

# Ahepa Traveler



CHAPTERS THROUGHOUT NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN NEVADA

Volume 60, No. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF DISTRICT No. 21

December/Winter 2012



*Best Wishes  
for a  
Merry Christmas,  
a Joyous Holiday Season  
and a  
Happy, Healthy,  
Prosperous New Year*

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*Next issue of the Traveler March 1, 2013*

*Articles due February 15, 2013*

"AHEPA TRAVELER is published quarterly, four times a year March, June, September and December by Order of AHEPA, 3327 Lake Albano Circle, San Jose, CA 95135."

AHEPA TRAVELER is the official publication of Golden Gate District 21 Order of AHEPA (American-Hellenic-Educational-Progressive-Association). It is published and distributed to members and friends. There are thirty Ahepa, Daughters, Sons and Maids Chapters in Northern California and Western Nevada.

Article III – This Order shall be non-partisan in politics and non sectarian in religion. All partisan political and all sectarian religious discussions are prohibited in any official deliberations thereof.

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DUE – FEBRUARY 15, 2013**

**PUBLISHING SCHEDULED  
MARCH 1, 2013**

**Have Ritual Manual . . .  
Will Travel**



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Installations  
Initiations

**Seminars:**  
Chapter Duties  
Membership Drives  
Charity Raffles  
Rituals

"YOUR FULL  
SERVICE. . .

DISTRICT 21 LODGE" **Call 559 325-7528**

**AHEPA DISTRICT LODGE  
2012-2013**

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2012-2013**

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**Steve Miller, PDG, Chairman**

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## *Message from District Governor Robert Sexton*

Brothers:

Things have been quiet in District 21 these last few years, but all that is about to change. January promises to be a very busy month for us. We will be finishing our course of visitations, with six chapter visits compressed into that single month. But that is not the best part. We will be hosting a series of chapter visits from the Supreme Lodge. Our Supreme President, Dr. John Grossomanides, accompanied by the Supreme VP, Supreme Sec. and our Supreme Governor will pay visits to the Sacramento, Stockton, Modesto and Fresno chapters. Simultaneously the Daughters of Penelope Grand President, Joanne Saltas, and the Grand VP will be visiting their lodges. It is a rare occasion indeed.

Needless to say, those chapters are busy preparing for the visit. As plans now stand, meetings will be hosted at local restaurants by the respective chapters. All these meetings will be open to all members of the district. Your attendance and participation are encouraged. This is a rare opportunity to meet with the Supreme Lodge and express your concerns about AHEPA to them. Information as to the location and times of these meetings will be circulated as soon as it is finalized. Make your reservations early. In every case space is limited.

There will be other opportunities to meet with the Supreme Secretary. Arrangements are being made for meetings in the Bay Area both prior to and following the meetings with the Valley chapters. Again, details will be released as soon as they are made final. (Details for all these meetings may be included in this issue of the Traveler but as I write this they are not yet available.)

Those of you who have had the opportunity to meet Brother John know that he is a capable and energetic leader. In the course of his tenure, he has visited more than 100 chapters. That alone has to be a record. His intention is to connect the chapters with the supreme Lodge in order to promote growth in our order. This will be his second visit to District 21 as Supreme President. You will recall that he made a visit shortly after being elected last year to the Bay Area. The fact that he and his Lodge are coming to the district again shows that District 21 has not been forgotten.

Brothers, we are on the verge of considerable growth. Just now, while sorting through old materials, I found statistical information from 2008. In that statistical report district 21 had 475 members. At the end of last year, our membership was 558 including life members. That is solid growth and we stand to gain even more in the coming years. This supreme visitation is an opportunity to showcase AHEPA, and to make the case to potential new members that they should join us. Let us make the most of this opportunity. Be sure to join us in the valley as we welcome the Supreme Lodge to District 21.

The coming year will have much more than this visitation. Our Spring Conference to be hosted by the Oakland AHEPA in March, and the District Conference in June hosted by Modesto will be great events worth your time and attention. Your local chapter events are numerous and greatly benefit your communities. Be sure to let us know about them so we can help spread the word. Our AHEPA and DOP chapters do much good work, often with little fanfare. That fact deserves to be known.

Now, with 2012 coming to an end, an exciting start to the New Year on the horizon, I want to thank you all for your efforts this past year and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



## *Message from District Governor Helen Sexton*

Dear Sisters,

Merry Christmas!

The holiday season is approaching quickly and quite soon 2012 will belong to history. It has been a good year in many respects, with many positive things that happened within our organization. We have seen growth and higher participation and activity in several chapters. We have seen the wonderful and generous contributions to a variety of charities by many chapters. And we also have seen that scholarship awards were part of your chapter's agenda. I congratulate all of you for all the great work that you do.

We are still faced with challenges, however. Increasing membership, of course, ranks very high. But increased membership without participation and involvement is meaningless. So let us all make our New Year's resolution to attend our chapters meetings and our District's conferences and conventions. I assure you, if we do that, we will become more enthused, more knowledgeable and recharged to be a more active participant not to mention, we will have more fun doing it!

Sisters here are some reminders:

- Memorial and tribute donations can be made throughout the year. Please send your donations to our Marshall Cathy Photopoulos. They benefit our scholarship program.

- Our growth and expansion contest is in its second year now. Please send a copy of the application of your new members to our secretary, Sylvia Golfes. The chapters with the most new members and reinstatements from September 1, 2012 to May 1, 2013 will be recognized, honored and presented with a plaque at our District convention. And the sister who brought in the most members (first signature on the application) will receive a gift card.

- The reinstatement fee now is waived for the months of January and February, not November.

- The Spring Conference will be hosted by Oakland AHEPA on March 16.

- The Sisterhood Conference is on April 12 – 14, in Portland, Oregon, hosted by District 22. I sent you the registration form with my December bulletin.

- The District Convention will be held on June 14 – 16, hosted by the Modesto AHEPA family.

- The AHEPA Supreme President, Supreme VP, Supreme Sec. and Supreme Governor Region 8, as well as the GOP Grand President and Grand VP will be visiting the Valley chapters on January 11 and 12 of 2013. A dinner reception is planned by the Sacramento AHEPA family on Friday the 11th. Stockton will host a breakfast reception on Saturday the 12th followed by a lunch reception hosted by Modesto and a dinner reception hosted by the Fresno chapters. We invite and encourage all of you to participate in any and all events. Having such a large delegation from the Supreme and Grand Lodges visit our district is a big honor and an historic event. We can no longer say that the West is forgotten by Headquarters. So I urge you all to participate.

In closing, on behalf of my Lodge I wish you all and your families, Καλα Χριστουγεννα and a Very Happy Holiday Season.

Yours, in Theta Pi

Helen





**Wishing you a Merry Christmas  
and the Happiest of Holidays!**

**District 21 Lodge  
Helen, Kathy, Sylvia, JoAnne  
Cathy and Margo**



## Golden Gate District #21 Schedule of Visitations & Events 2012-2013



### January

5	Saturday	Visitation 10:30am	Oakland/Vallejo	Ascension Cathedral
8	Tuesday	Visitation	San Jose	St. Nicholas Church
10	Thursday	DOP Visitation	Walnut Creek	TBA
10	Thursday	AHEPA Visitation	Contra Costa	St. Demetrios Church
<b>11-13 Fri-Sun Grand President and Supreme President and Lodges Visitations</b>				
11	Friday	7:00pm Dinner	Sacramento	Annunciation Hall
12	Saturday	8:30am Breakfast	Stockton	Hilton Hotel
	Saturday	12:30pm Lunch	Modesto	TBA
	Saturday	6:30pm Dinner	Fresno	Manhattan Restaurant
19	Saturday	Visitation 10:00am	Sacramento	Annunciation Hall
19	Saturday	Visitation PM	Marysville	AHEPA Building
26	Saturday	District Poker Night	Stockton	Elkhorn Country Club

### March

16	Saturday	Spring Conference	Oakland	Ascension Cathedral
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### April

12-14	Saturday	Sisterhood Conference	Portland, OR	TBA
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### June

14-16	Fri-Sun	District Convention	Modesto	Doubletree Hotel
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### August

18-24		Supreme Convention	Orlando, FL	Loews Portofino Bay Hotel
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*Reno Chapter #281 selected "Chapter of the Year" District Governor  
Robert Sexton presenting Chapter President Dr. John Lagios with their award.*

**GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT #21  
SPRING CONFERENCE**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 16, 2013**

**9:30 AM**

**ASCENSION CATHEDRAL  
OAKLAND**

**Hosted by the Oakland Ahepa Family**

**2013 Journey To Greece**

**The Eighth Annual  
AHEPA / University of Indianapolis  
Journey to Greece Summer Program**

**Session 1: June 25 - July 13, 2013**

**Session 2: July 16 - August 3, 2013**

**Sessions 1 & 2: June 25 - August 3, 2013**

**For more information go to:  
[www.ahepa.org](http://www.ahepa.org)**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
GOLDEN GATE DISTRICT #21  
DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**JUNE 14-16, 2013**

**DOUBLETREE HOTEL  
MODESTO**

**Hosted by Modesto Ahepa Family**



***AHEPA Supports Military Family***

***Reading Program Through The USO!***

*AHEPA National President Dr. John Grossomanides announced the organization's support of military families by selecting the United Through Reading? Military Program as a national service project, working in cooperation with the United Services Organization (USO). United Through Reading is a program that enables service members to video record themselves reading books to their children back home and provides a DVD of the recording and a copy of the book to the child.*

***Go to the following links to learn more  
and make a chapter or individual  
donation for as little as \$10***

*Join Team USO-AHEPA and Make a Donation*

*Read About the Last "I Love You" Feature in The Ahepan Magazine*

*Read the AHEPA News Release*

***Attention All Chapters!***

*Bring your chapter information up to date  
on the district websites; [www.ahepa21.org](http://www.ahepa21.org)  
and [www.dopdist21.org](http://www.dopdist21.org)*

*for AHEPA send information to :  
Chris Frangos at: [cfrangos@cbnorcal.com](mailto:cfrangos@cbnorcal.com)*

*for Daughters send information to:  
Sylvia Golfes at: [sylvia94523@comcast.net](mailto:sylvia94523@comcast.net)*



## EOS #1 Visitation and Daughters' Meeting

by: Marion Parashis

FAMILY REUNION! Sisters greeting Sisters with kisses and hugs and laughter and love surrounding Holy Trinity Community Center on a beautiful evening in San Francisco on October 3, 2012, and guess what, NO FOG! What camaraderie, what fun! Brother Ahepans from the Golden Gate Chapter #150 joined the Daughters of Penelope EOS #1 before their individual meetings with a delicious dinner hosted by President Marion Parashis, and drinks (wine, too, yummy) donated by Sister Loula and President of Ahepan Golden Gate Chapter #150, Elias Tsiknis. Grapes and figs were brought by Sister Christie and Brother Jim Tsiplakos from their Napa Valley home. District 21 Governors, Sister Helen Sexton and Brother Bob Sexton, with their respective Lodge Officers attended and were warmly greeted by all. Their Visitation was a family reunion, and all agreed it should not be once a year! Bonding and warm memories were in the making.

President Marion Parashis, yet again, reiterated what a loving and supportive EOS#1 Chapter! All her Sisters, especially her Chapter Officers and Board, helped her this past entire Summer by showing constant loyalty, devotion and family love with cards, phone calls, flowers, dinners, and drivers to take her wherever and whenever in her time of need! Their support of her and the duties for their beloved Chapter EOS #1 was truly dedication and showed total outstanding involvement! No "thank you" could say enough! EOS #1 is and always will be #1! Evidence of this sisterly/brotherly love was prevalent and unique at this dinner/meeting held on a star-filled awesome night where we all keep our hearts---San Francisco.



*District Lodge #21 with Pres. Elias Tsiknis*



*Penelope Wasly, Cor.Sec., Elaine Makras, VP*



*District Lodge #21 and Pres. Marion Parashis*



*Vivian Leos, PP, Christie Tsiplakos, Vaso Moulas, PP, Eva Skoufis*



*Sophia Eliopoulos, PDG, Gov. Sexton, Mary Chicos, PDG*



## EOS #1 Visitation and Daughters Meeting Continued



*Dinner Line*



*Dinner Line*



*Jim Diarotes, PDG, Sam Chicos, DG Sexton, Diamond Leos*



*Peter Kireopoulos and Bill Angelopoulos*



*Anne Jouganatos, May Kireopoulos, Vivian Leos, PP*



*George Zoulis, Jim Tsiplakos, Ernest Antonis,  
Paul Eliopoulos, PDG*



## Ahepa Chapter #281 DOP Elis Chapter #89 Reno

President Stephanie Tsanas attended the District Conference at St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center. This is a beautiful setting and we should support our lodge there.

The Elis Chapter 89 initiated 3 new members, Eleni Papas, Eileen Phillips and Marika Dimitriadis.

Ahepa 281 and Elis Chapter 89 hosted the District 21 Visitation. It was very informative and a good chance for our new and old members to meet their district officers.

Congratulations to Ahepa 281 who were presented with the award for Best Chapter 2012. See photo on page 10.

Ahepa 281 hosted a special event for Veterans Day honoring the veterans in our parish including Col. Harry J. Williams, (Ret. Air Force), Lt. Alex Lemberes ( Ret. Army), and Spiro Cappony ( Ret. OSS - Special Forces, dec).. Jim Nicholson and Bob Lindsey were the Chairpersons.







*Submitted by Stephanie Tsanas  
President, Daughters of Penelope  
Elis Chapter 89*



## Fresno Ahepa Chapter #151 News

by Chris E. Rockas, PSC

The weekend of October 12th and 13th saw our District Brothers and Sisters traipsing up to **St. Nicholas Ranch and Retreat Center**, Dunlap, California to participate in our Fall District Conference hosted by us. The setting was the type of setting conducive to thought and meditation as well as productive discussion on the state of District #21 and its future. The only drawback was that not enough Brothers and Sisters took the opportunity to attend and benefit from such a productive conference. The weather was idyllic, the food was outstanding and the lodging first class.

Brother George Gianopoulos, District Secretary, presented a slide show of the **iconography** project recently completed by the **Fresno St. George Greek Orthodox Church**. It set forth the trip by members of our iconography committee to St. Petersburg, Russia, to assess whether to engage Valery Butinsky, iconographer, for our project. The end result is one of the most beautiful iconographies in our Metropolitane (Diocese). Very few Orthodox Churches west of the Mississippi can equal the final product. Everyone is welcome to come to our church and view our project and see what can be done to Orthodox Churches in their communities, if so inclined.

Not only were the meetings productive but we also had our **Ahepa Supreme Governor, Brother Chris J. Mellas**, visit us, participate in our meetings and bring news from our National Headquarters.



Chris J. Mellas,  
Ahepa Supreme Governor

On Saturday, November 3, 2012, our District Lodge led by Brother Robert Sexton, made their annual visitation to our Chapter. Those attending were District Governor Robert Sexton, District Secretary George Gianopoulos, Treasurer Alex Bezos and District Marshall Bill Anton. At the end of the visitation a tasty luncheon was served by our Fresno Daughters of Penelope.

The holidays are almost upon us and we, the members of Fresno Chapter #151 wish all of our District Brothers a **MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

REMEMBER THE KEY WORDS FOR 2013 are: **"MORE MEMBERSHIP."**

## DOP Leto 71, Fresno

by Dr. Eleni Rotous Rockas

The cooler autumn weather brings our Sisters in the Daughters of Penelope together in Fresno to enjoy and experience the **comradery of Sisterhood**. Our dynamic President, **Sister Madelyn Jones**, with her officers have planned a very exciting year for us.

Prior to our September meeting, we were fortunate to hear artist and college instructor LindaKay

Papadakis talk about her exciting six week journey last Spring to Italy to study Art and to journey through the lovely hills and valleys of this beautiful country. She took multiple photos and projected them so we could see the magnificent sculptures and paintings she saw--What an exhilarating experience!!

We were able to come together with the rest of the District Sisters and Brother Ahepans on October 12-13 at **St. Nicholas Ranch & Retreat Center** in Dunlap, CA for the Fall District Conference. We are so proud to have our own **Sister Helen Sexton** as our District Governor of the Daughters of Penelope. We had a fairly good turnout and many of us made it a vacation weekend and stayed overnight at the comfortable newly refurbished rooms. Michael Pappas, director of the Ranch, was very accommodating and provided us with delicious healthy meals.

Kathy Leles, Lt. Governor, offered a very instructive presentation in the afternoon.

Because October was Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Dr. Eleni Rockas gave an instructive presentation on the **prevention and symptoms of breast cancer**. Hopefully we will be able to hold meetings at St. Nicholas Ranch again in the future.

We are now planning our Founder's Day Social following church services and our Annual Christmas Party to be held at Sister Helen Sexton's lovely home.

**HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS & ENJOY THE GATHERING TOGETHER OF YOUR FAMILIES!!!!**

**Fresno Ahepa Chapter #151**

**DOP Leto Chapter #71**



*Ahepa District Lodge Visitation*



*Leto President Madelyn Jones and District Governor Helen Sexton*

*Daughters District Lodge Visitation*



*Kathy Leles, Joanne Panagopoulos checking in at Fall Conference with Madelyn Jones, Dr. Eleni Rockas*



*Ahepa Fall Conference Attendees*



*LindaKay Papadakis, artist, showing her slides of her trip to Italy*



## Oakland Ahepa Family News

by Marlene Panacci

Oakland's AHEPA Chapter #171 and Daughter's of Penelope Echo Chapter #4, held their first of what looks to be an annual Holiday and Awards dinner.

Chairpersons, Bill Anton and Sophia Johnston, together again, made a great effort making this event a huge success and lots of fun for everyone attending. Numerous longevity pins were given to members of both Chapters. Congratulations to all the recipients.

The bar was tended by Dria Fearn and Eugenia Giouzelis. The table decorations were furnished by the members of Echo #4.

Our chef, Dino, and his wife Mary, along with their son, George, once again prepared a wonderful dinner enjoyed by all.

Father Tom Zaferes has a food gift card campaign which is a full time yearly project. After a brief explanation of the gift card program, Bill Anton seeded the cash box with a \$20.00 donation, thereby starting a line of donors, culminating in a final tally of \$260.00 in donations. Thank you for the generosity of those who donated.

Emmy Fearn, President of the Oakland Chapter of the Daughter's of Penelope, followed up with her Chapter's support of the National Domestic Violence Awareness Project. Echo #4 pledged to match up to and including \$500.00. Thanks to all the AHEPA Family present, the total was far surpassed. Emmy wishes to thank all of the donors who so generously donated a total of \$925.00 and with the \$500.00 pledge from Echo #4, the donations totaled \$1425.00. Fantastic outcome!!!

A precedent was set when Brother Bill Anton was awarded the AHEPAN of the Year award, the only time a member of this Chapter earned the award twice. Needless to say, Brother Bill was rendered speechless and after graciously thanking those responsible, he pledged to continue his service to the AHEPA Family, an organization of which he is proud to be a member.

We want to sincerely thank Chapter #171 for underwriting the total expense of this wonderful party.

Chapter #171 and Echo #4 extend their warmest holiday greetings to all.



*Bill Anton receiving "Ahepan of the Year" plaque from Oakland Chapter President Steve Miller*



*A closer view of Bill and the plaque  
Congratulations Bill!!*



DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE, SPARTA CHAPTER#18 & AHEPA CHAPTER #212

# TOAST TO THE HOLIDAYS

Annual  
*Christmas*  
Gathering

*Saturday, December 8, 2012*

6:30pm to 10:00pm

*Vasoo Vani at Elkhorn*

1050 Elkhorn Drive

Stockton, CA

*\$35.00 per person*

Cocktails, Appetizers  
&  
Buffet Dinner

Please bring an  
unwrapped  
gift for a child  
at Mary Graham Hall  
ages newborn to 18 yrs

RSVP  
by Monday, December 3  
to

Tom Chiarchianis:  
tchiarchianis@yahoo.com  
209.576.1665



# Golden Gate District 21

## Daughters of Penelope Scholarship Program



### Proudly Announce the 2013 Scholarship Awards

#### Undergraduate

DOP Past District Governor's League \$2000

District 21 Scholarship \$1,500

District 21 Scholarship \$1,500

District 21 Scholarship \$1,000

#### Graduate

Angela Mouroufas Memorial Scholarship \$2000

Ekaterini Tsakopoulos Memorial Scholarship \$2000

Kalliopi Alexopoulos Memorial Scholarship (Medical Field Only) \$1000

#### Re-Entry/Continuing Education

District 21 Scholarship \$1,000



**April 1, 2013  
Deadline**

#### Any Questions Contact:

**Joanne Booras**

DOP District Scholarship Chairman

PO Box 1556

Danville, CA 94526

☎ 925.736.1343

✉ [joanne16@sbcbglobal.net](mailto:joanne16@sbcbglobal.net)

**Scholarship Applications are available on the District website**  
**[www.dopdist21.org](http://www.dopdist21.org) Link "What's New"**

— An AHEPA Historic Event in Fresno!!! —

## A Supreme/Grand Visitation - -

- From AHEPA Headquarters:

- Supreme President Grossomanides
- Supreme Vice President Kouzounis
- Supreme Secretary Frangos
- Supreme Governor Mellos



- From Daughters of Penelope:

- Grand President Saltas
- Grand Vice President Grossomanides



# The Grand Banquet

- The Manhattan Restaurant

- January 12, 2013:

6:30PM Social Hour\*

7:00PM Dinner & Program

- \$35 Per Person \* No Host Bar

- The Menu:

- Filet Mignon
- Twice Baked Potato
- Vegetable
- Salad & Roll
- Dessert

### Reservations:

**Ted Boosalis - 559-297-1762**

**156 W. El Paso Ave.**

**Clovis CA.93611**

**\*Space is Limited:**

**Make Your Reservations**

**Early**

Make Checks payable to "AHEPA Chapter#151", Memo "Grand Banquet".





## **AHEPA FAMILY TEXAS HOLD' EM POKER NIGHT FUNDRAISER**



**Saturday, January 26, 2013**

**5:30 pm**

**Yasoo Yani @ The Elkhorn Country Club**

**1050 Elkhorn Drive, Stockton, CA**

Early Bird Buy-In: \$80 per player

After January 20<sup>th</sup> or at the door: \$100 per player

Includes Appetizers and Tournament Buy In

Non-players: \$15.00 admission

No-Host bar, BINGO tournament for non-players and great gifts will also be raffled off!

**Unlimited \$40 re-buys throughout the first two blind periods**

**One \$20 add-on will be available at the end of the first two blind periods**

### **Championship Table Payouts**

Proceeds go to the AHEPA Family District 21 Charities

**Make Your Check Payable to: AHEPA District 21**

**Mail To: Kathy Leles 1223 Pyrenees Ct., Tracy, CA 95304**

**Paid ticket vouchers will be mailed for admission into tournament**

**Info: Contact Tom Chiarchianis @ (209) 401-1179 or tchiarchianis@yahoo.com**



# SAVE THE DATE

81st Annual District 21 Convention  
**June 14-16, 2013**  
Modesto, CA



- ◆ Modesto Hospitality
- ◆ Excellent Convention Headquarters
- ◆ Welcome Night
- ◆ Scholarship Luncheon
- ◆ Best Ever GLENDI
- ◆ Farewell Coffee following Liturgy @ Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church



We are planning exciting activities for the enjoyment of all and look forward to welcoming our District 21 Brothers & Sisters. Watch for further details.

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