psychology to answer the question of who lives longest--and why. The answers will surprise you. This is an important--and deeply fascinating--book."

To enter the contest, send an email to: bgnbc@aol.com and put CONTEST #25 in the subject line. Include your name and mailing address in the body of the email. All entries must be received by 9 p.m. on Mon., December 9.

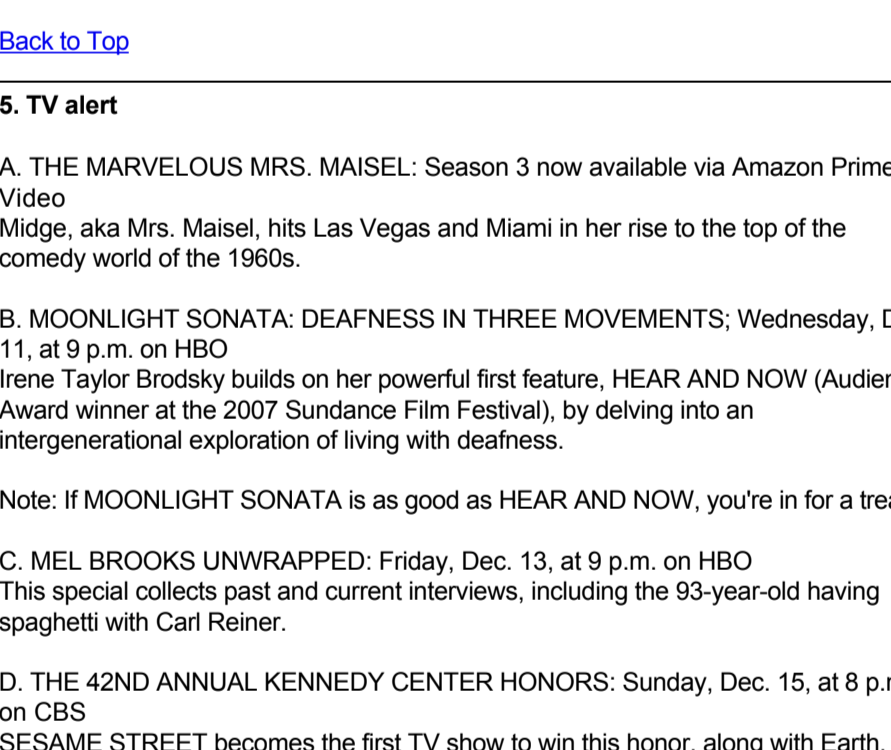
(3) Have you been a guest on my BLAINESWORLD radio show? Are you scheduled to be one in the future? Would you want to be one? (If so, send an email to: bgnbc@aol.com and put RADIO SHOW GUEST in subject line.) Or have you listened to and/or watched the show? ... Regardless, it would be VERY MUCH APPRECIATED if you would make any size contribution to my favorite radio station: WPVM. All you need to do is follow the instructions when you click this link: Here.

Note: Even though Giving Tuesday has officially ended, an anonymous friend of the station has agreed to donate \$3,000 to match any gifts received before Tuesday, Dec. 10.



***** BLAINESWORLD BEST AWARD *****

This week, it goes to Favilla's New York Pizza in Hendersonville. ... I've been a longtime fan of Andy and Jeanette's eatery by the same name when it was located in Asheville. That establishment is presently in the process of relocating, so missing the fine pizza and other food I always got, I met my friends Jimmy Ferraro and Dee Etta Rowe Ferraro for lunch recently at the Hendersonville location: 2111 Asheville Hwy #9. ... As can be seen by our smiles, the pizza there got a big thumbs up. It was delicious! ... For more information, please click: Here.



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2. FYI

BLAINESWORLD #1208 mentioned some things that all pet owners should know in case something happens to them. It got me thinking about some things that all of us should do.

Have a will drawn up, as well as both a power of attorney, advance directive and living will. Make sure you update these as needed; e.g., when situations change.

Note: A codicil is an easy way to make updates to your will until you get to your final. Develop a list of instructions to make life easier for a surviving spouse and/or your family. Include information about where your will is located, key friends to contact (lawyer, financial adviser, etc.), how to get into your home, where your important papers are located, passwords and as mentioned in the aforementioned issue, the arrangements you have made for your pets.

Get these instructions to whomever you feel should have them; e.g., in our case, I'll be sending a copy to my brother and Cynthia's sister.

You may be thinking that there's no rush to do any of the above. I beg to differ. Now is the time to take care of such details. Too often, I've heard of horror stories where an individual dies--or even when a couple dies together--and it becomes a mess to sort out what they've left behind.

FYI, part 2

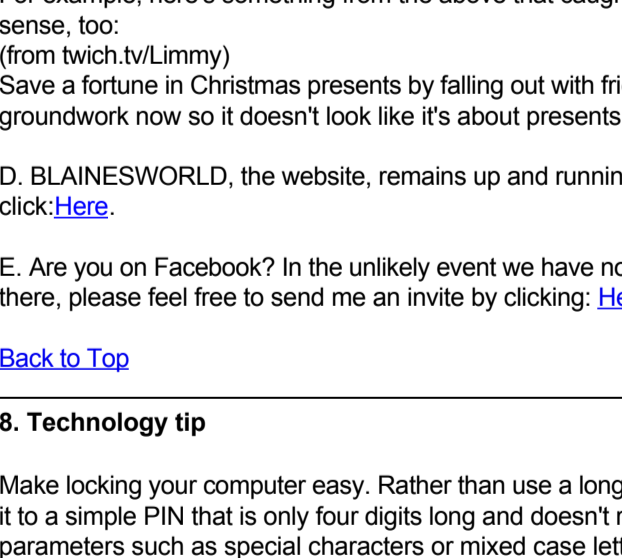
To read each of the following contributions in full, please click: Here.

(1) Sandy Howard: I loved your thought for the day! (2) Skye Barkschat: I know of Rob Bradley!! (3) The Joy of Being a Woman in Her 70s. (4) Make Room at the Table for Difficult People. (5) Dogs Can't Help Failing in Love.

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3. Joke 1

Last time I went to the doctor, he gave me the perfect diet to solve this problem. He said, "You can eat anything you want as long as it tastes like sirt."



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4. Reviews

A. Loved A BEAUTIFUL DAY IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD, a film based on the true story of a real-life friendship between Fred Rogers and journalist Tom Junod. Tom Hanks and Matthew Rhys are both outstanding in the two leading roles, and I also thought Chris Cooper was terrific as Junod's father. If we ever needed a film about empathy, kindness, and decency, now is the time. Do yourself a favor and catch this one. Rated PG.

To give you additional insight into Rogers' belief that we should validate emotions, not suppress them, please read this article: Here.

Note: I've added A BEAUTIFUL DAY to my list of favorite films. If you'd like a copy of this list, please send an email to: bgnbc@aol.com and put FAVORITES in subject line.

B. Read WORKING: READING, INTERVIEWING, WRITING (Alfred Knopf) by Robert A. Caro, a semi-memoir about what he had to do to write the biographies of both Robert Moses and Lyndon Johnson. ... This short, fascinating book gives great insight into the research done by the author to truly understand his subjects. And it made me appreciate the fact that while Moses was a master builder, he also displaced hundreds of thousands of residents in New York City. In addition, I learned how Johnson gained political power through money he used to disperse to those who supported his beliefs. ... Perhaps the best passage of the book was the one describing Caro's research on Johnson. He spent much time among the many farmers who lived around where Johnson was born. I found it particularly interesting to learn about the tough lives faced by many of the women who spent much of their days with heavy buckets of water on their backs.

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5. TV alert

A. THE MARVELOUS MRS. MAISEL: Season 3 now available via Amazon Prime Video. Midge, aka Mrs. Maisel, hits Las Vegas and Miami in her rise to the top of the comedy world of the 1960s.

B. MOONLIGHT SONATA: DEAFNESS IN THREE MOVEMENTS: Wednesday, Dec. 11, at 9 p.m. on HBO. Irene Taylor Brodsky builds on her powerful first feature, HEAR AND NOW (Audience Award winner at the 2007 Sundance Film Festival), by delving into an intergenerational exploration of living with deafness.

Note: If MOONLIGHT SONATA is as good as HEAR AND NOW, you're in for a treat!

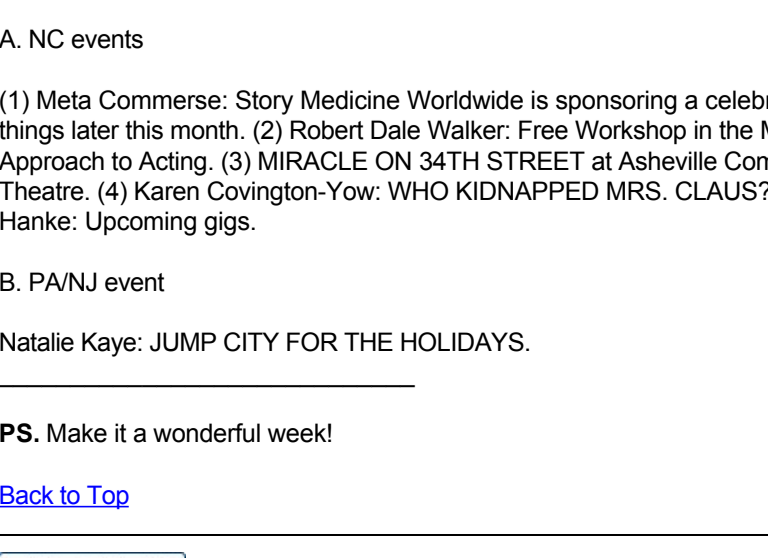
C. MEL BROOKS UNWRAPPED: Friday, Dec. 13, at 9 p.m. on HBO. This special collects past and current interviews, including the 93-year-old having spaghetti with Carl Reiner.

D. THE 42ND ANNUAL KENNEDY CENTER HONORS: Sunday, Dec. 15, at 8 p.m. on CBS. SESAME STREET becomes the first TV show to win this honor, along with Earth, Wind & Fire, Linda Ronstadt, Michael Tilson Thomas and Sally Field.

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6. Joke 2

When NASA started sending astronauts into space, they quickly discovered that brilliant pens would not work in zero gravity. ... To combat this problem, Congress approved a program and NASA scientists spent a decade and over \$165 million developing a pen that writes in zero gravity, upside down, on almost any surface and at temperatures ranging from below freezing to over 300 °C. ... The Russians used a pencil!



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7. Clips/Websites

A. Video of the week

Freak Factor: Discovering Uniqueness by Flaunting Weakness: Dave Rendall at TEDxMarinette: Here.

B. And also check out these other clips at your convenience:

- (1) Marcell: "Blue Moon," one of my all-time favorites: Here.
(2) Candice Glover - I Who Have Nothing: Here.
(3) Panhandler Party: Here.

C. Just what you needed: A website designed to literally waste you time called I Waste So Much Time. You won't find any long articles. Instead, you'll find funny pictures with embedded texts, along with some text messages that make you laugh. To see this for yourself, please click: Here.

For example, here's something from the above that caught my attention--and made sense, too: (from twitch.limmy) Save a fortune in Christmas presents by falling out with friends and family. Lay the groundwork now so it doesn't look like it's about presents.

D. BLAINESWORLD, the website, remains up and running ... to view it, please click: Here.

E. Are you on Facebook? In the unlikely event we have not yet connected as friends there, please feel free to send me an invite by clicking: Here.

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8. Technology tip

Make locking your computer easy. Rather than use a long, convoluted password, rest it to a simple PIN that is only four digits long and doesn't require any complicated parameters such as special characters or mixed case letters. Just go to Settings > Accounts > Sign in and Options. From there, it is to go to the Add button under PIN. Enter in any PIN of your choice and restart to give it a try.

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9. Joke 3

A couple drove their car to Walmart, but it broke down in the parking lot. The man told his wife to carry on with the shopping while he fixed the car. The wife returned later to see a small group of people near the car. On closer inspection, she saw a pair of male legs protruding from under the chassis. Although the man was in shorts, his lack of underwear turned his private parts into glaringly public ones. Unable to stand the embarrassment, she dutifully stepped forward, quickly put her hand up his shorts and tucked everything back into place. ... On regaining her feet, she looked across the hood and found herself staring at her husband who was standing idly by. ... The mechanic, however, had to have three stitches in his forehead. (Thanks, Roberta Gurwood, for sharing.)

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10. A quote I like

"My fake plants died because I did not pretend to water them."--Mitch Hedberg (1968-2005). American stand-up comedian known for his surreal humor and deadpan delivery.

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11. Thought for the day

Let's all start doing these activities today, Dec. 8, then make up the missed days north from Dec. 26-Jan. 1. We can begin anew on Jan. 2, 2020 and continue throughout our lifetime--constantly seeking new ways to be kind. (Thanks, Annemarie Brown, for posting.)

ADVENT OF KINDNESS DECEMBER, 2019

Table with 5 columns and 25 rows of kindness activities for December 2019, such as 'GIVE SOMEONE A PUG OR COMPLIMENT', 'LET SOMEONE IN FRONT OF YOU IN LINE', 'BUY A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE COFFEE', etc.

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12. Advance planning department

To read about each of the following events in full, please click: Here.

A. NC events

(1) Meta Commerce: Story Medicine Worldwide is sponsoring a celebration of two things later this month: (2) Robert Dale Walker: Free Workshop in the Meisner Approach to Acting. (3) MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET at Asheville Community Theatre. (4) Karen Covington-Yow: WHO KIDNAPPED MRS. CLAUD? (5) Paula Hanke: Upcoming gigs.

B. PANJ event

Natalie Kaye: JUMP CITY FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

PS. Make it a wonderful week!

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