

## Raising Up

by Sam Ames, Executive  
Director [they/them]

**T**his September marked my first Oakland Pride in the Family Garden, and the moment I arrived my heart just about exploded.

Standing on that stage, looking out at our beautiful community, I watched through tears as Alphabet Rockers of all ages and genders called out the trans ancestors I hear named most rarely: our black ancestors, our brown ancestors, our two-spirit ancestors, our non-binary ancestors, the fierce Indigenous warriors who fought back against colonization unbounded by gender roles, the trans women of color who threw the first bricks at Stonewall and gave birth to a movement. From Hatshepsut to Miss Major to Sharice Davids—hearing those names called from the mouths of the youngest freedom fighters among us is a memory I'll hold onto until the day I die.



Sam Ames speaking at OFC's  
Oakland LGBTQI Pride Family  
Garden, September 2019.

My career has been in LGBTQI law and advocacy, but my roots are in the arts. Love calls for creation. Music is the heartbeat of transformation. A song can raise up the ancestors who planted the seeds of our movement and it can water the ground for the generation of activists who will grow their work to new heights.

That growth has never been more essential than it is today. We are living in unprecedented times. Unprecedented, but not unforeseen. The moment we are living through is the culmination of a brutal history of white supremacy and patriarchy that has infected this country since its founding. It is a reminder that the pride the Alphabet Rockers sang about that Sunday afternoon in Oakland is never reclaimed without resistance. The backlash we're seeing to advances in marriage equality, anti-discrimination law, the right to trans-inclusive and reproductive healthcare, humane immigration policy, and protections for families like so many of the ones in the Family Garden with us that day only confirm that our fight is far from over.

Since long before those bills and court cases, OFC has been here to do the deep, sustaining work that comes after, win or lose. I am so proud to serve

(continued on page 5)

## Building the Blueprint for LGBTQI Families

by Bryce Celotto, East Bay Programs Coordinator [he/him]

**S**ince mid-September, I've had the honor and privilege of serving as the East Bay Family Programs Coordinator at Our Family Coalition. I will admit, I was a little nervous about taking on this role. You see, I stepped away from the LGBTQI rights movement several years ago, after spending nearly five years working on marriage equality campaigns, advocating for inclusive policies, and running LGBTQI youth programs. After completing college and graduate school, I made the decision to pivot into working in education. (Prior to coming to OFC I worked as a high school history teacher and as a non-traditional educator focused on museum and food justice education with students in fourth through eighth grades.)

Sometimes, life takes you on unexpected detours, and this one brought me to OFC. As an openly transmasculine, queer person who wants to be a father one day, this work feels like a natural fit to me. And as someone who has built a queer chosen family myself, I wanted to work at an organization that values a diverse range of family structures.

The reality is that as LGBTQ-identified people, we often have to build our own family structures, with no real blueprint to go off of. This typically means having very few support services in place, and very few models of what queer family looks like in the mainstream. Put simply, that is why Our Family Coalition exists: to fill in that gap.

My goal as East Bay Family Programs Coordinator is to work alongside you all—experts in LGBTQI family-building—to continue drafting the blueprint for all families across the Bay Area. And the foundation comes first. Over the past few weeks talking with parents, kids, and families around the East Bay region, I've been



Bryce Celotto, East Bay  
Programs Coordinator

(continued on page 11)



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**SF LGBT  
CENTER**



# From Invisible to Visible: A Short, Queer History

By Rick Oculito, Education Director [he/him]

As a teenager, I had to work hard to learn that gay people existed—because for all intents and purposes, we were nearly invisible. I recall going to the library, bookstores, and even the mildew-smelling collection of artifacts at the local LGBT center (this was before the QI were added to the moniker), only to find a very Spartan assortment of LGBTQI history titles, some Harlequin romance novels that didn't interest me at the time, and political humor that didn't make any sense without the context of our history. It wasn't until college that I found the works of Eric Marcus and Leila Rupp, in many ways the forerunners to today's more mainstream approach to LGBTQI history.

My generation of Californians is the last one for whom LGBTQI people and our history have been virtually invisible, though. And that change took an enormous amount of work by some enormously dedicated people.

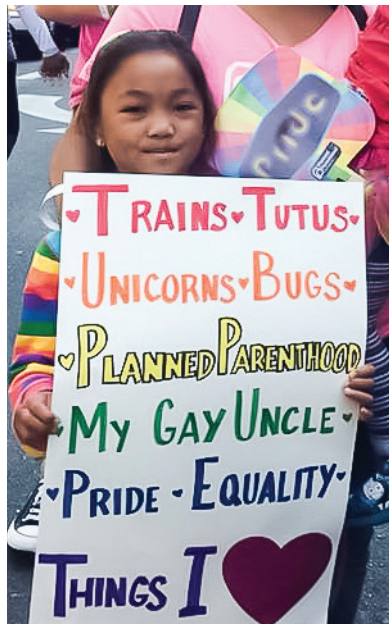
Back in 2000, Carolyn Laub, former Executive Director of the GSA Network, helped craft and pass the Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act, carried by California Senator Sheila Kuehl (D). It protects students and school employees from discrimination based on real or perceived gender or sexual orientation. As Carolyn tells it, later, during pregnancy, she was pondering ways to proactively change people's behavior towards us rather than just reactively protecting us. It was while on her back, during a perinatal wellness exam, that the idea for the FAIR Education Act came to her. She reasoned: if students are taught in school that LGBTQI people have been an integral part of history, then the aspersions cast on our community would not be as easily proliferated or justified. Young LGBTQI people would see themselves represented and valued as much as everyone else.

In 2012, the legislation that was first envisioned in 2001 finally passed, after a 2006 iteration was rejected by Governor Schwarzenegger. And this is where Our Family Coalition stepped in. Because passing the law, it turns out, is just the beginning of the journey.

It took seven years of work, since FAIR Education became law, to ensure that the law be implemented correctly. In 2016, the Committee on LGBT History, headed up by Don Romesburg at Sonoma State University, created a groundbreaking document, *Making the Framework Fair*, which presented how to conceptualize teaching LGBT\* history in a way that goes far beyond plugging various individuals into existing narratives, to reveal how gender

and power are at work throughout every era.

Then in November of 2017—after a feverish summer of review, critique, revision, and advocacy on the part of dozens of organizations and individuals, led by OFC—the California State Board of Education approved only those textbooks with sufficiently LGBT-inclusive history and social science. In 2018, a handful of school districts piloted these textbooks, in anticipation of adopting a new curriculum in 2019. And now, following California's example, several other states have implemented laws or intentions to include LGBTQI history in their K-12 curricula: New Jersey, Colorado, Illinois, and Maryland.



Rick's niece Zelda at Silicon Valley Pride  
Photo by her mom Leah Carig.

The California Department of Education has now hired OFC to help create resources for teaching LGBTQ-inclusive history throughout the state. We've created a website—[lgbtqhistory.org](http://lgbtqhistory.org)—that provides educational resources, evaluation materials, and lesson plans for educators who want to effectively apply an LGBTQI lens to their history and social science teaching. And with our partners at ONE Archives in Los Angeles and the GLBT Historical Society in San Francisco, we're creating additional resources for educators to use in their schools and classrooms. Throughout, we continue to provide direct support to schools by providing training and advice for educators venturing into this new territory.

It is 2019 now, and my niece, Zelda, is beginning first grade. It was only when I saw a picture of her that my sister posted on Facebook about her first day of school that it hit me: she's never going to know what it's like to *not* have LGBT history a part of her education. Queer folks like her uncle will never be invisible; instead, they'll simply be one part—for her, a very personal part—of a vast world she's learning to understand. All this work that we've done over the years becomes real when it is made manifest in young Californians like my niece, who will never have to wonder if her whole family counts. Because we do. 🌈

*\* The official language adopted by the California Department of Education uses LGBT History and Social Science.*

As you can imagine, this work cannot be done without support. If you would like to help Our Family Coalition's efforts to ensure that LGBTQI History and Social Science is taught in schools then visit [ourfamily.org](http://ourfamily.org) and donate today!

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OFC Education Manager Carla Peña was recently featured in the ultra-cool parenting resource Little Feminist.

Little Feminist, produced by an Oakland-based parent, is a hand-picked book box subscription, providing kids' picture books with intersectional feminist themes and "OwnVoices stories" otherwise woefully under-represented in kids' lit. Along with the books, the monthly boxes include hands-on activities (oh, like coloring in a profile of a cool queer activist, maybe?), DIY ideas, and questions to extend the ideas of the book into family discussions.



## San Francisco Pride June 2019



## Raising Up ...

(continued from page 1)

that mission as Interim Executive Director during this chapter of our history. I spent my first days as a lawyer helping people build queer families, and even then I knew we were relying on folks like OFC to help raise them. Caring for community is so often the unsung work of a movement, and, in 2019, we are in desperate need of care. We need strong and affirming communities, and we need teachers who will make all students feel safe, and we need to be able to look into the eyes of our children and promise them that their family will not be erased. It's the work that so many of you do, in ways big and small, resounding and quiet, every day.



Sam in the Oakland Pride Family Garden with W. Kamau Bell and OFC Board member Leroy Gaines.

It's the work OFC has been doing here in California for over 20 years—supporting queer families in our communities, working for queer youth in our schools, and advocating for queer families of all shapes, sizes, and configurations. Our inspiration has always been you. When our very existence is under attack, it's OFC families who show up: with support meetings and play groups, with trainings for teachers and school districts, with Pride. It's what LGBTQI

people have been doing for millennia. We take care of each other. We fight for each other. We show up. It's not just how we've survived; it's how we've grown.

For years, you've been showing up for us. You've been raising us up. And I promise, for as long as you need us—for as long as your family needs us—we'll be watering the ground. 🌱

MON  
Oct 21  
Nov 18  
Dec 16  
6–8pm

### OFC Parent Advisory Council

OUR FAMILY COALITION OFFICE, 1385 MISSION ST., STE 340, SAN FRANCISCO

Are you an LGBTQI parent or caregiver who has participated in OFC's Family Programs? Do you care about supporting other LGBTQI families in the Bay Area? Are you looking for a way to give back to your community, and are willing to volunteer 1-2 hours per month? Join OFC's Parent Advisory Council!

SF

SAT  
Oct 26  
1–4pm

### Monster Mash Halloween Bash

EMBARCADERO YMCA, 169 STEUART ST., SAN FRANCISCO

Join other LGBTQI families for some swampy swimming, spooky dancing, creepy crafts, and tasty treats. Fun activities for little monsters of all ages. Don't forget your costume at this year's Halloween Bash!

SF

Nov  
TBD  
6:30–8pm

### Meet the Queer-Friendly Doula

NATURAL RESOURCES, 1367 VALENCIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO

Looking for a birth or postpartum doula experienced in serving LGBTQI families? Want to learn how a doula can support your family? Come meet some incredible professionals ready to share their expertise on various stages of the childbirth journey.

SF

SAT  
Nov 23  
10am–4pm

### Second Parent Adoption Workshop & Family Legal Clinic

SF LGBT CENTER, 1800 MARKET ST., SAN FRANCISCO

In partnership with the SF LGBT Center, OFC is bringing back this hands-on workshop with attorney Deborah Wald, who brings decades of experience working with LGBTQI families. We'll describe current adoption rules and procedures, answer questions about California's second-parent adoption process, and assist families in preparing adoption paperwork. Afterwards, stick around for the Center's LGBTQI legal clinic, which offers FREE legal advice in the areas of family law, immigration law, employment law, healthcare law, will and trust, and legal name/gender changes on documents!

SF

TUE  
Dec 3  
6–9pm

### 4th Annual Womb to Grow: Conception Reception

PRESERVATION PARK, 1233 PRESERVATION PARK WAY, OAKLAND

This event brings together LGBTQI prospective parents, a wide range of LGBTQ-friendly service providers, legal experts, parents, and organizations dedicated to conception and fertility support for people who are looking to become pregnant and identify as queer women, gender nonbinary, or trans. Facilitated panels, a delicious dinner, and sponsor expo.

EB

FRI–SUN  
Dec 6–8

### QTPOC Family Nature Retreat

POINT BONITA YMCA, 981 FORT BARRY, SAUSALITO

At this weekend retreat in the marine headlands for LGBTQI parents of color and their families there will be hiking, campfires, games and more for all ages at the Point Bonita YMCA! Space is limited—please be sure to register all family members who plan to attend.

TUE  
Dec 17  
6–8pm

### Family Programs Winter Holiday Potluck

OUR FAMILY COALITION OFFICE, 1385 MISSION ST., STE 340, SAN FRANCISCO

Have you participated in OFC's Family Programs this year? Join OFC staff and program facilitators for a festive potluck to end 2019 in community with LGBTQI families. There will be fun children's activities and a drawing for prizes! Please bring a favorite seasonal dish to share.

SF

Dec 24–  
Jan 1

**OFC OFFICE CLOSED**

Free childcare and food are provided at all events, with advance registration.  
For further information and event registration, visit [www.ourfamily.org](http://www.ourfamily.org).

**MORE EAST BAY EVENTS TBA** We're excited to be refreshing East Bay events this fall, and will be rolling them out over the next few months. To see what's happening, visit our online events calendar at [ourfamily.org](http://ourfamily.org) and subscribe to e-news at [ourfamily.org/publications/e-newsletter](http://ourfamily.org/publications/e-newsletter).

## PLAYGROUPS

|   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| <b>SATURDAYS</b><br><b>Oct 19</b><br><b>Nov 16</b><br><b>Dec 21</b><br><b>4:30–6:30pm</b>                         | <b><i>Toddle With Me: Monthly LGBTQI Family Playtime (1–4 years)</i></b><br><b>RECESS COLLECTIVE, 2226 TARAVAL ST., SAN FRANCISCO</b><br>Come sing, play, laugh and learn with OFC and Recess Collective at this fun, interactive monthly group for LGBTQI parents with kids 1–4 yrs. Explore the amazing indoor playspace, express yourself with arts and crafts, and make new friends at circle time. Activities support your child's development: gross and fine motor skills, coordination and balance, early literacy, pre-math, and social-emotional skills. | <b>SF</b> |
| <b>MONDAYS</b><br><b>Oct 21, 28</b><br><b>Nov 4, 11, 18, 25</b><br><b>Dec 2, 9, 16</b><br><b>3–4:30pm</b>         | <b><i>Baby &amp; Me (0–18 months)</i></b><br><b>COMMUNITY WELL, 78 OCEAN AVE., SAN FRANCISCO</b><br>Want more quality time with your little one? Join OFC's weekly group for LGBTQI parents and caregivers with infants 0-18 months. This parent-child interactive helps support child bonding, health, and increase your know-how about your infant's cognitive, physical, and language development!  | <b>SF</b> |
| <b>TUESDAYS</b><br><b>Oct 22, 29</b><br><b>Nov 5, 12, 19, 26</b><br><b>Dec 3, 10, 17</b><br><b>10am - 11:30am</b> | <b><i>East Bay Playgroup</i></b><br><b>DESTINY ARTS, 970 GRACE AVE., OAKLAND</b><br>Interactive play and circle time for infants, toddlers, and their grown ups, including fun activities like music, movement, and storytelling, now at Destiny Arts' beautiful Northwest Oakland space. Healthy snacks provided!   | <b>EB</b> |

## SUPPORT GROUPS

|   |  |           |
|---|--|-----------|
| <b>1st WED</b><br><b>Oct 2</b><br><b>5:30-7:30pm</b>          | <b><i>Rainbow Family Night</i></b><br><b>HABITOT CHILDREN'S MUSEUM, 2065 KITTREDGE ST., BERKELEY</b><br>LGBTQI parents join our facilitated support group to connect, share experiences, swap tips, and discuss issues relevant to our families, while kids have a great time playing in the Habitot Children's Museum.  | <b>EB</b> |
| <b>TUES</b><br><b>Oct 8</b><br><b>Nov 12</b><br><b>6–8pm</b>  | <b><i>Monthly QTPOC Parents Support Group</i></b><br><b>OUR FAMILY COALITION OFFICE, 1385 MISSION ST., STE 340, SAN FRANCISCO</b><br>Navigating the world as a queer person of color and parent can be complex; finding a safe space to connect and build community with each other can be a challenge. Join queer and trans parents of color where you can be your whole self and talk about what matters to you. | <b>SF</b> |
| <b>TUES</b><br><b>Oct 22</b><br><b>Nov 26</b><br><b>6–8pm</b> | <b><i>Drop-In Support for LGBTQI Parents</i></b><br><b>OUR FAMILY COALITION OFFICE, 1385 MISSION ST., STE 340, SAN FRANCISCO</b><br>Enjoy a meal with your kids and other LGBTQI families, then parents and caregivers break off for facilitated discussions with their peers about family and child-rearing issues.   | <b>SF</b> |

## PARENT LED MEET-UPS

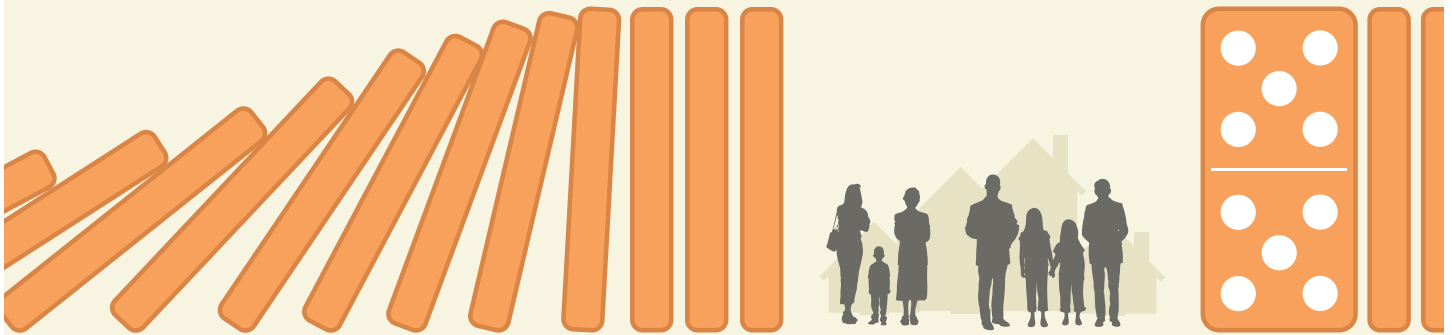
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|---|--|-----------|
| <b>1st SAT</b><br><b>Oct 5</b><br><b>Nov 2</b><br><b>Dec 7</b><br><b>3–5pm</b>        | <b><i>LGBTQI Family Meet-Up</i></b><br><b>COMMUNITY WELL, 78 OCEAN AVE., SAN FRANCISCO</b><br>A gathering for LGBTQI parents (or those that are expecting or hoping to be parents) to come together and build community. Please bring your little ones, a snack to share and topic suggestions for group discussion.                               | <b>SF</b> |
| <b>2nd TUES</b><br><b>Oct 15</b><br><b>Nov 19</b><br><b>Dec 17</b><br><b>6:30–8pm</b> | <b><i>Non-Birth Parent Meet-Up</i></b><br><b>NATURAL RESOURCES, 1367 VALENCIA ST., SAN FRANCISCO</b><br>Pregnancy and parenthood, miraculous and wonderful, can also be a challenging time. As the non-birth parent in a queer relationship, there can be unique challenges and discoveries: Explore these and more in a group of kindred spirits. | <b>SF</b> |

# THE DOMINO EFFECT: WHAT IF SCOTUS RULES LGBT PEOPLE AREN'T PROTECTED BY FEDERAL LAW?

an infographic presented by



movement advancement project ▶



**TODAY:** LGBT WORKERS HAVE NATIONWIDE PROTECTIONS

**All 8.1 million LGBT workers** are protected from discrimination on the job by federal law.<sup>1</sup>



**JUNE 2020:** HALF OF LGBT PEOPLE CAN BE LEGALLY FIRED

**All federal workplace protections for LGBT workers could be taken away** if SCOTUS rules that Title VII doesn't protect LGBT workers. This would mean LGBT workers would only have a patchwork of state or local protections to rely on. As a result, **half of LGBT workers could be legally fired.**<sup>2</sup>



**FUTURE:** LGBT PEOPLE BECOME LEGALLY INFERIOR CITIZENS

The Court's decision could be used to unravel legal protections across **all areas of life for LGBT people**, rendering LGBT people legally inferior.

<sup>1</sup> The Williams Institute. "LGBT People in the United States Not Protected by State Nondiscrimination Statutes." April 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Movement Advancement Project. "Equality Maps: State Non-Discrimination Laws."

Learn more about the employment protections currently available to LGBT people, the cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in 2019, and what's at stake: <http://www.lgbtmap.org/lgbt-workers>

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### Join Us for Fall Events at SF Day!

Day Tours begin October 1st • 8:15-10:00AM

Windows & Mirrors Reception • November 19th • 6:00PM

Intimate Gathering Reception • December 3rd • 6:00PM

Please register online.

We hope you'll get to know our inclusive community!  
Our families and faculty look forward to meeting you.

Homa Hanjani, Director of Admission  
415-568-3610 • [hhanjani@sfday.org](mailto:hhanjani@sfday.org)



San Francisco Day School

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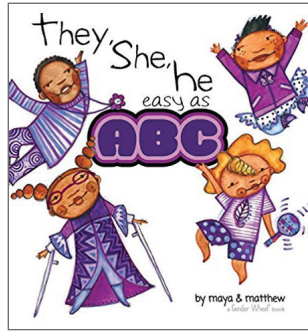
## BOOK CORNER

### They, She, He: easy as ABC

by Maya Christina Gonzalez and Matthew SG

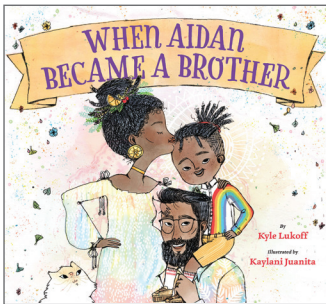
PRESCHOOL AGED AND UP

“Ari loves to arabesque. They hold their pose with ease. Brody is a break dancer. Brody loves to freeze.” Fast-paced rhyming keeps the flow of text upbeat and rhythmic, and naturally models how to use a wide range of pronouns. Spirited imagery keeps names, clothes, hair and behavior fresh and diverse. The combination creates a playful and effortless practice to expand ideas about gender while learning the alphabet, and makes being gender-inclusive as easy as A-B-C.



### When Aidan Became a Brother

by Kyle Lukoff and Kaylani Juanita



PRESCHOOL AGED AND UP

When Aidan was born, everyone thought he was a girl. After he realized he was a trans boy, Aidan and his parents fixed the parts of life that didn't fit anymore, and he settled happily into his new life. But when he learns his parents are going to have another baby, Aidan wants to do everything he can to make things right for his new sibling from the beginning. But what does “making things right” actually mean?

(Fun fact: this was the book Little Feminist sent in their August book box, along with the Carla Peña coloring page!)

For more LGBTQ-inclusive family book lists—for young children, middle grade readers, LGBTQI parents and parents-to-be—check out Dana Rudolph's definitive lists at Mombian: [www.mombian.com/books-and-more](http://www.mombian.com/books-and-more).

## Building the Blueprint ...

(continued from page 1)

learning what matters most to them, what they need on the ground to feel supported and cared for as they navigate day-to-day life with their loved ones. And it was abundantly clear: our core support programming is foundational to the well-being of our East Bay families. So I've worked diligently with our partners to re-launch two of the longest-running and most beloved of these—the weekly Parent-Child Playgroup at Destiny Arts Center, and the monthly Rainbow Family Night at Habitot Children's Museum.

Taking on this role, particularly at a time where LGBTQI rights are under threat more than ever, feels more than right: it feels necessary. It is clear to me that we can only move forward as a community if we are in this together. I have felt fortunate to have had the chance to connect with so many wonderful people in these early weeks on the job. These early connections that make me optimistic for the future! Moving forward I am eager to meet more families, and to hear more feedback from you all about what you want and need in the East Bay, where so many of us call home. ☺

Note: for more information about East Bay Programming and upcoming events, please email Bryce J. Celotto at [bryce@ourfamily.org](mailto:bryce@ourfamily.org).



Our Family Coalition advances equity for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ) families with children through support, education, and advocacy.

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