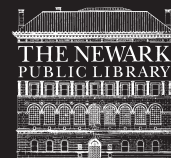


ENRICHING LIVES



EXPANDING HORIZONS

THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY
Annual Report 2008



THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

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A Message from the Director

This has been a year of challenges and changes, yet we have had some marvelous accomplishments. We have felt the shockwaves of the economic downturn, but have succeeded in carrying out the Library's mission, and have had no palpable cuts in services. As you peruse the pages of this report, you will read about the Library's many successes. I am very proud to share these with you.

After four years as the president of the Board of Trustees, Trish Morris-Yamba passed the president's gavel to Jeffrey A. Vanderbeek. We recognize Ms. Morris-Yamba for her numerous contributions and years of service in this role, and thank Mr. Vanderbeek for taking on this important responsibility. Ms. Morris-Yamba continues to serve on the Board. We also welcome Jill Johnson, Sandra King, Bari Mattes, and James Simmons as new board members.

Patrons turn to the Library for leisure reading, lifelong learning, and for research. The Library is also here to help our patrons find job opportunities, learn new computer skills, and redesign their resumes. As the public takes advantage of these wonderful offerings, we have seen an increase in our circulation, computer use, and classes attended.

The Library has been fortunate to be the recipient of the generous gifts of time, materials, and money from our supporters. These, coupled with the dedication and professionalism of the Library staff, have allowed us to continue to offer extraordinary programming, exhibits, and essential services to our public at a time when they are needed more than ever. As we look toward the future, we are excited by the prospect of making this great institution even better.

I invite you to visit us soon!



Warm regards,

Wilma J. Grey
Director, The Newark Public Library

Programs and Exhibitions

A regular schedule of exhibitions, programs, and special events highlights the diversity of both the Library's collections and the communities that it serves.

Program Highlights

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Our Black History Month celebration featured African American authors and their works. The exhibit, *Entrusted to Our Keeping: The Legacy of African-American Literary Societies in Newark, the Nation, the World* served as a rich background to the month's festivities.

The opening reception "What's Hip-Hop Got to Do with It?" a community discussion about the impact of hip-hop on African-American literature was moderated by Dr. Margaret Hayes of Bethany Book Club. Nina Mitchell Wells, New Jersey Secretary of State, was the special guest speaker. Panelists included Ron Kavanaugh of MosaicBooks.com; Herb Boyd, author of *Baldwin's Harlem: A Biography*; Gilda Rogers, author of *Arrested Development: The State of Black Achievement and Education in Hip-Hop America*; Irene Daniels, Newark Literacy Campaign; Elyse Smith, student, Bloomfield College; and Edna Bailey-Woody, motivational speaker.

Other programs included:

- A discussion and book signing for



Grace F. Edwards of the Harlem Writers Guild

Creating Black Americans, by Nell Irvin Painter, Ph.D.

- The Harlem Writers Guild: Authors K.C. Washington, Eugene Hopgood, Grace F. Edwards, and Gammy L. Singer read from and discussed their works.

- *Conversations with African-American Authors*, documentaries featuring August Wilson and Alice Walker

- Writing the Marvelous Real: Magical Realism for 20th Century Voices, a fiction writing workshop with Sheree Renée Thomas

- Read-In: Read Your Favorite African-American Author, at which participants read excerpts from books by black authors

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations this year centered on films from the Hispanic world as both an agent and a reflection of change. The accompanying exhibit, *Reel Diversity: Film in the Hispanic World*, complemented the films shown. The opening reception featured speaker Carlos Gutiérrez, Director of Cinema Tropical.

Additional film programs included:

- *Como Agua para Chocolate* and *Angelitos Negros* (from Mexico)
- *La Gran Fiesta* and *La Guagua Aérea* (from Puerto Rico)
- *Fresa y Chocolate* and *Memorias del Subdesarrollo* (from Cuba)
- *Volver* and *El espíritu de la Colmena* (from Spain)
- *Camila* and *La Historia Oficial* (from Argentina)
- Emerging Latino Filmmakers, a panel discussion moderated by Louis E. Perego Moreno, President of Skyline Features. Panelists were Sonia González-Martínez, Betty García, Edwin Pagán, Adel Morales, and Francisco Bello.

Other programs in the celebration were *Mondongo Scam*, a bilingual solo theater piece written and performed by acclaimed artist, Claudio Mir, and A New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center reception featuring the presentation of the book *Cuentos: Stories from Puerto Rico*, edited by Kal Wagenheim.

MORE ENTERTAINING AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS HELD AT MAIN LIBRARY AND THE BRANCHES FOLLOW:

Music:

■ The Sounds of Arts High School Omega Jazz Ensemble

■ A Celebration of Gospel Music with Dr. Albert Lewis and the Voices of Victory

Literature and History:

■ 40 Years After King—Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Commemoration, a panel discussion about Dr. King’s visit to Newark in late March 1968

The panelists included Gustav Heningburg, political consultant and activist; Douglas H. Eldridge, author, journalist, and historian;

Cornell William Brooks, Esq., Executive Director, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice; Winthrop McGriff, Athletic Director, Orange High School and Department Chair of Physical Education, Montclair High School; and William Payne, former New Jersey State Assemblyman.

■ Opening reception for the EWR Turns 80 exhibition. Susan Bass Levin, First Deputy Executive Director of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey was the honorary chairperson of the exhibit committee.

■ A panel discussion on the history of the Newark International Airport, cosponsored by the Newark History Society, featured Richard Koles, a professional photographer; David Morris, retired Operations Chief at Newark International Airport; and James Lewis of the Newark Public Library.

■ *Proceed and Be Bold*, a documentary about Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr., letterpress printer and “book-builder.”

Mr. Kennedy, who was on hand to introduce the film and answer questions, also gave an inspiring talk, “Put the Message in the Hands of the People and Move On!”

■ Information Literacies Showcase—Keynote Speaker: John Scieszka, the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literature; sponsored by the Newark Public Library with the New Jersey Center for the Book.

■ The Truth Thru Spoken Word Showcase—Hip-Hop Next—original poems and essays.

■ The Newark Evening News: New Jersey’s Newspaper of Record: a discussion with panelists Angelo Baglivo, Douglas Eldridge, and William Gordon, former journalists with the *Newark Evening News*. The moderator was Jerome Aumente, Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Rutgers University.

at right: Deputy Mayor Margarita Muñiz, Ingrid Betancourt, and Wilma J. Grey at the opening reception for Hispanic Heritage Month



General Interest:

- Let's All Make Books! Making Books By Hand with the Book Arts Roundtable
- East Ironbound Cooks (Van Buren Branch)

Book Releases and Author Appearances:

■ *Souls of My Sisters: Black Women Break Their Silence, Tell Their Stories and Heal Their Spirit*, Dawn Marie Daniels and Candace Sandy

■ *Of Blood and Sorrow*, Valerie Wilson Wesley

■ *Baldwin's Harlem: A Biography of James Baldwin*, Herb Boyd

■ *Arrested Development: The State of Black Achievement and Education in Hip Hop America*, Gilda Rogers

■ *Kill or Be Killed*, Anasa Maat

■ *No Minor Accomplishment: The Revival of New Jersey Professional Baseball*, Bob Golon



Author Valerie Wilson Wesley

Exhibition Highlights

- Eighth Super Cool Exhibition of Shopping Bags: Infinite Commercial Art Designs Adorning a Practical Function
- EWR Turns 80: A History of Newark Liberty International Airport
- Reach For the Stars: NASA at 50
- Over 50 Years of Major Art History
- Pulaski Skyway: New Jersey Treasure
- More than Words: Artists' Books and Book Art from the Special Collections of the Newark Public Library

FRANCES E.W. HARPER LITERARY SOCIETY

Now in its twenty-first year, the Society discusses African-American fiction and non-fiction. Special programs included:

■ *Paris and Other Places: A Photo Travelogue* with Mansa K. Mussa

■ *Spoonbread & Strawberry Wine: Recipes and Reminiscences of a Family* with Carole Darden

■ *The Writer's Responsibility 2008: An Update Report* with Amiri Baraka, Stanley Terrell, Louis Reyes Rivera, Dr. Anasa Maat, and Dorothea Moore

■ Celebrating Black History Month: *Remembering Their Voices*, a staged reading of the "voices" of W. E. B. Du Bois, Shirley Chisholm, Harriet Tubman, James Baldwin, Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr., and Dr. John Henrik Clarke presented by students from the Harriet Tubman School in Newark

■ Celebrating National Poetry Month: *In Memory of Sekou Sundiata and Yictove*

Children from the Harriet Tubman School with Dorothea Moore, Chairperson of the Frances E.W. Harper Literary Society



Youth Services

The Newark Public Library's Main Library and branches provide a wide variety of programs and activities, both instructional and entertaining, for children and teens.

Hooray for Children, a monthly series of live performances by puppeteers, storytellers, magicians, and theater groups, presented *Raps, Rhymes'n Reasons*; *Save the Earth Magic Show*; *The Day It Snowed Tortillas: Stories and Songs of Latin America*; and Taino's *Caribbean Holiday*.

During Family Week at the Theater, sponsored by the New Jersey Theatre Alliance, the East Lynne Theater Company performed *Victorian Magic* and Youth Stages presented *Oz* and *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*.

Daniel Kirk, author and illustrator of over thirty books for children, shared his writing and drawing program with young readers at all eleven of the Library's children's rooms.

Club Success, funded by the Newark Public Schools, celebrated fifteen years of teacher-supervised homework assistance at all library locations.

"Create Your Own Book" for National Library Week, "Design-a Bookmark" for National Children's Book Week, and the third annual "Hockey and Me Essay Contest," sponsored by the New Jersey Devils, encouraged writing and creativity.

"Catch the Reading Bug" was this year's children's theme for the Prudential Foundation's Summer Reading Challenge. "Metamorphosis" was the theme for the teen challenge. Together, the children and teens read over 14,000 books.

Kids Unscripted Summer Theater Workshops, funded by Carol Greene Duncan, were held at the North End, Springfield, Van Buren, and Weequahic branches.

Summer readers from the Springfield Branch

The Springfield Branch Library continued to present programs and services for students planning to attend college. Volunteers Lyndon Brown, Wilhelmina Holder, and Erika Jackson conduct free test-preparation classes and organize college fairs. Funding is provided by a grant from the Charles Emil Thenen Foundation.

Programs at the Branches, sponsored by the Newark Public Schools, extend children's learning outside of the classroom. All programs were presented to conform to the New Jersey Core Curriculum Content Standards. Among the offerings were: Richard Stillman's *A World of Music and Dance*, *The Yo-Yo Guy*, Piccirillo Sciencetelling's *The Jungle of Jersey*, *Fun on a String Puppets and Marionettes*, Okra Dance Company's *Dance from Africa to Broadway*, and the Insectropolis Bug Museum.

Learning about Myself and My World invites pre-K and kindergarten students to visit the Library for half-day extended classroom experiences. Library card registration, story time, and other activities reinforce early literacy learning.

To observe holidays, seasons, the presidential election, the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, and multicultural themes, staff provided arts and crafts, music, games, films, and computer activities for children.



EXPANDING HORIZONS

Collections and Services Highlights

Ever a cornerstone of library service, reference and research services flourished as librarians continued to use the Library's vast resources to find answers to questions simple and complex from patrons near and far. Other service-related highlights follow:

The New Jersey Illustration Index, a 188-drawer card-file index to pictures and pictures in publications, was digitized and is now

accessible in Clavis, the Library's catalog. This project was supported by funds from the New Jersey Historical Commission.

Popular computer classes expanded in 2008 to include: PowerPoint 2, Beginning Genealogy (finding your family roots using websites and databases available at the Library), Google Features, and Oh, the Sites You'll See (surprising and new resources on the Internet).

The Library reinstated bulk-loan service of world-language books to New Jersey libraries.

The free American Sign Language (ASL) classes and English as a Second Language/English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESL/ESOL) classes continued to be well attended. The newly revived Deaf Awareness Club of Newark, NJ resumed meetings at the Main Library.

The Main Library began offering fax services to the public.

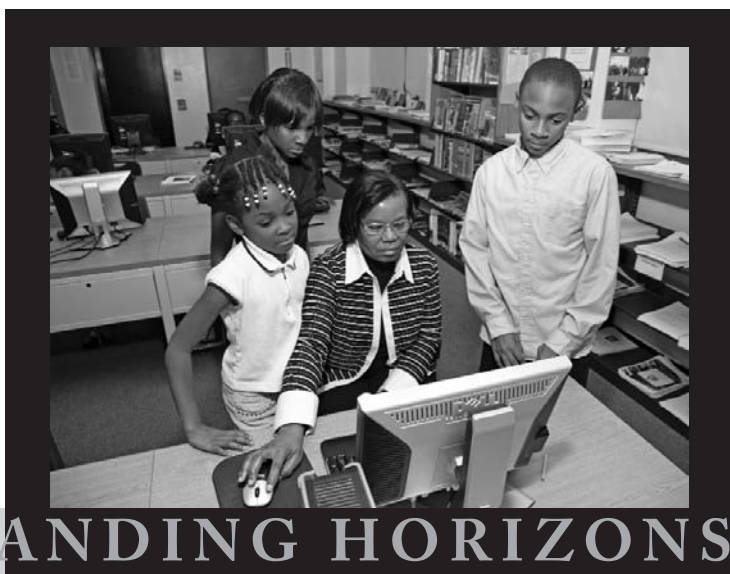
New computer hardware installed in the Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center, the Reference Center, the Victoria Technology Center, and at the Madison and First Avenue branches enhanced public computing.

The Library extended its reach by partnering with other city agencies. The Weequahic Branch hosted the RACBLA Super Neighborhood meeting where Council President Mildred Crump was honored along with others from the community; Curt Idrogo spoke to a group of twenty school librarians at the Newark Public Schools' offices; and The Library participated in the Newark Arts Council's Open Doors '08 Gallery Crawl.



Awards and Accomplishments

- Wilma Grey was chosen to be an elector for the presidential and vice-presidential candidates of the Democratic Party in the 2008 election. Ms. Grey was also honored for community service by the Thurgood Marshall College Fund.
- Heidi Cramer assumed her duties as President of the New Jersey Library Association.
- The New Jersey Library Association gave public relations awards to the Library for the Fall 2007 edition of the *Second Century* newsletter featuring the Harry Potter Knight bus and for the invitation to the Irish in Newark and New Jersey exhibition.
- Jim Capuano and Deirdre Schmidel presented “Patent and Trademark Searching for Public Libraries: How to Help Businesses, Inventors and Students” at the NJLA annual conference.
- Chad Leinaweaver’s presentation at NJLA was “Trash or Treasure/ To Fix or Not to Fix? Topics for ‘Tough Love’ in Collection Development.” Mr. Leinaweaver was also appointed Chair of the New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Book Awards.
- Yesenia Lopez presented a poster session at the NJLA Conference, “The New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center @ the Newark Public Library.”
- Nayda Santiago received the New Jersey Association of Library Assistants’ 2008 Rita L. Hilbert Scholarship.
- Joseph Casale was named President of the Rotary Club of Newark.
- Ingrid Betancourt was selected by the Institute of Museum and Library Services/Heritage Preservation to attend “Preserving America’s Diverse Heritage” at Atlanta’s High Museum of Art. Ms. Betancourt also received the Community Honoree Award from the Annual Statewide Puerto Rican Parade Committee.
- Paula Baratta was honored by the School Leadership Team IV with the Community Support award for Elliott Street School.
- Anthony Clark served as a Paul Robeson Competition judge for the Black Film Festival.
- Jared Ash’s article, “More Than Words: Artists’ Books and Book Art,” was published in the Fall edition of *The Journal of the Printed World*. Mr. Ash was also a speaker on a panel at the Annual Conference of the Ephemera Society of America.
- William Dane was featured in an article “Librarian Honored for 60 Years on the Job” in the *AFSCME Works* magazine for March/April 2008.
- Sandra L. West was awarded a Literary Nonfiction Fellowship from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts.



 EXPANDING HORIZONS

Fundraising Special Events

“BOOK CLASSIC” GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Newark Public Library’s “Book Classic” Golf Tournament was held at the Plainfield Country Club in Edison on July 22. Proceeds from the fundraiser benefited the 2008 Annual Fund Campaign.

MARIA DECASTRO BLAKE AWARDS

Newark Public Library’s New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center hosted the annual Maria DeCastro Blake dinner at the Newark Airport Marriott on April 30. Lillian Hernández, Executive Director of Dress for Success Jersey City, Anna “Cuqui” Rivera, Outreach Manager of the Hispanic Directors Association of New Jersey, and William Q. Sánchez, Executive Producer of New Jersey Network’s *Images/Imágenes*, were honored. Mary Bustillo Donohue, a Bergen County Freeholder, received the Maria DeCastro Blake Lifetime Achievement Award. Verizon New Jersey, a sponsor of this annual celebration, received the Corporate Partnership Award.

BOOKED FOR THE EVENING

Dennis Bone, President of Verizon New Jersey, chaired the Newark Public Library’s annual gala dinner, Booked for the Evening, at Nanina’s in the Park on November 13. Susan Bass Levin of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and Paul J. St. Onge, Esq. of Gibbons P.C. co-chaired the event committee. The gala honored former library board President and Executive Director of the Newark Day Center Trish Morris-Yamba and her husband Essex County College President A. Zachary Yamba; retired Superintendent of Newark Schools, Marion A. Bolden; longtime Newark Public Library users and advocates Andrea and Warren Grover; and McCarter & English, LLP. The event raised nearly \$200,000 for the Library’s Annual Fund Campaign.



Mahishan Gnanaseharan speaks of his love for the Library at the gala.



left to right: Sam Delgado, Denise Bone, and Dinner Chair Dennis Bone of Verizon NJ

Notable Grants Generous grants from state and local agencies, corporations, foundations, and individual donors, enhanced the Library's collections, presentations, and services.

- Discovery Charter School—children's computers—\$760
- Carol Greene Duncan—expansion of Kids Unscripted, theatre arts program—\$10,000
- Essex County Local Arts Program—Hispanic Heritage Month—\$5,000
- Independence Community Foundation—English for Speakers of Other Languages classes—\$25,000
- New Jersey Council for the Humanities—New Jersey Hispanic Research and Information Center Community Archives—\$10,000
- New Jersey Cultural Trust—oral history, collection preservation, and indexing—\$32,500
- New Jersey Historical Commission—Charles F. Cummings New Jersey Information Center (CFCNJIC) preservation projects—\$15,840
- New Jersey Historical Commission—general operating support for CFCNJIC—\$66,400
- New Jersey State Library—contract services—\$86,000
- New Jersey State Library—English for Speakers of Other Languages project—\$20,000
- New Jersey State Library—per capita state aid support—\$332,876
- Newark Public Schools—Club Success after-school academic assistance—\$96,000
- Newark Public Schools—K & Pre-K Extended Classroom Trips—\$26,000
- Newark Public Schools—Saturday Branch Partnership—\$101,860
- PNC Bank—Black History Month exhibition and programs—\$20,000
- Port Authority of New York and New Jersey—funding for exhibit EWR at 80—\$25,000
- Prudential Foundation—Summer Reading Challenge—\$15,000
- Schnur Family Foundation—Special Collections materials—\$6,500
- TD Commerce Bank—Special Services materials—\$4,000
- Charles Emil Thenen Foundation—SAT preparation program for students—\$5,000
- Universal Services Fund—E-rate reimbursements for technology improvements—\$431,323

left to right: Mayor Cory Booker, Susan Bass Levin of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, Municipal Council President Mildred Crump, and John Jacoby, of the Newark Liberty International Airport



EXPANDING HORIZONS

Gifts of Materials

Many generous people have enriched the Library's collections with books, artwork, and other items. The following is a partial list of donations.

- Jane Cohn Waldbaum and Steven L. Morse—24 original serigraphs and 13 silk-screened greeting cards created by Cohn Waldbaum's father, Max Arthur Cohn
- Amos Paul Kennedy, Jr.—40 of his hand-painted letterpress posters
- Maria Pisano—collection of artists' books
- Sidney Delson—33 prints by his late wife, Elizabeth Delson, a New Jersey native
- William Penniston and George Robb—gouache painting by artist Burhan Doğançay
- The Jacob Landau Legacy Preservation Trust—prints, books, and posters relating to Jacob Landau
- Ellen Nathan Singer—five of her etchings/aquatints and one woodcut
- Taller Leñateros—artists' books from the Mayan artisan society: *Bolon Chon* (2008), *Incantations by Mayan Women* (2005), *Portable Mayan Altar* (2007)
- William J. Dane—screen print, *Pardoner* by Ronald King
- Kenneth Schnell—two of his artists' books
- Maryann J. Riker—*Upstream Tales: A Fisby Collection of Art*—her artists' book
- Al Zach—Annual reports for the Newark Department of Engineering and for the Newark Water and Sewer Utilities Department
- Pauline C. Metcalf—gallery catalogs, books from London's Fine Art Society, and fashion books
- Arthur and Mary Prout—*Four Corners, Newark* print by Cathleen Engelsen
- Alex Sibirny—a 40x37-inch photo of the Church of the Sacred Heart and School
- Rodney and Karen Rose—a collection of the letters of Frank Everett Martin, a Newark native and member of the American Expeditionary Force in France from 1918-19
- Francisco Morales-Zamorano—his artists' book based on Don Quixote
- Hispanic Family Center of Southern New Jersey—photo albums and scrapbooks

THE FRIENDS OF THE NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Friends of the Newark Public Library continued to gather oral histories from their members and longtime staff about their experiences at the Library. They held their annual book sale in April and donated over \$10,000 for the purchase of furniture and books for the Special Services Room and for Young Adult materials.

On behalf of the Library, the Friends received a grant of \$32,500 from the New Jersey Cultural Trust to be used for oral history, collection preservation, and indexing.

Donors

The Newark Public Library wishes to extend sincere gratitude to the individuals, corporations, foundations, and organizations listed here for their generous support throughout 2008. These donors have made contributions toward one or more of the following areas: the Annual Fund Campaign, the Friends of The Newark Public Library, the Book Classic Golf Tournament, the Booked for the Evening Gala, the Hispanic Research and Information Center, and the Hellenic Heritage Fund. Thanks to the generosity of these thoughtful benefactors the Library is able to continue enriching lives and expanding horizons. We apologize in advance for any misspellings or omissions and ask that you contact the Development Office at 973-424-1832 to report any errors.

Legacy Gifts

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\$10,000 – \$19,999

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cardholders/new cardholders 99,466/20,422

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Questions Answered 204,631

Total Items Cataloged 35,131

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Computer Training Classes
attendance 1,716

English for Speakers of Other Languages Classes
attendance/registration 4,173/756

American Sign Language Classes
attendance 630

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Support and Revenues

2007 Balance Forward	\$ 174,000
City of Newark Allocation	14,933,391
State Library Aid	332,876
Donations	336,414
Grants	554,200
E-rate Reimbursements	431,323
Designated Fund Growth	177,476
Investment Income	68,107
Fines and Fees	69,420
Other	74,459
TOTAL SUPPORT AND REVENUES	\$ 17,151,666

Expenditures

Salaries and Wages	\$ 8,579,535
Payroll Taxes and Employee Benefits	614,328
General and Administrative	3,144,227
Services by Contract	2,506,133
Books and Library Materials	1,131,297
Capital Expense	607,280
Accruals	554,196
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 16,805,368



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