



The Irish Connection

Irish American Society of Tidewater News

February 2020

The Irish American Society of Tidewater, Virginia, is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1980 to promote and preserve Irish culture and all things distinctly Irish.

Membership is open to persons of Irish birth or ancestry, as well as those persons who have an interest in Irish history and culture.

**OUR NEXT MEETING
THURSDAY:
February 13, 2020
NOTE NEW DATE**

Meetings are held the first Thursday of the month at the

Church of the Ascension
Community Center
4853 Princess Anne Rd
Virginia Beach, VA.

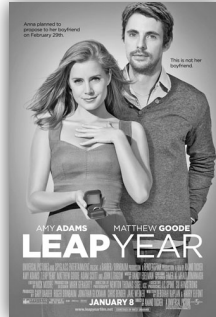
Doors open at
6:30 p.m.,
the meeting usually
gets underway at
7:00 p.m.,
ending at 9:00 p.m.



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Fellow Irish American Society members,

Please note we will be meeting the **SECOND** Thursday of February rather than the first due to a scheduling conflict beyond our control at Ascension. However, this makes for a nice combo VALENTINE'S DAY / LEAP YEAR program, since we will be showing the cute family-friendly romantic comedy **LEAP YEAR** starring Amy Adams! The film is set mostly in Ireland, where it was filmed on location. The movie is 1 hour and 41 minutes long; we will start it at 7 and then will do a brief intermission midway to draw raffle tickets for this month's fantastic raffle prizes!!! The film's premise is that there is an Irish tradition which allows women to ask men to marry them on a leap year. Ladies, this IS a leap year, I might point out...



~~~~~  
**FEBRUARY IAS MEETING – Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**7 pm in Ascension's Community Center; doors open at 6:30 pm to set up**

During the *Leap Year* movie, we will be taking 2020 IAS annual dues & membership forms, selling EMERALD BALL tickets, and selling raffle tickets. The Cash Donation Bar will be available, plus please bring treats to share.

**ROUND 2 - RAFFLE PRIZES**  
*All proceeds going to help cover Emerald Ball expenses!!!*

**Raffle Tickets will be \$5 each / or 3 for \$10 – buy them on your way into the meeting!!!**

First ticket drawn gets first choice of prize, second ticket drawn gets next choice of prize, etc. **You/your agent must be present when the drawing is done during \*\*\*MOVIE INTERMISSION\*\*\* at our February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020 IAS meeting to win.**

### CHECK OUT THESE GREAT RAFFLE PRIZES!!!

1 GREEN version IAS Jersey in your size w/ personalization included from O'Neill's Irish Sportswear - *Limit of one jersey win per person/couple/family!*

### PLEASE NOTE:

*Our next meeting*

*has been moved to*

**Thursday: February 13, 2020**

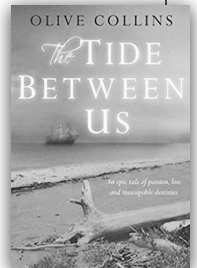
*(due to scheduling conflict at Ascension)*

1 WHITE version IAS Jersey in your size w/ personalization included from O'Neill's Irish Sportswear - *Limit of one jersey win per person/couple/family!*

2 – 1 comped EMERALD BALL ticket – *Limit of one win per person/couple/family in this category!*

2 – 1 Grace O'Malley's \$25 gift certificate – *Limit of one win per person/couple/family in this category!*

1 signed copy of *The Tide Between Us* (a saga addressing class differences between two families stretching from the 1800s in Co. Kerry to the slave trade in Jamaica and then back again to Ireland in modern times) by bestselling Irish author Olive Collins - *Limit of one book win per person/couple/family!*



1 signed copy of *The Memory of Music* (about a family's history starting in 1916 w/ the Easter Rising and continuing over the impacted generations up to 2016) by bestselling Irish author Olive Collins - *Limit of one book win per person/couple/family!*



2 – 1 Complimentary Valet Parking Pass at the Sheraton Waterside for the Emerald Ball on Saturday, February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2020 - *Limit of one win per person/couple/family in this category!*

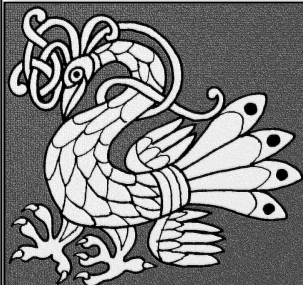
2 – 1 COMÓRADH 40 IAS 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary lapel/sash/kilt pin - *Limit of one win per person/couple/family in this category!*

2 – 1 Glasgow Kiss CD – *Limit of one win per person/couple/family in this category!*

**Continued on Page 3**

# The Irish American Society of Tidewater

P.O. Box 9614  
Virginia Beach, VA  
23450



## OFFICERS

### President

Lynnette Fitch-Brash

### Sr. Vice President

Debra Taylor-Kelly

### Jr. Vice President

Maureen Cahill

### Treasurer

Katie McCrory

### Recording Secretary

Mary Ann Brady

### Financial Secretary

Michael Lawler

### Membership

Betsy Kennedy

### Phone Tree

Teresa Buckley Diaz  
757-642-0099

### Sergeant-at-Arms

Jim Hagerty

### Hospitality

Lynette Gilmour Crouch

### Youth Outreach Chair

Meagan Garibay

### Newsletter

Lori Shea, editor

lorishea@aol.com

### Sunshine Bulletin

email the editor

### WEBMASTER

Michael Lawler

### WEB SITE

IRLUSA.org

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Look for us on  
Facebook & Instagram

Email us at:

IAS.Tidewater@Gmail.com



## AN FOCLÓIR



FOCLÓIR = DICTIONARY, LEXICON, VOCABULARY  
AN = THE

By Tyler Klausmeier

### Lesson 5

- |                      |                    |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| ♣ Eanáir - January   | ♣ Aibreán - April  |
| ♣ Feabhra - February | ♣ Bealtaine - May  |
| ♣ Márta - March      | ♣ Meitheamh - June |

Best wishes,  
Tyler



## Ocean View Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Saturday March 14 2020

MAR  
14

## Ocean View Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade

Public · Hosted by Ocean View Annual St. Patrick's Day  
Parade

★ Interested ✓ Going

➔ Share ...

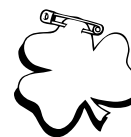
🕒 Saturday, March 14, 2020 at 10 AM – 12 PM

📍 Ocean View Beach Park  
100 W. Ocean View Ave, Norfolk, Virginia 23503

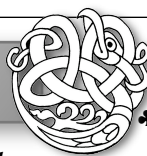
Show Map

HEY!!! Our official IAS Bagpiper **Tom Crouch** & part of our IAS banner from last year's parade made it onto the invite for this year's Ocean View St. Patrick's Day Parade! :)

Make sure you have **Sat. March 14th** saved on your calendars for THIS year's parade!



## IRISH & IRISH-AMERICAN TRIVIA



### February 2020 Trivia Questions

Submitted by **Maureen Cahill**  
Each month, test your knowledge at  
three levels: easy, middling, and most difficult.

- ♣ Granted a license distill whiskey in 1608, this is the oldest distillery in the world: \_\_\_\_\_.
- ♣ Game of Thrones fans will recognize Dark Hedges in Bushmills village as \_\_\_\_\_.
- ♣ Jameson's distillery opened in Dublin, Ireland in what year?

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IAS EMERALD BALL
Sheraton Waterside Ballroom, Downtown Norfolk
Saturday, February 29th, 2020

We are now LESS THAN ONE MONTH away from our 40th Anniversary EMERALD BALL taking place in the Sheraton Waterside Ballroom on Saturday, February 29th, 2020!!! This will be *instead* of Finnegan's Wake for one year only. It is a BIG DEAL for us as an organization to host a fancy dress event like this, and we hope we will have everyone's full support to make it a fabulous success.

~ Check In/Mingling from 6-7:30 pm
 ~ Formal program/presentations/performances 7:30-9:00 pm
 ~ DJ & dance party from 9 pm - 12 am!!!

The ball will feature Irish music, step dancing by the Walker Academy, community awards, heavy hors d'oeuvres during the first two hours, cake after that, cash bar all night, and a DJ for dancing from 9pm-12am. Our goal is to host an event that celebrates our vibrant local Irish/Irish American community AND is fun for all! Tickets are open to the general public. Buy your ticket or table today!
 EMERALD BALL tickets are \$50 per person, advance sales only, and non-refundable. All are welcome, not just IAS members, so please do invite friends. Tables seat 10 people, and the tables closest to the dance floor/front of room must be purchased all at once for \$500. Groups smaller than 10 will be combined with other groups to form a table of ten. Only 250 people can attend, so don't miss out!!!

Visit the IAS Facebook group "Save the Date" event invite for more info.
<https://www.facebook.com/events/321186388586851/>

PARKING INFO FOR THE SHERATON WATERSIDE:

\$8.00 overnight self-parking
 \$5.00 event only self-parking
 \$26.00 overnight valet parking
 \$13.00 event only valet parking

HOTEL ROOM RESERVATIONS AT THE SHERATON WATERSIDE FOR THE EMERALD BALL BLOCK!!!

Below is the link to make the reservations online. PLEASE read these tips beforehand. If you just try calling, you may get the run around. It is actually easier to just make the reservation online. If you don't do anything online, however, the number is (757) 622-6664.

Rooms are \$107 (\$127.26 including tax) per night PLUS parking. PLEASE NOTE: Our block of rooms defaults to reserving both Friday AND Saturday nights, so make sure you adjust that for only Saturday if you only want Saturday!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

ALSO, if you enter 1 or 2 adults, I believe your reservation will be for 1 KING bed. If you enter 3 or 4 adults, your reservation will be for 2 QUEEN beds. ALL rooms are smoke free.

Our block contains harbor view rooms. We have 5 saved for Friday night and 20 for Saturday. If all of these are booked, they

will add more to our block. If all of these are not booked, they will return to the hotel's inventory of available rooms.

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?>

[id=1579125044029&key=GRP&app=resvlink&fbclid=IwAR1p49nLXgOir81oemVifEjn5ZIHcUsHkKXW5eCBxJpSRuePTpCqRteotz4](https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1579125044029&key=GRP&app=resvlink&fbclid=IwAR1p49nLXgOir81oemVifEjn5ZIHcUsHkKXW5eCBxJpSRuePTpCqRteotz4)

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**WE NEED CORPORATE/COMMUNITY SPONSORS**  
**for our Emerald Ball!!!**

Know any Irish-friendly businesses looking for a tax write off??? HELP!!! Please seek out donations. We need money for various things. **What we can't cover we may have to do without...**

- ♣ \$4000 (or any part thereof) for the Kilt Fund to get our 5 new IAS Honor Guard recruits kitted out (we have raised \$1000 on our own so far...)
- ♣ \$500 for green up-lighting & other special Emerald Ball decor items – THANK YOU **MURPHY'S GRAND IRISH PUB VB** FOR COVERING THIS WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!!!
- ♣ \$500 for DJ & a Founder gift for our 1st President to be presented at the Emerald Ball - THANK YOU **JM BRIGGS INC CONCRETE CONTRACTORS** FOR COVERING THIS WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!!!
- ♣ \$500 for professional photographer
- ♣ \$400 for Presidential Medallions for all IAS Presidents
- ♣ \$250 for 2020 Princess sashes & flowers – THANK YOU **WALKER ACADEMY OF IRISH DANCE** FOR COVERING THIS WITH YOUR GENEROUS DONATION!!!
- ♣ \$250 for other Very Special Awards to be presented at the Emerald Ball

Sponsors can specify which of these they want their money to go toward OR just make a general donation toward the event. Our sponsors will be recognized in the program at the Emerald Ball, with signage on our IAS floats during the annual Ocean View St. Patrick's Day parade in March, and with coverage in our newsletters!

Purchase Emerald Ball Tickets &/or Sponsorships here:

<https://secure.givelively.org/event/irish-american-society-of-tidewater/ias-emerald-ball>

*Please consider becoming a sponsor of this event:*

**Friends of the IAS**

\$250 w/ no tickets included

Family or Company ½ page ad in program  
 (full amount tax deductible)

~ or ~

\$750 w/ tickets for full table

Family or Company name on table and ½ page ad in program  
 (\$250 portion above ticket price tax deductible)

Continued on Page 4

**Shamrock Level**

\$500 w/ no tickets included  
*Family or Company 1 page ad in program\**  
 (full amount tax deductible)

~ OR ~

\$1,000 w/ tickets for full table

*Family or Company name on table and 1 page ad in program\**  
 (\$500 portion above ticket price tax deductible)

**Emerald Level**

\$1,000 w/ no tickets included  
*Family or Company 2 page ad in program\**  
 (full amount tax deductible)

~ OR ~

\$1,500 w/ tickets for full table

*Family or Company name on table and 2 page ad in program\**  
 (\$1,000 portion above ticket price tax deductible)

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IAS 2020 Annual dues are now due! Please support our mission to preserve & promote Irish/Irish American culture locally by paying these dues. Paying dues does not obligate you to attend anything or do anything – but it does mean you are doing your part to keep Irish culture alive and active in our area!

Slán go fóill! ('Bye for now!')

Lynnette Fitch-Brash 

IRISH DANCING UPDATE



CONCERT SERIES BEGINS AT MURPHY'S PUB

Submitted by Lynnette Gilmour Crouch

On January 18, 2020, the IAS was well represented at Murphy's for the start of their concert series. As usual, gracious hosts the Mooney family and their Murphy's family delivered terrific food, service and an overall delightful evening. Many thanks to all.

Past IAS Princess **Sara Rhodes'** students in the **Rhodes Academy of Irish Dance** (including 2017 and 2018 Jr. Princesses, **Alyssa Libasci** and **Eadlyn Crouch**) performed a beautiful selection of dances and an engaging, fun set with wee ones (and big folks) who learned a step or two. It was really sweet.

Tom Crouch, TIAS Honor Guard Piper, piped a great set to begin the festivities and a few more tunes in between dance sets.

Samantha Libasci 2017 IAS Teen Princess also attended, in support of her sis, Alyssa. Samantha is currently retired from dance, according to Mom Michelle, but once a dancer, always a dancer, right?! 2019 IAS Jr. Princess **Eilidh Crouch** supported her sister Eadlyn with her IAS Jersey and lots of smiles. And since we're listing Princesses, mama **Lynnette Gilmour Crouch** was there in support of all of the above, as she was the 'O.G.' Princess in attendance that night. Lynnette was the 2004 IAS Adult Princess. If I missed any others, let me know! Terrific night for all.



SOCIETY SHOUT OUT!



Please feel free to submit news about yourself and/or other current or former IAS members, with or without pictures!

Submitted by Lynnette Fitch-Brash

Congrats to all our winners (and thanks to ALL our participants) in the January 2020 IAS meeting program **IRISH RAFFLEMANIA!** Many thanks to those of you who helped! Special thanks to **Caroline Morse & Marsha Montgomery** who were both a MAJOR help setting up tables & chairs before the meeting. Special thanks also to **Lynette, Eilidh, and Eadlyn Crouch** who did a great job setting up and breaking down the Hospitality table. And a personal thank you to my girlieens who were so kind to my injured whippet **Nevin** and kept him calm while I was setting up (see photo on right) . He just had CCL surgery earlier that week, so I did not want to leave him home unsupervised.

I think our **IRISH RAFFLEMANIA** ended up being a really fun meeting, actually!!! **Joseph Brady** did his awesome job raffling, as always, and **Katie Morse McCrory's** online payment raffle payment system was a hit! My favorite parts of the night were when Katie had to "Call a friend" for raffle winners who weren't there to choose in person -- **Debra Taylor-Kelly** (who said she was "tickled green"!) & **James Hagerty** were both repeat winners for that option, and it was like watching a TV game show when Katie called them on speaker phone for them to make their choices in real time!

I think our Financial Secretary **Michael J. Lawler** said the final number on how much money we made for the **EMERALD BALL** with January's **IRISH RAFFLEMANIA** meeting was \$300! Not too shabby!

Winner's List

2 - 1 comped night at the Sheraton Waterside with breakfast for 2 and valet parking included!!!

1st winner - **Debra Taylor-Kelly**

2nd winner - **Tracy Fearon**

2 – 1 comped **EMERALD BALL** ticket!

1st winner - **Sam Wood**

2nd winner - **Lynnette Fitch-Brash**

1 \$50 O'Neill's gift certificate for an online purchase!

Winner - **Mary Ann Brady**

2 – 1 pair of IAS Irish coffee mugs!

1st winner - **Jack Kennedy**

2nd winner - **Cecelia Davitt-Thomas**

4 – 1 Glasgow Kiss CD!

1st winner - **Mary Ann Brady**

2nd winner - **Lori Shea**

3rd winner - **Terry Fahey**

4th winner - **Cecilia Davitt-Thomas**

4 – 1 **COMÓRADH 40 IAS 40th anniversary lapel/sash/kilt pin!**

1st winner - **Jim Hagerty**

2nd winner - **Jim Hagerty**

3rd winner - **Sam Wood**

4th winner - **Debra Taylor-Kelly**

4 – 1 Complimentary Valet Parking Pass at the Sheraton Waterside for the Emerald Ball!

1st winner - **Scott MacGregor**

2nd winner - **Terry Fahey**

3rd winner - **Maureen Cahill**

4th winner - **Caroline Morse**

1 Can of McCann's Steel Cut 100% Irish Oats!

Winner - **Jack Kennedy**

DON'T MISS ROUND 2 of RAFFLES at the Thursday, February 13th IAS meeting!!!



Another outstanding accomplishment was achieved by our IAS Teen Princess 2008 **Maggie Wilcox** who recently qualified for the **WORLD'S** by placing 5th in Senior Ladies at the Mainland Europe and Asia Oireachtas! You can see how thrilled she is in the beautiful picture of her attached! Maggie is currently dancing for the **Sweeney-McAvinchey School of Irish Dance** in Germany, where she lives, but, of course, she was a longtime **An Cor Rud** dancer growing up and then trained with the **Broesler School** while she was a student at **Virginia Tech**. Way to go, Maggie!!!

Talk about "something's in the water"!!! We have not one, not two, but **THREE** brand new baby girls to welcome to the extended Irish diaspora family!



CÉAD MÍLE Fáilte to **Gwendolen Grace McCrory**, daughter of IAS Treasurer **Katie Morse McCrory** and hubby **Matt**! **Gwendolen** was born in the afternoon on Monday, January 20th, 2020. Big brother **Colin**, grandma **Maureen McCamley Morse**, and auntie **Caroline Morse** are all wrapped around her tiny finger already!!! That's a future IAS Princess right there, with her Mom (IAS Adult Princess 2008) & aunt (IAS Adult Princess 2018) already holding sashes!



IAS Adult Princess 2017 **Sandy Archer** is over the moon to welcome her first grandbaby, son **Matt Hafner's** daughter **Olivia**. All the very best to the lovely wee lass! Sandy can't wait to see her in person and spoil her – as a proper grandma should!



There's another Gilmour Girl in the house as well! IAS Adult Princess 2004 **Lynette Gilmour Crouch's** first niece – **Darcy Maryn Clement** -- was born to sister **Laura** and her husband **Chris**. The attached picture shows Grandma **Midge Gilmour** with the baby and her big brothers **Ronan** and **Remi**! Welcome, little one!



Major congratulations are in order for **Louise McGinnis**, proprietress of the luscious **Other Worldly Soaps**, on her amazing achievement! She recently earned her MFA from Seton Hill University – all while running her own business, working another job outside the home, AND taking care of her two special needs sons! Granted, she does have an awesome husband, **Chris**, who is a great partner, but I still think that is pretty much Wonder Woman level stuff there!



IRISH AMERICAN LITERARY REVIEW



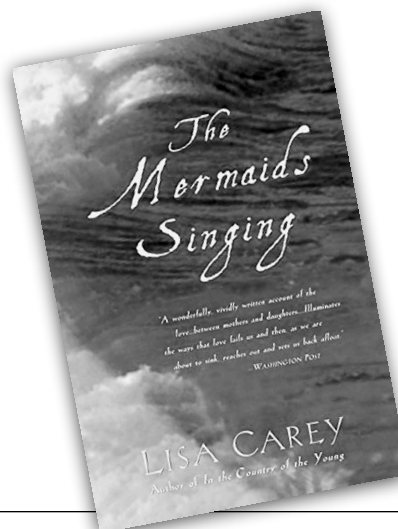
THE MERMAIDS SINGING BY LISA CAREY

A review submitted by Dr. Maureen Cahill

I recently read another book set in Ireland. This one, *The Mermaids Singing*, by Lisa Carey, an American who lived in Ireland for 5 years, is set on a lonely island of the coast of Ireland: Inis Murúch, the Island of the Mermaids. The story explores the lives of three generations of women: Grace, her daughter Gráinne, and her mother Clione. Fifteen-year-old Gráinne is the main character, but we see a fair amount of Grace and Clione, so suppressed emotion, hidden feelings, and the tensions between mother and daughter are explored across all three generations.

Grace comes across as self-centered, and her actions as a teen come back to haunt Gráinne and Clione after her death (not a

spoiler... the death happens early and is a main point of the plot). There are some graphic sex scenes, but they are not gratuitous; instead, they help us see the long-term effects of first Grace's and later Gráinne's recklessness. The men, Seamus and Liam, while supporting characters in the book, come across as real. Carey's descriptions of Inish Murúch make the book worth reading.



FRESH EIRE



Oct 11, 2019

Friday's concert by **The Seán Heely Trio**, in Portsmouth, was EXCELLENT!!!

Kat & Brad Rickerson and I had an awesome time, and I saw several other IAS members (**Connie Austin Smith, Eileen King Walker**) and some fellow IAS Princesses (**Carlyn & Amanda Aasheim-Knapp**) there enjoying themselves as well! And a dram of single malt as well as sandwiches were included in the price of admission — love it!!!

They may LOOK more like a Scottish band in the pix because of the kilts, but let me tell you — Irish music was VERY well represented in this outstanding concert. I was so impressed that I am going to do an article about the concert and the band in our next IAS newsletter!

Bottom line: DON'T MISS THEM NEXT TIME!!!!!!!!!!!!



February 2020 Trivia Questions
 ♣ Bushmills <https://bushmills.com/history/>
 ♣ The escape route Arya Stark took when she dressed as a boy to escape King's Landing.
 ♣ 1780 <https://www.jamesonwhiskey.com/en-US/visit-usz>

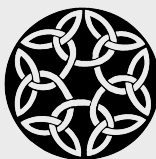


COMING EVENTS & NOTICES

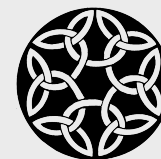
IAS ANNIVERSARY PINS
(SOLD AT THE
FEBRUARY MEETING)
BEAUTIFUL 1.5" FULL COLOR
METAL & ENAMEL
COMÓRADH 40
LAPEL/SASH PINS
\$8 EACH OR
2 FOR \$15



PLEASE NOTE:
Our next meeting will be:
► **Thursday: February 13, 2020** ◀
(due to scheduling conflict at Ascension)



FIRST FRIDAY IAS LUNCH BUNCH



Monthly mid-day gathering kicking off
12:30 pm, Friday, February 7th, 2020
Murphy's Grand Irish Pub

30th & Pacific, VB Oceanfront

Please contact our Founding President **EILEEN RYAN SEELEY**
to RSVP so she can reserve a table at Murphy's!

757-570-6921 or enrseeley@verizon.net

ALL ARE WELCOME!!!



Here's our IAS Adult Princess 2003 **Tamara M Cervi Williams** representing in her IAS jersey at the **Central Florida Highland Games** on January 18th! She and kilted hubby Rob are flying up next month for the **IAS 40th anniversary EMERALD BALL** — do you have YOUR tickets yet?!?!?

Note from Tamara: LOL! got stopped by a worker there, who was from Uruguay, and he really liked the jersey and wanted to know about it. I had lots of people checking it out because it is so fashionable! <3 See you all then!

O'NEILLS PROUD PARTNER OF THE
**IRISH AMERICAN
SOCIETY OF TIDEWATER**

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