Friends of Duncan Library

Spring 2015



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT By L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald

The verrry long winter is finally behind us, and, at last, spring has arrived in Alexandria. With the change of seasons, the neighborhood's eyes are drawn to the landscaping project that the Friends initiated last year. As we all know by now, the City is quite "fiscally challenged" and simply doesn't have the money for beautification of its public buildings and spaces. So last year, with your financial help, the Friends Board voted to underwrite the re-landscaping of the Commonwealth Avenue entrance to the library. This spring, under the very capable and energetic leadership of Landscape & Beautification Chair Elaina Palincsar, we are extending the irrigation system so that a butterfly garden can be planted. Additionally, benches will be installed around the circle next to the library, and trash cans have been strategically placed throughout the grounds.



Be assured, though, that your contributions to the Friends are not financing these projects to the detriment of Duncan's collection development and outreach programs. We continue to follow the lead of the Branch Manager and the library staff in augmenting the book and media collections and purchasing equipment that the City is unable to fund in order to keep Duncan a well-provisioned community library.

This brings me to one of our two biggest fundraisers: the Spring Book Sale. The sale begins with its traditional Friends-Only First Chance **Preview Night on Wednesday**, **April 29**. Membership can be purchased at the door. The sale will then be open to the general public during library hours (but ending 15 min. before closing time) on Thursday, April 30 and Friday, May 1, ending on Saturday, May 2 at 3 p.m. While you're wandering through the materials on sale (the least expensive way to develop your own personal library!), please renew your membership or ask a neighbor to accompany you to the sale and persuade them to join. Duncan Friends membership is the best bargain in town. For further information about membership, please contact Jill Murphy Vanselous at capsrock2001@yahoo.com or visit our website: Friends of Duncan Library.

In order to accomplish our many projects, we are always in need of volunteers, not just during the sale but throughout the year. There are so many tasks that can be done conveniently in two-hour blocks of time. Without members donating their time and energy, the Friends will be sorely pressed to fill board vacancies or to undertake a wide variety of programs that the Duncan staff and the community have come to depend on. And parents take note: volunteering is also an excellent way for high school students to fulfill their community service commitment. For more information, please contact Peggy Sweeney at 703-577-0561 or by email at <u>dlsweeney@comast.net</u>.

You may not be aware of another year-round source of revenue: our online book sales. Thom Downing has been faithfully taking care of this very time-consuming activity. However, after a number of years, he has decided to pursue other opportunities. We are very lucky that Randy Jennings has agreed to assume the responsibility for online sales. Randy has years of experience in selling books online, and we are more than pleased to bring him into the Duncan fold. Thom will continue to be a good friend of the Friends, volunteering for other activities as needed.

Be a Friend. Please volunteer. Friar

MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR By Vivian Nuñez

After receiving my First Communion from the Catholic Church in Cali, Colombia, I received a gift that every 8 year old would want. I hope you're sensing the sarcasm here. What did I receive? You guessed it... Books!

Yet, even in Colombia, which is my hometown; just like Alexandria, Virginia, getting to read a book, rather than play Minecraft on an iPad, is also like pulling teeth. But, just like parents from Del Ray, my mother in Cali, not only gave me the gift, she reinforced the importance of my reading them even days after.

So with the pressure of my mother, I read pages 1 and 2 of **Grimm's Fairy Tales** and **Hans Christian Andersen Fairy Tales.** And pages 1 and 2, turned to 3 and 4... And 5 and 6... Before, I knew it; I was in a land of magic, imagination, and increasing possibility. And so my love for reading and books began.



Parents in Del Ray struggle just like my mother struggled with me. But, how do we get our children's attention, when we stand no chance of winning the competition we have with hours upon hours of the their little eye balls looking at iPad screens, Minecraft mazes, and Taylor Swift YouTube videos?

Here at the Duncan Library, we are your friends. We understand your pain. We know it and we want to help you. It's our mission and we have a plan. We are ready to help you take your children off to that same land of fairy tales and imagination that changed my life as a young 8-year-old girl in Colombia.

Therefore, we need you to take the first step. We invite you to our book sale! You will find something for everybody!

Después de recibir mi Primera Comunión de parte de la Iglesia Católica en Cali, Colombia, recibí un regalo que cada niño de 8 años desea. Espero que sientan mi sarcasmo. Que recibí.? Lo adivinaron....libros!

Aun en Colombia, mi país natal, como en Alexandria, Virginia, conseguir leer un libro en vez de jugar Minecraft en un Ipad, es como sacar dientes. Pero, igual que padres en Del Ray, mi madre en Cali, no solo me dio el regalo, pero reforzó desde ese día la importancia de la lectura.

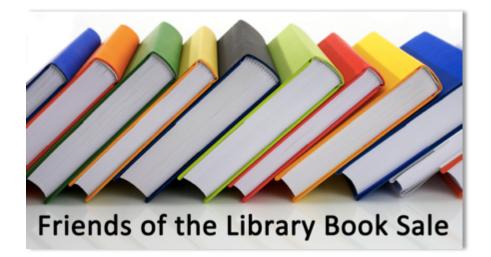
Así que, con la presión puesta por mi madre, leí las primeras dos pginas de los Cuentos de los Hermanos Grimm y lo de Christian Andersen. Las primeras dos páginas se convirtieron en la tercera y cuarta. Después quinta y sexta...y antes de saberlo, me encontraba en una tierra mágica, de imaginación y de increíbles posibilidades. Así fue que comenzó mi amor por la lectura y los libros.

Padres que viven en Del Ray luchan de la misma manera como mi madre lucho conmigo. Pero, la pregunta es, como llamamos la atención de nuestros hijos, cuando luchamos en contra de un Ipad, laberintos en Minecraft y videos de Taylor Swift en YouTube?

Aquí en la Biblioteca Duncan, somos sus amigos. Entendemos su dolor. Lo sabemos, así que queremos ayudarlos. Es nuestra misión, y tenemos un plan. Estamos listos para ayudarlos a llevar a sus niños a esta tierra de cuentos de hadas e imaginación que cambió mi vida cuando era una niña de 8 años viviendo en Colombia.

Así pues, necesitamos que tomen el primer paso. Los invitamos a nuestra venta de libros! Donde encontraran algo para cada miembro de la familia!

Spring Book Sale 2015! April 29th – 1st Chance Night for Friends Members Regular Sale runs from April 30 – May 2, 2015



DUNCAN BRANCH UPDATES

by Elisabeth Murray, Youth Services Manager

Coming Together

The Duncan Branch Library looks forward to a fun and education filled May as the Alexandria Library brings our community together in reading one book for All Alexandria Reads. The adult book this year is *Big Stone Gap* by Adriana Trigiani. Set in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia in 1978, local pharmacist and self-proclaimed spinster Ave Maria Mulligan knows the secrets of her townspeople. It is the secret hidden in her own family, however, that will change her quiet and uneventful life. The children's chapter book selection is *Three Times Lucky* by Sheila Turnage and the picture book selection is Louella Mae, She's Run Away by Karen Beaumont.



Programs for all ages at the Duncan Branch that you won't want to miss include world-traveling musician Bill Jenkins as he presents The Roots of America's Music (Tuesday, May 5 at 3:30 p.m.) and storyteller Jane Dorfman's Appalachian Folktales (Thursday May 14 at 3:30 p.m.). School-aged children and their parents will enjoy Appalachian Folktales told by Margaret Chatham, storyteller (Thursday May 7 at 3:30 p.m.). The adult book discussion group will, of course, discuss Big Stone Gap (Wednesday May 20 at 7:00 p.m.). We hope that you can join us for these events and our other regularly scheduled programs.

Goodbyes and Hellos

As the seasons changed, so did several of our staff at the Duncan Branch. We are excited to soon welcome Brack Stovall as the new branch manager. He has been with the Radford Public Library since 1995 and was most recently their Assistant Director. Brack earned his Master's Degree in Library and Information Science from the University of North Texas and his undergraduate studies were completed at Virginia Tech. He also plays guitar! We very much look forward to his arrival mid-May.

Stephanie Clark, now our former Branch Manager, left Duncan mid-February to move to Pensacola, Florida for family reasons. I had the opportunity to visit her in March and she is doing very well. The sunshine suits her. Library Assistant Zachary Bly accepted employment with the Congressional Hunger Center in Washington, DC as Office Assistant and Receptionist. Expect to see him around as he says he plans to remain a loyal patron. Sandra Mrowka, Library Assistant, also said farewell. She welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Mabel, last July and has made the decision to be a stay-at-home mom. Mabel is a very lucky girl. As I type, Marilyn Doherty, Circulation Manager is conducting interviews to fill the two library assistant positions. We look forward to welcoming them soon.

HAPPY DAY! THE DUNCAN LIBRARY SPRING 2015 BOOK SALE IS ON THE WAY!

By Peggy Sweeney, Book Sale Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

The Spring 2015 Book Sale is sooner than you think! Come enjoy the large collection of quality books, CDs, and DVDs that have been donated in the last six months:



Wednesday, April 29	7 p.m. to 8:45 p.m.	First Chance Night** **members only, but others can join that night
Thursday, April 30	10 a.m. to 6:45 p.m.	Regular sale
Friday, May 1	10 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.	Regular sale
Saturday, May 2	10 a.m. to 3p.m.	Regular sale until 1 p.m.; Bag Sale from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. wraps up the sale!

As usual, it is your help that makes our book sales a success! Watch for the email from VolunteerSpot (the online scheduling service we use) requesting that you sign up for one or more shifts. Or if you prefer, you can sign up at the library.

Each shift is only two hours. While we'd be glad to have you sign up for more, please know that even one shift is appreciated. Help needed varies from <u>sale setup</u> starting Friday, April 24 to Tuesday, April 28, and <u>sales</u> and <u>keeping books in order</u> during the sale itself.

You'll have fun and your library and community will benefit! And volunteers earn a free book for every shift worked! If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Sweeney at <u>dlsweeney@comcast.net</u>.

GET TO KNOW YOUR LIBRARIAN: Rania Chaya Library Assistant

Are you from Alexandria? If not, from where?

I was born in Cleveland, Ohio, but spent my childhood years in Lebanon. In 1996, my family moved to Alexandria and has loved living here.

Who are your favorite writers?

Two of my favorites are Paulo Coelho and Jodi Picoult. Reading their books gives you a lot of insight to living life, appreciating your family, relationships and love.

What are you reading currently? I am currently reading Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn; Adultery by Paulo Coelho.

What was the first book you ever read on your own?

My first book was a Dr. Seuss; I had a ton of them.

What book do you wish you had written?

The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho.

What are your outside interests?

Traveling, yoga and music.

Do you speak any language other than English? If so, which one(s)?

I am fluent in Arabic.

How long have you been at the Duncan Library?

I've been at Duncan since 2003.

What gives you the most satisfaction as a library worker?

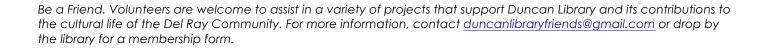
Seeing patrons reaction when I find what they are looking for, either by walking over to the shelves with them, calling other branches and assisting them with the catalogue and public computers.

What changes have you seen at Duncan since you began working here?

The programs for adults and children have increased, more patrons using the library. Online usage has become an easy access for patrons to download books and do searches from home.

How does entertainment fit into the mission of libraries?

With the vast amount of children's programs we have, kids look forward to and enjoy the fun/educational activities the library offers, which makes them want to visit the library over and over again.





What do you think are Duncan's biggest needs?

With the increased number of patrons using the library, the circulation department could use more staffing.

BUTTERFLY GARDEN COMING TO DUNCAN!

By Elaina Palincsar, Beautification Committee Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

Spring is one of the busiest times for gardeners as they access their emerging plants, inventory their tools and supplies, purchase new plants and seeds, and plan new and revised garden schemes. It's the same for the landscaping at the Duncan Library. The Phase I landscaping came through a challenging winter and an uncommitted spring and is doing well. We hope you're enjoying the spring bulb display.



We have a new project for the Circle Garden area with a positive potential for beauty, education, and the environment. It's a Butterfly Garden! Local gardeners Sue Tate and Vineeta Andand have volunteered to provide their knowledge, experience, supplies and labor. I hope to learn as we go.

First we'll define the area, have soil amendments (in this case City mulch) incorporated into the area, and select the plants butterflies need. We'll sow some seeds, plant some seedlings and mature plants and let the area evolve into a harmonious whole that we hope butterflies and other pollinators will find and love. This will be an organic garden area – no herbicides or pesticides allowed.

Because this garden is in an area of the grounds not served by the current water system, we'll need an addition. The Friends are in the process of contacting various business and civic associations to get funding. Individuals can, of course, donate to the garden through Friends. You simply donate what you can and specify where you'd like your support to go. This is called a dedicated donation. Because Friends of Duncan Library is a non-profit entity, you can claim a tax deduction. And, of course, we'd never turn down a donation of willing hands and a strong back. Contact me at Palincsare@comcast.net or 703-548-1585, or leave your contact information with the library staff.

The benches for the Circle Garden have been ordered and we expect they'll be installed sometime in mid- to late-May. This will provide a comfortable spot to sit in the sun, read, and watch the garden. If you see litter near the benches or anywhere else on the grounds, please keep things neat by disposing of it in the outside trashcan at the parking lot entrance. Every little bit helps and every litter bit hurts.

To conclude, I want to share the most useful gardening tip I've found: Dig all the holes for your new plantings BEFORE you go to the nursery. Happy gardening, happy spring!



CINEMA CLUB PRE-CODE FIM SERIES CONTINUES By Walter Gross, Adult Programs Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

On April 1, the Duncan Library Cinema Club viewed *I* am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang starring Paul Muni. On a rare warm spring evening, more than a dozen film lovers viewed the film and engaged in a lively discussion on the movie and the history of chain gangs in the United States.



Two more features remain on the schedule for the series of Pre-Code films. They will be screened on the first Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. More information, including film titles, is available at the Library reference desk.

When our Pre-Code film series concludes in June, the Cinema Club will inaugurate a new monthly series, featuring classic screwball comedies from the thirties and forties. Featuring such stars as Cary Grant, Katherine Hepburn, Carol Lombard, Henry Fonda, Barbara Stanwyck, Claudette Colbert, and William Powell, films in the series are characterized by wacky situations, witty dialog, and clever variations on the eternal battle of the sexes. And, there will be plenty of time to discuss the movie, its background, and features that set it apart from other films of the period. As always, the screenings are free and open to the public.

Join the Cinema Club and receive advance information on upcoming movies and other matters of interest to film lovers. There are no fees. Email Walter Gross at wgross3@comcast.net to get on the mailing list.

FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY IN SOCIAL MEDIA – CONNECT WITH US!



Like us on Facebook: Friends of Duncan Library



Follow us on Twitter: @DuncanFriends

FRIENDS SPOTLIGHT: Linda Walker, Vice-President, Friends of Duncan Library

Where are you from?

I was born in Ft. Leonardwood, MO while my dad was stationed there in the Army. But we left when I was less than a year old and I grew up in Glen Alpine, a small town in the foothills of North Carolina.

Who are your favorite authors?

Anne Bishop is my favorite author. I've read all of her books multiple times!

Favorite characters/genres?

My favorite genres are fantasies and mysteries.

Why do you love them?

I enjoy entering new and interesting worlds and learning about the people in them, and putting the pieces of a puzzle together to see the big picture.

What are you currently reading?

How to Retire Happy, Wild, and Free by Ernie Zilenski.

Name a movie that in your opinion is better than the book?

I can't think of a movie I think is better. Books provide richer content than movies ever can. I do have a play I think is much better than the book. *Wicked*. I thought the play was awesome; whereas I absolutely hated the book. I thought the book was dark and depressing, whereas the play was full of wit and humor. It answered questions about *The Wizard of Oz* that I never thought to ask!

Has there ever been a character you would like to be best friends with?

I would like to meet Harry Dresden from Jim Butcher's The Dresden File series. Harry is the only wizard listed in the Chicago yellow pages, and seems like he'd be a swell guy to get to know.

What do you do professionally?

I'm a federal agent with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the federal law enforcement arm of the U.S. Postal Service. We investigate any criminal matters that have a nexus to the U.S. mail, such as: robberies; burglaries; illegal items sent through the mail such as bombs, drugs, and child pornography; mail theft; and mail fraud. Maybe my current career is why I enjoy mysteries!

What are your outside interests?

I love reading, animals, and traveling. I have two cats that keep me entertained to no end and I volunteer on Sundays at the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. I also enjoy puttering around on the computer. I have two blogs and administer Facebook pages for both the Friends of Duncan Library and Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE).



When and why did you join the Friends of Duncan Library?

I moved to Virginia from Tampa, Florida in November 2011, and joined the Friends not long thereafter. I've always been active in library Friends groups, having volunteered in the Upper Tampa Bay Library Friends bookstore. Before I knew it, I was serving on the Friends of Duncan Library Board! I've always loved reading and libraries, and am currently working on my Master's in Library and Information Science. I graduate in May!

What aspect of the Duncan Library do you think is particularly impressive?

How active the Friends group is. From supporting adult programs, to the materials budget, to the landscaping project, it's amazing the breadth of activities that the Friends group is involved with.

What would you choose?

Amazon or Brick & Mortar?

A little of both on the rare occasions I buy a book (I mostly take advantage of the local library!). I like supporting independent bookstores, but sometimes order from Amazon for the convenience.

Bookmark or Dogear?

Bookmark! I seem to collect bookmarks wherever I go!

Keep, throw away or sell?

Donate anything I'm not going to re-read.

Buy or borrow?

Mostly borrow, but I do buy books that I know I will continually re-read.

Paper or e-book?

Paper, hands down. Don't own an e-reader and never will! I love the feel of a book between my hands. Nothing can replace that.

Tell our readers something that might surprise us about you.

At the relatively young age of 49 I am preparing for my upcoming retirement at the end of June. I am fortunate to have entered a profession where I am able to retire at 50 with a pension. But a sad part of my retirement is that I will be moving from the DC area and will no longer be able to serve on the Friends of Duncan Library board. **The Board is looking for volunteers, both to serve on the Board** and to be involved in other ongoing projects such as book sales and continual improvement of the landscaping. Would you like to be involved in a great organization that brings added value to the library and community? If so, the Friends of Duncan Library is for you!

BOOKS BY MY BEDSIDE

This column features books that Duncan Staff and Duncan Friends are currently reading or have recently read. If you'd like to contribute to a future newsletter issue, please contact our new Newsletter Editor, Vivian Nuñez at vnunezantia@me.com.

The Lost Tomb, by Kent Weeks

Reviewed by Jill Murphy, Membership Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

If you are interested in ancient Egypt and archaeology, this is a great read. Kent Weeks recounts his early work in Egypt and the inception of the Theban Mapping Project (TMP), which he has run since 1979. It is the personal account and provides the reader a wonderful window in to how the project came to be and the amazing re-discovery of KV5, the royal tomb of Rameses II's children, the largest tomb found in the Valley of the Kings to date. It includes humorous stories of the excavation, some historical background and interpretation on this incredible tomb.

Stress Test: Reflections on Financial Crisis, by Timothy Geithner Reviewed by L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald, President, Friends of Duncan Library

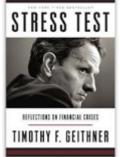
In nearly 600 pages, Timothy Geithner has written a first-hand account of the 2007-08 financial crisis that almost crashed the U.S. financial system. While not a one-sitting read, his take on the events may be difficult for those who do not follow the financial markets or inside politics in our nation's capital. An unlikely Washington insider, former New York Fed chairman, and President Obama's first Secretary of the Treasury, Geithner, in a very self deprecating way, relates his personal philosophy and principles as they evolved into policies during the Great Recession. If you ever doubted the wisdom or necessity of bailouts during these years, this book will likely convince you otherwise.

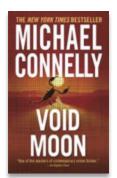
I suggest that you read the notes at the end of the book first; they will make the story much easier to follow. They clarify the terminology and acronyms as well as make a very decent attempt to help the reader understand the messy world of government and quasi-government institutions and their effectiveness - or lack thereof - during times of extreme crises.

Void Moon, by Michael Connolly

Reviewed by Jill Murphy, Membership Chair, Friends of Duncan Library

Void Moon is an older Michael Connolly book that moves between L.A. and Las Vegas. Cassie Black is a woman in L.A. with a Porsche, but that's because she sells them, not because she's the typical L.A. rich chick. She's also a woman with a past. Having just spent six years in prison for a crime she didn't commit (sort of), Cassie is working in L.A. and struggling to figure out her life. Continually tempted, she decides to pull one last job in Vegas and then get out altogether. She works her contacts to get the ultimate score set up, but gets a lot more than she bargained for







THE LOST

TOMB

-- including saving her life and that of the child she gave up. An easy read and slightly predictable if you know Connolly's work, but a change from his usual set of characters.

Have you read a great book? Tell us about it!

NEW WAYS TO SUPPORT THE FRIENDS AND DUNCAN!!!

Did you know that every time you buy something at Amazon you could support Friends of Duncan Library?

Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to Friends Of Duncan Library whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.



You shop. Amazon gives.

Here is what you have to do:

1. Go to smile.amazon.com

2. Select "Friends of Duncan Library" as your preferred charity (Be careful...there is more than one

- Duncan Library!)
- 3. Shop!

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□ Renewing Member New Member

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- ✓ Like us on Facebook
- ✓ Join the Poetry Society
- ✓ Attend the Film Club monthly movie
- ✓ Member preview night for book sales
- ✓ VOLUNTEER (select below)

OBook Sale (sorting, scanning, wrangling, sales) O Adult Programs OBeautification OBoard ONewsletter OOther_____

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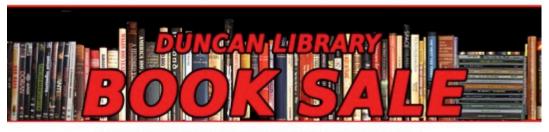
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FIRST QUARTER 2015 FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS

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Anne	Shine	Lori	Knoernschild
Anne Marie	Harris-White	Lynda	Erinoff
April	Cabral	Mary Ann	Bier
Buzz	Rettig	Mary Louise	Clifford
Constance	Frogale	Nancy	Brown
Elizabeth	Partoyan	Norine	McGrath
Elizabeth	Wrightson	Page	Fox
Elizabeth	Lockwood	Renee	DiPilato
James	Nooney	Sean	Doherty
Jeffrey	Tureck	Stephen	Koenig
Jennifer	Walker	Susan	Poore
John	Clifford	Susan	Boyd
John	Graves	Susan	Morrison
Jonathan	Krall	Ted	Pulliam
Karen	Conrad		

COMING APRIL 29 - MAY 2



SPONSORED BY THE FRIENDS OF DUNCAN LIBRARY

SCHEDULE Wednesday April 29 7:00 to Friends-Only First Choice N Not a member? Come and	light	THOUS	SANDS OF ITEMS S, CDS, and DVDS
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Thursday April 30 10:00 AM to 6:45 PM Friday May 1 10:00 AM to 5:45 PM Saturday May 2 10:AM to 3:45 PM	BOOKS GHILDR YOUNG AND AD	FOR EN ADUES UES	AMESOME BARGAINS

DUNCAN LIBRARY 2501 COMMONWEALTH AVENUE IN DEL RAY

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Friends of Duncan Library Officers:

President: L Charles "Friar" FitzGerald Lcharles.FitzGerald@gmail.co <u>m</u>

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