This issue focuses on the arts and crafts classes held in the OLLI program in the spring of 2011. This is only a snapshot in time. Over the course of the year several other such courses are offered by talented and dedicated instructors. Many of the classes develop into ongoing groups that return session after session to refine their skills and help each other with ideas and techniques. Some offerings require previous experience, but in others new students are welcomed and are soon getting project ideas, help, and encouragement from fellow students.

These classes are well beyond the fingerpainting we all used to do. Surprisingly though, some things you wouldn’t think you could ever do are within many peoples’ reach. Even at the end of a first class you can have something to show off or a good start that you can bring back to the next session for finishing.

The social aspects of these groups shouldn’t be ignored. Many times the stories shared around the workspace, and the friendships developed, are as important as the skills learned. Consider one of these courses when reviewing the fall brochure. If you don’t discover an ongoing hobby, you will at least have a new appreciation for your fellow students’ work. At left, a wood carving by Daniel Calvez is shown.
OLLI MEMBERS’ WINNING MOMENTS
Lucy Woodhouse

Alan Weinberg submitted two photographs to a juried show at the Pickens County Museum. One was selected by the juror who chose about one-third of all the art entries. Alan's piece won an Honorary Museum Purchase Award funded by a museum donor, so it is now part of their collection. According to Ellen, Alan’s wife, he let out a big "WOW" when it was announced at the opening last evening. So there it now sits hanging beside works by Sam Wang of Clemson, Steve Marlowe, and Cindy Landrum, who are all award-winning photographers.

Cecily Mango and Doug Allen competed in the Greater Greenville Senior Sports Classic held at Bob Jones University on April 21, 2011. Cecily Mango, in the 55-59 age bracket, won the 1500-meter racewalk, was second in the 100-meter dash, and placed third in the javelin. Coach Allen, in the 70-74 age bracket, placed first in the 1500M racewalk, javelin, discus and 200-meter dash. He placed second in the softball throw and third in the shotput.
OLLI TRIP: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS
Ralph Bates

We arrived at Quantico from the Furman campus at 1700 on 25 March and toured the Semper Fi Gardens around the museum. **Impressive.** The next day, we drove to the Vietnam Memorial in Washington, DC to visit old friends and comrades who were inscribed on the "Wall." **Emotional.** We then returned to the National Museum of the Marine Corps to have lunch at Tun Tavern, a brew or two, and tour the museum. It feels like and indeed is, a living, almost breathing, extract from our history. **Inspiring.** That evening, after making ourselves somewhat presentable, we visited The Globe and Laurel pub and interacted with Marines of all eras, active and retired members of that august body of warriors. We had an outstanding dinner and drank our choice of after-dinner brew or mix as we told tall tales (some true) of times and places and of people that touched our lives and continue to live in our hearts forever. Major "Rick" Spooner USMC (retired), at one time (1957) my OIC, is the owner of that unforgettable establishment. After dinner, we gathered together, old, young, and opinionated and talked of times remembered and forgotten and of times yet to come. It was an emotional yet inspiring and uplifting trip that will leave an unmatched memorable legacy on those present. I saw the faces of old friends, many now forever young in faded photographs, forever embedded in my fading memories, who belong to a corps d'elite, our United States Marine Corps. I met, for the first time, a friend, a Marine I've known but only through others. Now I have a face. It was worth the effort. It will linger. Those who missed it missed an experience seldom repeated. Next time perhaps.

Thanks to all those accompanying me. I trust, indeed I know, that they too felt the spirit enshrined in that memorial and in that museum. We returned to Furman at 1700 on 27 March, different from when we left.

Ralph Bates
Fred Pieot
Charlie Welling
Joe Hennessy
Tom Jenkins
Rory Case
John Long
Jim Baker (in back)
PRESIDENT’S LETTER
Sherman Rounsville

Dear OLLI Members,

CONGRATULATIONS - YOU DID IT! By the time you read this, you should know a lot more about the successful building campaign and where we go from here.

THANKS to all who contributed to this outstanding $5 million achievement: the approximately 440 OLLI households who contributed $2 million, the Osher Foundation for the $1.2 million endowment whose distribution will support the building endowment, and the Furman building-naming donor who provided the $1.8 million challenge and impetus to complete the campaign. With the Continuing Education facilities supported by Furman, the building will be bigger and better for intergenerational lifelong learning from age 3 to 103!

THANKS to the visionaries and leaders who supported and guided this journey over 9 years: 2 Furman Presidents, 2 FU Development VPs, 1 Continuing Education Director, 2 FULIR/OLLI Directors, 10 OLLI Presidents, 4 Building Solicitation chairs, more than 10 naming donors, and the many Building Committee and FU Development members - IT WAS TRULY A TEAM EFFORT.

WHAT A YEAR FOR OLLI @ FURMAN - FOR ITS MEMBERS AND STAFF. Not only did OLLI @ Furman complete the $5 million building campaign, YOU and YOUR OLLI STAFF initiated a new electronic internet registration system; implemented a new organizational Council structure with three additional at-large Members, a new VP-Administration and Executive Committee; received its initial OSHER Foundation distribution; hosted the Lifelong Learning Southern Regional Conference; conducted a membership survey that led to the initial summer program; sponsored the Martin Luther King luncheon lecture; hosted the Donor Appreciation Party at the President’s home; reformatted the OLLI website; initiated a summer lecture series in conjunction with The Riley Institute; formalized class liaison, participation, instructor mentors, and SIG (Special Interest Group) programs; reorganized and added to the OLLI staff to support growing member needs; and established the OLLI Advisory Group of past presidents and Furman leaders. All this, and OLLI @ Furman continued to offer about 100 high-quality courses and tours each term with outstanding instructors and committed organizers. THIS IS TRULY A MEMBER-DRIVEN ORGANIZATION.

All this would not be possible without OLLI member participation and the committed staff led by Lucy Woodhouse. Thank you, Lucy, Barbara, Susan, and recently, Nancy. THANKS to the committee chairs who made all this happen, to those who stepped up and filled in when necessary, and to all the members who were engaged with generous enthusiasm.

Thank you for all your support. I’ve enjoyed the journey this year. Best regards, Sherm Rounsville
LIKING / LOOKING AT CONTEMPORARY ART
Martha Severens

When looking at contemporary art, many people feel apprehensive but they underestimate their ability to appreciate it. Unlike when they view the old masters (Rembrandt, Michelangelo, etc.) and the Impressionists, people often feel out on a limb without the background, or “knowledge” they need to make an intelligent assessment. It is my belief that they know more than they think they do.

I would argue that most people - and certainly ALL members of OLLI - have the capacity to come to grips with the work of recent artists. Notice, I didn’t say you have to like it. If you think of looking at contemporary art in the same way you sample cuisines of foreign countries, perhaps it will make some sense. Perhaps you have learned that you don't like the spiciness of Thai food, or the gooeyness of Mexican food. In much the same way, you might dismiss installation art or videos because they just don’t appeal to you. But in order to come to those conclusions, you need to sample both. It doesn’t make sense to dismiss something without at least trying it.

Take for instance a large canvas by Jackson Pollock. You might be turned off by his personal history—he was an arrogant drunk who killed himself in a car accident on Long Island. But that aside, look at his paintings: he was making significant breakthroughs and revolutionized how we understand art. Up to his time, most painters had worked on easels. Pollock decided to place his canvases on the floor, which allowed him a 360-degree range: no horizon, every side was the same. Instead of using ordinary brushes, he decided to apply paint by throwing, pouring, and dripping it. For this he earned the sobriquet of “Jack the Dripper.” He wasn’t interested in replicating nature - after all there were photographs that could do that. Instead his art is about the craft of painting - getting us to see how it can be done differently. There’s nothing like standing in front of one of Pollock’s large canvases and trying to deconstruct how it was done, following the skein of paint, its rhythms and nuances. Soon you might come to realize that the painting is like a landscape!

Color is critical to most art, both old and new. It affects our moods. When we wear red we feel different than when we wear black. There’s also the symbolism of color: purple for instance is the color for royalty, and in Renaissance paintings the Madonna was usually portrayed wearing a blue cloak, largely because the pigment was the most expensive available to the artists of the time. The bright colorful paintings of Ellsworth Kelly make us feel upbeat, whereas the almost totally black paintings of Ad Reinhardt might make us feel down.

The textural application of paint by Pollock and the colors used by Kelly and Reinhardt are known as two of the elements of design. These are the building blocks of art and are things we confront every day, all the time, not just when looking at art. Understanding them a bit better might open doors for a better appreciation of contemporary art. And one other thing: remember that not all art has a message. Much of recent art is designed so that the viewer will have a non-narrative, visceral response, and that may be all there is. Remember the adage, “I like what I know, and I know what I like.” Well, unless you expose yourself - challenge yourself even - you won’t know.

Editors Note: Martha has agreed to offer a short Friday course this coming fall. Keep it in mind. Learning to Appreciate Paintings Join Martha R. Severens, former curator at the Greenville County Museum of Art, for tips on how to look at a variety of paintings, old and new, abstract and representational. This interactive class will be great preparation for Open Studios, November 5 and 6. Friday, October 28, 9:30 to noon
Woodcarving 201
Instructor: Kent Ellison

Kent Ellison’s carvings watch the class as Kent shows Patti Grantham a carving technique.

Earl Payne shows a carved chain.

Ron Thompson’s bears supervise as he tackles another animal carving.

A table of carvers.

Crochet 101
Instructor: Alice Ferguson

Nancie Dixon looks up from her work.

Alice shows what can be accomplished.

Carol Ann Haymann, Dorothy Belig, and Marlene Douglas show a lot of concentration.
The Curriculum Committee followed up on the request of the OLLI administration to poll our OLLI instructors to see whether any of them would have an interest in doing a Summer School course in June. Over 25 instructors responded, and Susan Rae, the Curriculum Committee representative in the OLLI Office, took the information and put together a very fun-looking Summer School program. There will be an evaluation of the results of our first Summer School later in the year to see if Summer School will be something we can expect in the future.

As soon as the Curriculum Committee had gathered the Summer School inputs for Susan, we turned our attention to the fall schedule. At this writing, it looks as though there should be 80 plus courses, 5 industrial tours, and 10 events. There, of course, will be some surprising new classes as well as many of our favorites. I know that you will enjoy the line-up.

I would like to thank those of you who have suggested courses to the Curriculum Committee during the past year. It is a real help to the committee to receive your suggestions, especially those that have a possible instructor's name attached. Remember, the Curriculum Committee wants to enjoy new classes just as much as all our fellow OLLI students.

I had planned to work as your Curriculum Committee chairman for two years, but I'm cutting my term short due to prostate cancer. I have a plan in place that I believe will cure me but will be out of commission for three to four months this summer into the fall. It has been a good experience to have been a member of your OLLI Curriculum Committee. This committee is really a team with one goal, to have the best makeup of courses for our fellow OLLI members. If you know or meet any Curriculum Committee members, thank them for their hard work this past year.

Jim Baker, a Curriculum Committee member, who has brought us so many successful industrial tours, is taking over for me. I feel that we are all lucky to have Jim take the lead of your Curriculum Committee. I thank him for stepping up to the plate for me and all of you. Thanks Jim.

**MEMORIAL TRIBUTE**

**MEL BLAKE**

Mel Blake died on March 7, 2011. He was known to many of us as a quiet and gentle man - characteristics that did not always permit us to see his deep reserves of strength and resilience. Mel's reflective nature and nonjudgmental attitude provided credibility to his thoughts, which were usually expressed only by request. After spending many years in humanitarian work in Africa, Mel entered graduate school at age 50 to earn his Ph.D. Upon completion, he served as a family counselor until retirement. Music was one of his many interests, which he pursued by singing in a choral group and attending concerts. As a member of OLLI, he enjoyed courses in painting and pen and ink, definitely cosmology, history, and coffee and conversation, among others. Mel was warmly received by fellow OLLI members, and these friendships were a source of strength in troubled times.
While the LRP Committee has made significant and excellent progress in completing the first LRP for OLLI @ Furman, we will probably not complete the plan in time for the May Council meeting. With continued effort during the summer, we should make the August OLLI Council meeting and be able to initiate implementation during the fall term this year. We have gotten excellent input from most of the committees addressing the Mission, Vision, and Goals approved last year. This still leaves a few additional inputs to go and some additional final steps before we are ready to submit to the Council for approval.

Once completed this plan will be revisited each year by the LRP Committee to update the action steps as current ones are completed and to see if other changes are appropriate. This yearly review also provides the opportunity for revision as necessary based on changes in the world of OLLI @ Furman. The LRP Committee will also be developing a membership growth and impact/needs chart so the Council and each committee will be able to anticipate the needs as we grow. Hopefully this will reduce any operational surprises and help us to meet and exceed member expectations effectively as we grow. It is the responsibility of the OLLI Council and the Executive Committee to be sure each committee and others with action plan responsibility are addressing and progressing on their respective action plans in the LRP Plan.

I want to personally thank all members of the committee for their efforts and diligence. We have had about seven meetings this year so far. I also want to thank the OLLI committee chairs for their extra effort in providing input to the LRP in addition to meeting their committees’ operational commitments. It is not easy to think of what a committee will be doing five years out while also dealing with a committee with current responsibilities to the membership of over 1200. On behalf of the LRP committee, thank you all for your thoughts and inputs.

**BASKETRY BEYOND THE BASICS**

_Instructor: Priscilla Phillips_

Marianne Kaupin puts the finishing touches on a large basket’s rim.  
Priscilla discusses their projects with Liz Warren and Ken Robison.  
Sherry Elrod checks the progress of her decorative basket.
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
Robert Howell

This year OLLI @ Furman reached a total membership of 1191. A significant role of the membership committee was making calls to new members, welcoming them to OLLI and being available for their support. This was done in each of the three terms and, except for a few glitches in the new registration system, was well received. At this time it appears that the issues with the registration system have been fixed and all is working well.

For the first time in several years, a member survey was conducted with a significant amount of work done by Dick Eaton and Lucy Woodhouse. Much good information was obtained from the survey, including the members’ interest in the establishment of the first summer session of OLLI@Furman. Plans are in process to place the survey on the website so that it will be available to all OLLI members. Another important action coming out of the Membership Committee was the presentation and adoption by the Council of guidelines for Special Interest Groups (SIGs) within OLLI. Joy Eaton led this effort; she and her subcommittee did an excellent job in working through the process in a timely manner. The information is now available, and several groups have already complied and been approved.

A proposal to be presented to the Council at its August meeting will be to divide the Membership Committee into two committees, Membership and Participation Development. The major idea being proposed is that since volunteers are such an important part of OLLI, they should have their own committee. Jim Baker has worked diligently in promoting a 100% volunteer effort in OLLI, and hopefully the proposed committee would be able to move forward on that idea. If approved by the Council, the new structure will be put into effect in the 2011/2012 school year.

My appreciation goes to all members of the Membership Committee for their efforts during the year. Special thanks to Sharon Heucker for working with class liaisons and Judy Lema for recruiting office volunteers.

PEN AND INK
Facilitators: Gail Jones & Ginger Martin

Manuel del Valle compares a drawing of his grandchild to a photograph.
Carmela Riether holds a drawing of a fox she completed.
Ginger Martin works on the layout for a drawing of a building.
Off to Itasca, Illinois for the OLLI National Conference on April 13-15. Flew into Midway in Chicago and then took a car to Itasca, which is about a 40-minute ride. (Still not really sure where I was). Landscape was dreary as winter was still hanging around; only sign of spring life were daffodils waving in the howling wind (now I know why Chicago is called the windy city.) Arrived at a Frank Lloyd Wright inspired conference center in the middle of a middle-class neighborhood. Walking into the window, tile-infused lobby I got a sense of the opulence ahead. Stayed on the 4th floor but never went up or down an elevator or stairs… hum.

Conference opened with a welcome from the OLLI National Resources Center Director, Kali Lightfoot (she was here last July at our conference); we learned that there are now 98,000 OLLI members nationwide - 10 years ago there was one OLLI. Also heard from David Blazevich, who had Sherm and me stand up in recognition of reaching our fund-raising goals for our new building. We were wowed! He was also here last summer. Mary Bitterman (Executive Director of the Osher Foundation) and Bernard Osher - our hero, also spoke a few words of welcome. The WOWs from most of the 117 OLLIs were presented via a slide show with Kali and David commentating. Another concept that came out of the opening was that life is long, but it should also be deep and wide.

A chef tasting dinner was presented to 250 guests (two representatives from each OLLI, and the Osher Board of Directors, and a couple of special guests like our own Jack Hansen). To describe this dinner would not do it justice. Let me just throw in some words from the menu to give you an idea of its opulence: Berry Beurre Blanc, Walleye, Choke Cherry, Nuskie Rasher Basswood Honey, Rhubarb Merlot, Bone in Angus Filet, Great Lakes Trout, Black Walnut Romanoff and these are just a FEW words from the menu. Needless to say, I was glad I went running that afternoon and planned on going the next day too.

Throughout the conference there was incredible conversation the entire time with people from all over the country. Whole tables make sure they all knew with whom they were sitting. A topic came up and everyone would chime in on how their OLLI does it. Everyone was very good about never sitting with the same person twice and sitting down next to a stranger was nonexistent!
One funny tidbit, a woman from Vermont asked me if I was from Australia—she could not pick out my accent. Too funny! I invited her down south (not down under).

Side note: Sherm and I joined about 10 other brave souls and went bowling in the resort’s bowling alley. Needless to say neither of us broke 100, but we decided we did need to start an OLLI bowling league so we could hone our skills. Positive note: Lucy did beat Bradley University in an air hockey faceoff.

Opening session on Thursday was by Terrence McNally, who is a radio host and communications consultant. He talked with us about winning members. One of the keys he said was to avoid distractions…(Obviously he was not too familiar with OLLI!) and helpfully suggested that every project in which people are engaged you should have (and these are taken from the gaming industry, yes gaming like video games) 1. Clear goal with immediate feedback 2. Clear objectives 3. A challenge level that is not too easy or too hard. If you can find the sweet spot then everyone engaged will be successful. (Think of our building project as a great success story). He also said multitasking is a myth as the brain is selective and can do only one thing at a time.

During the rest of the day, we broke out into sessions covering a variety of interests that OLLIs have. I attended one on volunteers so I would have some good material to pass on to our new employee, Nancy Kennedy, and a workshop that Jack Hansen hosted on action research. I hosted a workshop on registration software and the ups and downs of researching, buying, and implementing. I insisted on not buying one if you don’t have a forgiving and patient membership like we do! Sherm attended workshops on social media and collaborations with community organizations and brought back some ideas for us to pursue. Sherm gave a fund-raising presentation “A Journey of Vision and Leadership” on our $5 million building solicitation program from its 2003 vision of a “Home of Our Own” until our completion this month. He also presented with two other OLLIs on fund raising: “The fundraising Journey: from Kitty Hawk to the Starship Enterprise via 747” (We were the Starship Enterprise).

For dinner that night, we had a taste of Chicago neighborhoods and got a chance to sample foods from the Chicago stockyards, cheesecake (did you know Chicago is where cheesecakes are famous?), Italian thick Chicago pizza, Greek, Chinese, and Wrigley Field. A lot of food! Fun atmosphere. Lots of chatting and table hopping with new faces to talk over the day’s topics. Sherm and I both agreed that we were tired at this point of talking fund raising, but that is what everyone wanted to talk about!

The conference ended with a general session with keynote speaker Susan Stamberg of NPR’s “All Things Considered.” She told us delightful stories of people she interviewed like Georgia O’Keefe, Leon Fleisher, and Miss Lillie. She left us with two thoughts: one from Albert Einstein: “Imagination is more important than knowledge,” so she suggested we read three poems or stories a day. And some advice she left for three graduating classes on the same day for future success: 1. Call your mother. 2. Floss every day. 3. Always wear sunscreen. With that, she closed the conference to a room of laughter.

And then we hugged new friends goodbye and headed back to beautiful SC leaving Illinois to enjoy a few more weeks of winter.
MISCELLANEOUS RAMBLINGS FROM THE EDITOR
Gary Aten

What a great issue this was to put together! The arts and crafts classes for the spring session were a diverse selection of activities that can inspire all of us to continue to learn new skills or refine existing ones. The article about the trip to the Marine museum reminds us about our connection to the past and how many times new acquaintances can lead us to unplanned and interesting experiences. Along the lines of new experiences, Martha Severens’ article on modern art encourages us to look at art (and all things) with an open mind. The information on the OLLI National Conference reinforces the fact that we are part of a wider program, but at the same time we know we are being looked at as one of the OLLI leaders. The OLLI Council members were very timely in getting in their reports, which helps tremendously.

Lastly, the wonderful news that the “Home of Our Own” that many, many people have been working toward for a long, long time is going to become a reality. Wow! I don’t mind telling all of you I had doubts, but it happened. There are so many that deserve credit and thanks, but two stand out: the anonymous challenge gift donor and Furman University leadership.

Thanks to Carole Eisen, Susan Renault, Ginny Johnson, and Nancy Kennedy for proofing this edition. Thanks also to the Gray Matters Art Institute guide Desdemona Lisa, and our art appreciation class leader Dot Snice. As always, Gray Matters encourages your input in the form of articles, pictures, poems, and reports. You can e-mail them to garyaten@bellsouth.net or call me at 864-294-6371. Have a good summer, and we will be back in the fall. Don’t forget to consider taking an OLLI summer short class. There is a wide variety of offerings.

KNIT A SIMPLE SWEATER
Instructor: Gail Kirby

Gail Kirby shows a student’s progress on a blue sweater.

Nikki Day has abandoned sweaters for socks.

There’s more than knitting going on as Helen Boyle tells the class about her grandchild and Flat Stanley while Gail demonstrates seamless joining.
“My two Book Buddies were delightful and very pleased to be part of the program. It was so gratifying to see their progress and the pride each took in trying to attack new words.” - Susan Recknagel

“Working as a Book Buddy has been an enjoyable and satisfying experience for me. They rush to greet me, ready to tell me what they have been doing during the week, as we make our way to the library. Over the year, I have seen a marked improvement in their reading and comprehensive skills. I look forward to helping new students next year.” - Jean Bridger

These are comments by two of our OLLI members who have served as Book Buddy volunteers this year at Duncan Chapel Elementary School. As the academic year comes to an end, so does the Book Buddy program. OLLI should be very proud of its team of Book Buddies; their faithful service and commitment to the school has been amazing. About half of our OLLI Book Buddies have been helping in the Duncan Chapel library, re-shelving books and assisting the students in checking books in and out. Some Book Buddies also assist the teachers in additional ways. Duncan Chapel appreciates the contributions of all of our OLLI volunteers.

The following is the list of OLLI members who volunteered for the Book Buddy program during spring term: Bonnie Arrington (friend of CKM, reads with two students), Gary Aten (reads with two students), Jean Bridger (reads with two students), Dea Cox (reads with two students), Lynda Fredsell (reads with three students), Linda Gilkinson (reads with two students), Margaret Howland (reads with two students), Connie Kane-Maguire (DC BB coordinator, reads with one student), Nancy LeDonne (reads with two students), Judy Leonard (reads with two students), Sandy MacIlvaine (reads with two students), Phoebe Michaels (friend of CKM, reads with two students), Susan Preusse (reads with two students), Susan Recknagel (reads with two students), Sue Renault (reads with two students), Bob Scherer (reads with two students), and Pat Tyson (friend of Lynda Fredsell, reads with three students).
BUILDING SOLICITATION COMMITTEE
Barbara Leimsieder & Tony Lancelot

Congratulations, OLLI members! You did it! You contributed an additional $500,000 to the building fund before June 30, 2011. Furman also raised an additional $500,000. So the challenge issued by an anonymous donor has been met, and $1.8 million more will be donated to the fund.

There is one more task before us. It is hoped that classrooms can be named for two retired Furman professors who have taught at FULIR/OLLI for many years: John Crabtree, who has taught Shakespeare for 18 years, and A. V. Huff, whose South Carolina history classes have been enjoyed by scores of OLLI members. Only $5,000 is needed for Dr. Crabtree’s room, and $20,000 for Dr. Huff’s room. If you have enjoyed these beloved professors’ classes, please help with a gift or pledge designated to one or both of these classrooms.

As you may know, Furman has decided to add a lower level to the building, with a separate outside entrance, for the Continuing Education Department and its four other community programs: Bridges to a Brighter Future, Learning for You, Undergraduate Evening Studies, and Corporate and Professional Development. This change has added $1.4 million on to the cost of the building and opened up a wealth of opportunities for Continuing Education. Almost half of the additional cost has already been secured and we are all continuing to spread the word of this amazing building to the rest of the Furman Community to raise the final dollars.

OLLI members should feel proud of their accomplishment. The building will be enjoyed by the Greenville community for many years to come.

SPRING COMES TO THE UPSTATE
Photos submitted to the OLLI office

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