

AFCC NEWSLETTER



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An association of family, court and community professionals

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Task Force Appointed to Develop Model Standards for Parenting Coordinators and Special Masters

by Christine A. Coates, Chair, Parenting Coordinators/Special Masters Task Force, Boulder, CO

AFCC is pleased to announce that President Denise McColley has appointed a Task Force on Standards for Parenting Coordinators and Special Masters. In the past several years there has been significant growth in the use of parenting coordinators and special masters to address the needs of high conflict families. While many professionals have developed guidelines for this emerging field of practice there has been no large scale effort to develop professional standards.

The Task Force is in the early stages of gathering information about the use of parenting coordinators and special masters in high conflict family cases and the development of standards and qualifications in various jurisdictions.

The Task Force welcomes comments and ideas from those interested in being included in the information network. Please send them to Task Force Chair, Christine Coates at coatesc@aol.com. Updates on the progress of the Task Force will be posted on the Parenting Coordinator and Special Master

Interest Group which is available to all AFCC members at www.afccnet.org.

Task force members include:

Christine Coates, J.D., M.Ed., Task Force Chair and Co-author, *Working with High Conflict Families*, Boulder, Colorado

Phil Bushard, D.P.A., Task Force Recorder, Director, Family Mediation Program, Reno, NV

Robin Deutsch, Ph.D., Director of Training, Program on Children and the Law, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts

Philip Stahl, Ph.D., Author, *Complex Issues in Child Custody Evaluations*, Danville, California

Matthew Sullivan, Ph.D., Member, Northern California Task Force on the Alienated Child, Palo Alto, California

BeaLisa Sydlik, Family Law Senior Policy Analyst, Oregon Judicial Department, Salem, Oregon

Robert Wistner, J.D., Member, Ohio Task Force on Family Law and Children, Dublin, Ohio

AFCC Interest Group Update

AFCC's Interest Groups are up and running and several member discussion groups are dealing with areas of special interest to AFCC members. To access the interest groups just click on the Member's Entrance page of the AFCC website at www.afccnet.org and follow the instructions. In the meantime, here is what some of the groups are talking about.

CASA and GAL Interest Group

Coordinator: Janet Ward - janet@nationalcasa.org

The new CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) and GAL (Guardians ad Litem) Interest Group forum will be up and running in September. As coordinator, I see this group as an additional tool that allows AFCC members to explore issues and help educate one another. I anticipate opening the forum by posting some issues that I have heard discussed informally at AFCC functions related to CASA/GALs and their role in divorce/custody cases. These include:

- Should specialized pre-service training be available/required for attorney GALs? If so, what would be its content and scope?
- Should CASA volunteers be used in divorce and custody cases? If so, under what circumstances and with what training? Is their role different than in the abuse/neglect cases in which they typically function?

- Does the use of CASA volunteers as custody evaluators for low-income families (almost universally the kind of cases to which they are appointed) constitute a lesser standard of justice for poor people?

Hopefully, questions such as these and others suggested by participants will spark thoughtful responses. I would be happy to hear from anyone who would like to join this Interest Group as it gets off the ground. Just send me an e-mail at the address above.

Court Services

Coordinator: David Hodges - david.hodges@metrokc.gov

The Court Services Interest Group has been serving members of an email group and more recently on the AFCC web site. Members of the group have posted requests for information on various policy questions, including such topics as: how to respect confidentiality of protected information in custody studies; attorney access to court services file information; how different jurisdictions handle child testimony; counseling for children; domestic violence screening; standards for supervised visitation; and fees for parent education programs. Members can post requests on the web site. Be sure to visit the web site for summaries of topics the interest group has previously discussed.

continued on page 8



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Denise Herman McColley
Napoleon, Ohio

I write this column as my husband, son and I are returning from our oldest son Patrick's college orientation. The orientation was filled with both Patrick's excitement and my sadness, which I tried to keep from him. My husband and I now have a clear understanding that Patrick will soon be moving on to experience a new life away from his home, parents, siblings and friends. For all of us, it will mean many adjustments.

We have heard about the many "firsts" Patrick will experience as he leaves home, including his first roommates, his first experience being responsible for his finances and the first time he will register (and re-register) for classes. As I recall other "firsts" in his life and I know that as time passes there will be more to be celebrated.

As we approach AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference, September 13-15, 2001 in New York City, it is very exciting to note that even though AFCC has been in existence for 38 years it continues to experience "firsts" in its life. The New York conference will represent several "firsts" for AFCC. This will be the first AFCC conference held in New York City; we will host the first organizational meeting of those interested in forming a New York Chapter of AFCC; and this is our first opportunity to collaborate with the New York Office of Court Administration. All of these opportunities are exciting and each represents something new for AFCC.

For many years, AFCC has examined the possibility of hosting a conference in New York City. Unfortunately the cost seemed prohibitive and it was not clear that there was sufficient interest in the New York community. I am pleased to report that these issues have been successfully resolved. The ongoing efforts of the AFCC staff have secured a wonderful room rate of \$139 per night in the recently renovated New Yorker Hotel. The hotel is located in the heart of Manhattan, just

across the street from Penn Station and a five-minute walk to Times Square.

More importantly, AFCC's presence in the area has grown to the point where we are looking forward to an outstanding local turnout. Local conference co-chairs Andy Schepard and Elayne Greenberg have done an outstanding job helping to develop the program, lining up local support and promoting the conference. Our New Jersey Chapter, which will receive its Chapter Charter at the conference luncheon, has also been supportive and we look forward to welcoming its members. The student editorial staff of the *Family Court Review* will be attending an AFCC conference for the first time. We also look forward to our long-time members from Connecticut and Massachusetts and throughout the Northeast for a conference truly representative of the host region.

The response in New York to our Northeast Regional Conference has been very positive and a group of AFCC members from the area are taking advantage of the opportunity to hold the first organizational meeting to explore the possibility of a New York Chapter. As many of our members know, AFCC was founded in Los Angeles and our California Chapter was our first and remains the largest. New York is one of the few states with a large enough population to attempt to rival the size of our California Chapter. We hope this first meeting can be a step in that direction. The meeting will take place at 5:00pm on September 14 and all those who are interested are invited to attend.

The conference has also provided AFCC with an opportunity for a special collaboration with the New York Office of Court Administration. AFCC has been working with Hon. Jacqueline W. Silbermann, Administrative Judge for Statewide Matrimonial Matters and her Executive Assistant Joyce Funda to sponsor two special programs. The first is a workshop on New York's new Integrated Domestic Violence Family Justice Initiative to be presented by Judge Silbermann. The second is a Judicial Leadership pre-conference institute which will bring together judges from throughout New York State to interact with judges from other jurisdictions. The program will examine trends in family court and judicial leadership.

As we celebrate these AFCC's "firsts" we must work hard to ensure that they continue. AFCC must continue to strive for excellence, continue to broaden our reach to new communities, new members, new ideas and new horizons. AFCC needs each of you to participate as an active part of the organization to continue to create "firsts" for years to come.

**Thinking about AFCC's 39th Annual Conference in Hawaii?
See pages 6 and 7 to learn more!**

MEMBER PROFILE

Elayne Greenberg, Great Neck, New York



Elayne Greenberg

New York member Elayne Greenberg is the perfect person to serve as Local Co-chair of AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference in New York City. She has lived in New York all of her life, has been an active member of the dispute resolution and legal community for more than a decade and her vast professional network extends throughout all of New York and beyond. For awhile, however, it looked like Elayne might never get beyond the borders of Brooklyn.

"I rarely left Brooklyn for the first 25 years of my life," Elayne said. She went to Brooklyn College for both her undergraduate and graduate degrees and took her first job teaching in Brooklyn's schools. The oldest of three girls, Elayne admits she has always been very opinionated. "People wonder how I can be a mediator because I am so opinionated," she said. "Because everybody in Brooklyn seems to have an opinion about everything, I became that much more committed to a mediation process that respects each person's opinion."

Elayne graduated from high school at age 16 and from Brooklyn College with honors at age 20 with a degree in Early Childhood Education. "I always wanted to be a lawyer but I was raised in a very traditional family where girls grew up to become teachers. That way when we got married we could teach and still have enough flexibility to care for our husbands, children and all the household chores," she said. "I was a very obedient daughter. I didn't go through adolescence until I was 25."

Elayne worked as a special education teacher in Brooklyn while earning her master's degree in Special Education. She then landed a job as Assistant Director of Education at a school for developmentally disabled children. "I was only twenty-five and was supervising a staff of one hundred," she said. "After two years I was made acting director as the school conducted a national search for a permanent director." Elayne threw her hat in the ring and was offered the job but at a lower salary than advertised. "Even though I was found to be the most qualified person for the job they told me that they offered me a lower salary because I was single," she said. "So I turned down the job and resumed my position as assistant director. It took them a year to fill the position. It was a very painful lesson."

Elayne soon met and married her first husband and gave birth to their son Carey, now a sophomore at Skidmore College. "Being a mother is the greatest joy of my life. But I needed a job that was less draining than working with emotionally disturbed children, so I became a commercial real estate broker, specializing in land development. That gave me the flexibility I needed to spend time with Carey."

After Carey started school Elayne decided to follow through on the career she had always wanted when she landed a real estate commission large enough to allow her to enroll in law school. "I loved it, but it was a humbling experience being in school with students who were so much younger than I. When I started college in the 1960's all of the students were liberal and the professors were conservative. By the time I started law school it was the other way around."

Elayne graduated second in her class. While in school, however, she began to question the adversarial approach and wondered if she might make a more meaningful contribution as a mediator. Although few people in New York were making a living as a mediator at the time, Elayne persevered, ignoring her own fears and the warnings of others. She soon started volunteering at a community mediation center and was able to create a salaried position for herself. Elayne has since developed three family mediation programs for three

different agencies. She is presently the Project Director and Trainer for the Custody and Visitation Mediation Project at Education & Assistance Corporation in Hempstead, NY, Director of the Queens P.E.A.C.E. Parent Education Program and a consultant to the Catholic Charities Family Mediation Program in Hicksville, NY. "I love what I do," Elayne said. "I am lucky to be working with like-minded people who are committed to helping children and families. Each day is different. I mediate, develop programs, train, write, lecture and work with many different groups on implementing dispute resolution programs. And I am making a living!"

Elayne's involvement with AFCC began in 1998 when her New York Conference Co-chair Andy Schepard suggested that she attend the annual conference in Washington, D.C. "Since then I've gone to almost all of the conferences," she said. "I really believe in collaboration and AFCC's multidisciplinary approach. My professional and life experiences have taught me that one profession does not have all the answers and that conflict is usually multidimensional. I am always excited and energized by collaborating with other professions."

"The special part of AFCC is how generous people are with their information and their time. It is wonderful to hear that people share the same professional struggles and that they have similar goals for families and children. AFCC creates a beautiful blend of work and play and I've made some great friends."

Living in New York, Elayne and her husband Hal love to walk the city taking advantage of opportunities such as the ballet, museums, the theatre or simply to veg out with an old movie (*Casablanca* is her favorite). She also loves to travel. "I want to live in Paris someday but I have to figure out how to live there and be understood when I speak my Brooklyn French."

For the time being Elayne is working hard on AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference, but as always, she is keeping an eye on what the future brings. "I am getting ready for next June's Annual Conference in Hawaii," she said. "Actually, I've been getting ready for several years."



New York City: Top Ten All-Time Favorites

A FCC's Northeast Regional Conference will be held September 13-15, 2001 in the heart of New York City, one of the most vibrant cities in the world. For attendees who just can't decide what to do during non-conference hours, AFCC has narrowed down the list to our top ten.

Empire State Building

Fifth Avenue and 34th Street
(212) 736-3100

\$9 adults; \$7 seniors

Hours: Every day 9:30am to midnight

Subway: 6 to 33rd St.; B, D, F, N, Q or R to 34th St.

Notes: The 102nd floor observatory is closed when crowds are too large. This is quite common.

The "Cathedral of the Skies," as it has been called, identifies New York City more than any other feature in this landmark-filled city. Since its opening in 1931, the 1,453-foot skyscraper has attracted 120 million people to its observatories or 3.6 million people a year!

Rose Center for Earth & Space

Central Park West at 81st Street
(212) 769-5200

\$10 adults; \$6 children; \$7.50 seniors

Hours: Sun-Thurs 10:am-5:45pm; Fri-Sat 10:00am-8:45pm

Subway: Take the B or C to 81st St.

The brand new, state-of-the-art center will take you to from the inner workings of our planet to the outer limits of the galaxy. The 87-foot sphere which appears to float in a glass-walled cube houses the new Hayden Planetarium, featuring the most technologically advanced Space Theater in the world, in which visitors can experience Space Shows of incredible realism. The Planetarium, as well as the "Big Bang Theater" — a dramatic re-creation of the first minutes of the origins of the universe, examines issues such as how the universe evolved.

United Nations

First Avenue between 42nd and 48th Streets

(212) 963-7713 Tours: \$7.50 adult; \$5.50 senior; \$4.50 college & high school; \$3.50 grades 1-8

Behind the 185 waving flags representing the member countries stands a 39 story monolith known as the Secretariat Building. Along with the General Assembly Building, conference buildings and Dag Hammarskjöld Library, the United Nations attempts to maintain peace, protect human rights and promote development throughout the world. Tours are available every day of the week except on weekends during January and February and a few major holidays.

Central Park

59th to 110th Streets (bet. Fifth Ave. & Central Park West)

(212) 360-8111 (64th St. Conservancy)

Every day 6am to 1am

Subway: West Side: A,C,B,D,1,9 at 59th St; B,C at 72nd, 81st, 86th, 96th, 103rd, and 110th Sts.

East Side: N,R at Fifth Ave.; 6 at 68th, 77th, 86th, 96th, 103rd, and 110th Sts.

This 843-acre oasis offers both residents and visitors a refuge from the hustle and bustle of city life. From Sheep Meadow to the Great Lawn there is so much to see within this pastoral landmark. A stroll along the Mall, a rowboat ride on the Lake, a horse and buggy ride or a game of softball are just a taste of what you'll find in Central Park.

World Trade Center

2 World Trade Center (Chambers St.)
(212) 323-2340

\$13 adults; \$10.50 seniors; \$11 students & military; \$6.75 children 6-12
9:30am to 9:30pm

Subway: C, E to World Trade Center; 4, 5 to Fulton St

Zoom up 107 floors in 58 seconds to reach "The Top of the World." Weather permitting, you can also take an escalator from the observatory to the roof and enjoy the world's highest open air urban mountaintop. The newly remodeled indoor observation deck features a helicopter simulation ride, dazzling nighttime light show and more!

Windows on the World:

One World Trade Center (212) 524-7000

Located in the adjacent tower, a quarter mile high in the sky, this renowned restaurant offers spectacular views of the glittering city and the Manhattan Harbor, providing a uniquely New York experience.

Statue of Liberty

New York Harbor-Ferry leaves from Battery Park

Info: (212) 363-3200

Ferry: (212) 269-5755

\$8 adults; \$6 seniors (cash only)

8:30am to 4:00pm-ferries leave every 30 minutes

Subway: 4 or 5 to Bowling Green; 1 or 9 to South Ferry (1st 5 cars)

Next to the flag, it's America's most famous symbol for freedom—an icon for the immigrant, Liberty Enlightening the World, as it is officially titled, is familiarly the Statue of Liberty. Standing 151 feet above New York Harbor since 1886, the ferry brings you to her feet on Liberty Island. If you want to climb the 354-step narrow-winding staircase inside the Statue, get there early. Long lines can mean a 3-hour wait.

Rockefeller Center

47th to 52nd Sts. bet. 5th & 6th Aves.

(212) 632-3975

Admission free

Every day 9:30am to midnight

Having been built to meet the needs of the people, Rockefeller Center has been a favorite spot for both New Yorkers and tourists. Visit the outdoor cafe, site of the ice skating rink, or Radio City Music Hall, the 6,000-seat former movie palace. Head underground through the labyrinth of passages connecting 14 of the 19 buildings or rise 65 stories to the Rainbow Room. If you've come to NYC to shop, Rockefeller Center has some great stores including H&M the hip clothing store. Whatever it is, Rockefeller Center is sure to have it.

Metropolitan Museum of Art

1000 Fifth Avenue at 82nd Street

(212) 535-7710

\$10 adults; \$5 students & seniors

FREE children under 12

Sun-Thurs 9:30am-5:30pm; Fri-Sat 9:30am-9pm

New York City's grand museum! Journeying through the art of mankind can be an overwhelming yet joyous experience. From Ancient Egypt through the Renaissance to American masters, try to take your time going through each section. You won't get to see everything but what you do see will be memorable. Of course, you should first see what interests you. But if you're not sure, there is a spectacular wing devoted to the art of Africa, the Pacific Islands, Pre-Columbian and Native America. You have the Egyptian galleries including the incredible Temple of Dendur. The three-floor American Wing stretches out into Central Park in a glass-enclosed garden.

Ellis Island Immigration Museum

New York Harbor-Ferry leaves from Battery Park

Info: (212) 363-7620

Ferry: (212) 269-5755

\$7 adults; \$5 seniors; \$3 children 3-17, cash only

Hours: 8:30am to 4:00pm-ferry leave every 30 minutes

Subway: 4 or 5 to Bowling Green; 1 or 9 to South Ferry (1st 5 cars)

This restored landmark re-opened in 1990 saving the memories and heritage of over 100 million Americans who can trace their immigrant roots here. Between 1892 and 1954, 12 million immigrants entered the United States from this island in New York Harbor, greeted by the Statue of Liberty "next door." The Immigrant Museum offers visitors a chance to see what coming to America meant through film, archives, photos, recordings and the aura of the Great Hall. Don't miss the Immigrant Wall of Honor, a circular monument containing 200,000 names commemorated by their ancestors.

FAO Schwarz

767 Fifth Avenue (at 58th Street)

(212) 644-9400

Mon-Wed 10am-7pm; Thurs-Sat 10am-8pm; Sun 11am-7pm

Subway: N or R to Fifth Avenue

The Taj Mahal of toys, FAO Schwarz-famous for its life-sized stuffed animals and kid-sized sportscars, will bring hours of fun for shoppers young and old. Check out the cool clock and take a ride on the elevator which doubles as a giant robot.

SPOTLIGHT PROGRAM

Loyola University ChildLaw Center

by Kelly Browe Olson, J.D., LL.M., University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law, Little Rock, Arkansas

The Loyola ChildLaw Center at Loyola University of Chicago School of Law is this year's recipient of the AFCC Kids Count Club Award. The award of \$2,000 was given to support the Center's new mediation program. The AFCC Kids Count Club Award is conferred annually to a non-profit program that serves the needs of children and families in the community hosting AFCC's annual conference.

Each year more than 3.1 million children are reported as victims of child abuse or neglect. Serious juvenile crime has almost doubled, resulting in calls to abandon a unique system of justice designed for children a century ago. Welfare reform threatens to overwhelm the child protection system. Millions of American children lack access to adequate health care and education. The Loyola University ChildLaw Center was developed to address the needs of these children through training and providing services such as mediation and legal representation for children.

Like AFCC, the work of the Loyola ChildLaw Center is rooted in interdisciplinary collaboration. Its mission is to promote justice for children through interdisciplinary teaching, scholarship and service and through the development of a new legal specialty, pediatric law. The ChildLaw Center is a nationally recognized leader in legal education and advocacy for children.

The Center offers its students an interdisciplinary curriculum, the opportunity to develop mediation skills, to represent child clients, to learn about the latest child welfare research, to edit a national publication for child welfare professionals and earn credit through externships in Chicago's large and active child advocacy community. Loyola offers degree programs for both legal and non-legal professionals who seek

a specialized understanding of the law in order to better serve the unique needs of children and families.

Clinical Services

Loyola's new mediation program trains law students to help children and parents by giving them a voice in the decision-making processes. The mediation program provides services to families in crisis in the Illinois foster care system. Working in collaboration with the Office of the Inspector General of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, students co-mediate with an experienced mediator disputes that arise within the foster care system. The mediation program is available to all ChildLaw Center students. To qualify students attend mediation training through Chicago's Center for Conflict Resolution and take a course in advanced mediation.

Loyola's ChildLaw Clinic also provides direct legal representation to child clients in a range of proceedings, including child abuse and neglect cases, juvenile delinquency proceedings and contested child custody matters.

Degree Programs

Students in the program pursue one of three degrees. For those working toward their J.D. degree Loyola offers law students the opportunity to develop the substantive knowledge, advocacy skills and professional ethics needed to provide effective legal representation for child clients, in addition to the regular law school curriculum.

The Master of Laws (LL.M.) program in Family and Child Law is intended for law school graduates and is designed to meet the individual backgrounds and interests of each student. The LL.M. program emphasizes interdisciplinary learning, advanced skills and scholarly research on legal issues affecting children.

The Master of Jurisprudence (M.J.) is the only program of its kind in the United

States. It is specially designed to give professionals in social work, education, health care, psychology, law enforcement and other disciplines a better understanding of the law and an ability to function more effectively in the legal system on behalf of children and families.

Fellowships

Each year Loyola selects up to ten ChildLaw Fellows from students admitted to the entering J.D. class. Fellows receive scholarship assistance, internship experience and in addition to the regular law school curriculum, pursue an interdisciplinary course of study that provides the knowledge and skills needed to advocate effectively for children's legal interests.

The ChildLaw Fellowship Program is intended for law students who intend to pursue careers in children's advocacy. During their three years at Loyola, Fellows are expected to complete the required curriculum, satisfy a two-internship requirement and participate in all ChildLaw program activities. Following graduation Fellows must then use their specialized training to represent children's legal interests for at least one year for every year of scholarship assistance they received.

Loyola's comprehensive curriculum includes courses such as: Children and the Law, ChildLaw Mediation Practicum, Advanced ChildLaw Mediation, ChildLaw Policy, Practice and Profession, ChildLaw Pretrial and Trial Practice, Legislative Advocacy for Children, Interdisciplinary Seminar, Adolescence and the Law, Family Law, Adoption Seminar and International Children's Law.

In conjunction with the American Bar Association Center on Children and the Law, Loyola students edit the *Children's Legal Rights Journal*, a quarterly publication for professionals in law, medicine, social work, education and other disciplines who work with children and families.

Broadway Shows and Tickets for New York City

Tickets for popular shows like *The Lion King* and good seats for most shows sell out quickly so it's often best to purchase tickets to a show you really want to see well in advance of your arrival. Two companies, Tele-charge and Ticketmaster, control ticket sales of specific shows. You can buy tickets via their websites or by calling these phone numbers:

- Tele-charge-(212) 239-6200 or (800) 432-7250
- Ticketmaster-(212) 307-4100

Do you want a real New York bargain?

If you love the theater but need a break from retail prices, visit Duffy Square, the center island of 47th Street between Broadway and 7th Avenue for TKTS.

Established in 1973 for the betterment of theatres and theatre-goers alike, TKTS sells unsold tickets on the day of performance

for all Broadway shows for 25-50% off the box office price plus a \$2.50 service charge per ticket.

The electronic signs in front display what shows are available for that day. TKTS accepts cash and traveler's cheques only. And get there early! Lines can get long very quickly-especially during good weather and the holiday season!

TOURIST TIP: there is a TKTS branch at 2 World Trade Center, the same tower with the observatory. It often has shorter lines and it's indoors! Open Monday-Friday 11am-3:30pm for same day shows; Tuesday 11am-5:30pm for Wednesday matinees; Friday 11am-5:30pm for Saturday matinees; Saturday 11am-3:30pm for Sunday shows; and Saturday 11am-3:30 pm with matinees available the day before.

TKTS Times Square 47th St at Broadway-phone: (212) 221-0013
TKTS World Trade Center 2 World Trade Center at Mezzanine Level- phone: (212) 768-1818

AFCC Travel Tips

The Big Island of Hawaii Beckons AFCC Members

by Ann L. Milne, ACSW, AFCC Executive Director, Madison, WI

The Big Island has it all. Yet for many visitors, all that they see of Hawaii's rich bounty and history is the tip of the iceberg (or in this case, the tip of the volcano). AFCC's 39th Annual Conference will be held on the Big Island, June 5-8, 2002 at the Hilton Waikoloa Resort. In the next few issues of the *AFCC Newsletter* we will share with you some of the history of the Big Island and some of the sites that you will want to explore beyond the usual. And of course the conference itself will be full of substantive information that will make this venue one that you will not want to pass up.

Nowhere else in the world will you find the diversity that exists on the Big Island of Hawaii. Of the world's 15 climatic zones, 10 can be found on the Big Island, including lush rain forests, lava deserts, world-class beaches, snow-covered mountains, an active volcano, sprawling ranch land, dazzling sunsets, historical hiking trails and sacred grounds.

The Big Island is aptly named. It's the largest of the eight Hawaiian Islands covering about 4,000 square miles or about the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. The other seven Hawaiian Islands could easily fit inside the Big Island. As you plan your trip, consider whether you want to "sample" the Hawaiian Islands and island hop or whether you want to immerse yourself in the Hawaiian experience and as they say, "Be the island." To really see and be the Big Island you need four days. If you

don't have that much time, concentrate on one side of the island or the other. Our AFCC conference will be held on the west side, or the dry side of the island. Two to three days of leisure will allow you to see the volcano and experience the rich flora, fauna and history of the leeward side. If you don't mind looking at a lot of exotic asphalt you can pack it all in.

We'll share our insider tips with you over the next few issues of the *AFCC Newsletter*, but for now let's start at the beginning.

And in the beginning...

Approximately 70 million years ago, (that's literally older than dirt!) a cataclysmic rupture occurred in the Earth's mantle, deep below the ocean floor. Hot liquid rock broke through the Pacific plate forcing magma to the surface off the coast of Russia. As the tectonic plate slowly moved over this hot spot, this torch-like protuberance cut along the plate, piling up mountains of rock and creating islands. No sooner were the islands born than the elements of nature began to have their way battering the fragile rock with ocean waves, washing and carving them with rainfall and eroding some of their fabric and making them vulnerable to their own weight. Lava flows created hollow lava tubes and as lava flowed on top of earlier lava the weight combined with this fragile layering caused many of the mountain peaks to sink back into the ocean. What is now known as the Hawaiian Islands is the most recent creation of this island-making process. Kauai'i and Ni'i'hau are the oldest of the Hawaiian Islands and the Big Island, born less than one million years ago, is the youngest of the islands and still growing. While only two of the Big Island's five volcano mountains are considered active, none are considered dead. Mauna Loa last erupted in 1984. Kilauea, at the south end of the island, is the most active volcano on the planet and continues to dazzle and show us today what island-making is all about.

The first settlers

The Hawaiian Islands were barren at birth, consisting only of volcanic rock. The first life forms were marine inhabitants—fish, mammals and microscopic organisms. Coral polyps attached themselves to the lava and succeeding generations created a coral reef. On land, seeds carried by the winds and birds blown off course by storms landed onshore. Other animals, stranded on ship-wreck floating debris, washed ashore. It would take unusual and rare circumstances for each new species to actually make it to the islands. This accounts for many of the rare and unusual



flowers, birds and other life forms that are found in the islands and why Hawaii is so careful about bringing in and taking out vegetation and animals.

Sometime around the fourth or fifth century A.D. a large double-hulled voyaging canoe, carrying a few dozen adventurers from the Marquesas Islands, 2,500 miles away, arrived on the shores of the Big Island. Who knows why they left their home-war, overpopulation, drought, or just a sense of discovery—how did they find the remote Hawaii Islands? Some say it was the golden plover or kolea bird that flies 2,500 miles non-stop to Alaska every year for the summer and returns to Hawaii after mating. For some of these birds, Hawaii is only the mid-point as they continue another 2,500 miles to Samoa and other South Pacific Islands.

Little is known about these first human inhabitants and their culture. Archeologists speculate that a second wave of colonists, probably from Tahiti, subdued these early settlers around 1,000 A.D. or they fled into the forests creating the legend of the Menehune, or the little people, who working overnight, purportedly built many of the vast and historic structures still visible today.

The second wave of settlers evolved into a highly class-conscious culture governed by chiefs called Ali'i who established a long list of taboos called kapu. The kapu were designed to keep order and the penalty for breaking a kapu was severe; usually death. It was kapu for your shadow to fall across the shadow of the Ali'i, to interrupt a chief while speaking, to prepare men's food in the same containers as used for women's food and kapu for men and women to eat together. At times certain



Members for 2002 Annual Conference

areas of land were declared kapu to allow them to replenish.

In January 1778 an event occurred that would change Hawaii forever. Captain James Cook, a British explorer, stumbled upon Hawaii. He was on his third and last discovery trip, this time to Alaska to search for the Northwest Passage linking the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The Hawaiians were overwhelmed by the sight of these pointy-headed beings (the British tri-cornered hat), breathing fire (smoking pipes) and bearing unusual instruments of death (guns). The Hawaiians assumed Cook was the god Lono, who annually brings the spring rains and fertility to the land. At the end of this celebratory period or *Makahiki*, man would again seize the land from Lono so that crops could be grown and life would resume. Cook arrived as the beginning of the *Makahiki* and he sailed into Kealahou Bay exactly where legend dictates that Lono would arrive. The Hawaiians

greeted Cook and his crew with all the reverence and celebration that one would accord a god.

Cook resumed his voyage, unknowingly, at the end of the *Makahiki* but was forced to return to make repairs after breaking a mast. The chief had declared the area kapu to allow it to replenish and the Hawaiians had returned to their usual routines, not expecting the return of Lono and believing that Cook now represented something less welcome. A dispute broke out over the theft of a rowboat from one of Cook's ships. The theft wasn't really about the boat but rather for the nails that held the boat together. A fight broke out and Cook was killed. The greatest explorer the world had ever known was dead at the age of 50 in a skirmish over nails.

Beautiful Kealahou Bay, now an underwater national park, and the Cook Monument can be enjoyed today by sea kayak or various boat excursions. To "be the island" rent a sea kayak (we recommend

Kona Boys Kayak Rentals), book a morning brunch and lunch cruise on the *Fairwinds*, a 63-foot catamaran, or a motorized six-passenger 20 foot inflatable (Sea Quest does a nice job). You can snorkel in beautiful Kealahou Bay, enjoy the spinner dolphins, keep an eye out for whales and appreciate the magic of the island and its history. We'll hook you up with these tours and will post further information on the AFCC web site in the near future.

We hope this history lesson has whet your appetite for attending AFCC's annual conference on the Big Island. More to come in the next issue of the *AFCC Newsletter*!

Note: Can't wait for the next edition of the *AFCC Newsletter*? Get *Hawaii The Big Island Revealed: The Ultimate Guidebook* by Andrew Doughty and Harriett Friedman, published by Wizard Publications (www.wizardpub.com). Some of the above information came from that very helpful publication. It's my favorite.

Start Planning!

AFCC'S 39th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

June 5-8, 2002

Looking Over the Rim: New Horizons
for Families, Courts and Communities

**THE BIG ISLAND OF
HAWAII**

**HILTON WAIKOLOA RESORT
\$150 SINGLE OR DOUBLE ROOM**

AFCC is also planning an exciting post-conference trip to New Zealand and Australia!

Further information will be available soon in the *AFCC Newsletter*
and on the web site at www.afccnet.org

Watch for the Call for Proposals
Coming soon to the Conferences Page of the
AFCC website: www.afccnet.org

Interest Groups Update

continued from page 1

Custody Evaluation

Coordinator: Philip Stahl - pstahl@earthlink.net

The Custody Evaluation Interest Group has just begun to explore issues related to the growing field of custody evaluation. In preparation for the 5th International Symposium on Child Custody Evaluations, scheduled for the fall of 2002, interest group members will begin to discuss issues unique to our interdisciplinary work. Members are encouraged to suggest a "topic of the month" in which the group can generate discussion and develop ideas to promote higher standards of practice. Topics might include integrating psychological test data into reports, integrating research data into reports, a discussion of the merits or problems of overnights with young children, relocation issues, a discussion of relevant state laws and their impact on evaluations. If you are interested in the interest group, sign on and let us know what your interests are. Check back weekly to see who is responding and add to the discussion. If you're interested in being part of the email group which will provide you with notice about what is new on the discussion page, please email your name and email address to me at pstahl@earthlink.net.

Domestic Abuse

Coordinator: Hon. Linda Dessau - justice.dessau@familycourt.gov.au

The Domestic Abuse Group provides a forum for a multi-disciplinary discussion about the legal and psychological implications of domestic abuse. It is an area where we generally face common problems, at least in terms of the complexity and difficulty of the issues, treatment and legal processes.

The "hot issues" include:

- The difficult interface between therapy and litigation
- The courts' recognition of the effects on children of witnessing violence
- The exquisitely difficult balance of the need to protect children and the need to promote parenting after separation
- The appropriateness of mediation and other dispute resolution processes in cases of family violence.

Please join us in sharing expertise, opinions, literature, research and experiences.

Family Law Reform

Coordinators: Kathleen Clark - kclark88@yahoo.com
Lisa DeGeeter - degeeter@worldnet.att.net

The Family Law Reform Interest Group is interested in hearing from practitioners in states where reform has taken place and learning about any follow-up efforts. Did the reform efforts bring forth the desired results? What were the unexpected consequences? What would they do differently? What are the next steps in reform? Specifically, we would like to hear about the implementation of (1) mandatory shared parenting in temporary orders; (2) programs for high conflict families; (3) mandatory mediation; (4) language changes; (5) physical shared parenting; (6) avenues for voices of children to be heard; (7) working with the legislature to promote change; and (8) collaboration between legal and mental health professionals.

Language of Custody Law

Coordinator: Doneldon Dennis - doneldon.dennis@co.hennepin.mn.us

The ancient Greeks reputedly had a name for everything and it may be assumed that they knew what their words meant. In family law we have a lot of new words, such as "parenting plan," "best interests" and "parenting coordinator." But do we all agree on the meaning of these words? Join the Language of Custody Law Interest Group and help us sort these things out.

Mediation

Coordinator: C. Eileen Pruett - pruette@sconet.state.oh.us

The Mediation Interest Group is up and running. Updates about the Uniform Mediation Act (UMA) and ABA Section of Dispute Resolution policy statement on mediation and the unauthorized practice of law were posted in late July. Future topics will include updates on the UMA, discussion of mediator credentialing and mediator training. We'll also respond to questions, suggestions and general musings of our members. See you at the posting!

Parent Education

Coordinators: Clarence Cramer - mediator@primenet.com
Risa Garon - rjgaron@aol.com

In anticipation of an energetic and action-oriented interest group, we decided to do an informal survey that covers the areas that a number of members have indicated an interest in discussing. With this interaction, the group can brainstorm in what format it may want to continue. For example, should it recommend policies, present at an AFCC conference or write a journal article. If you are interested in participating in our group, please send your answers to the survey to us at the email addresses above.

Never Married Parents:

- Do you have a program?
- Is it specialized for never married parents only?
- What special content do you include?
- What generic content do you include?
- What safety precautions do you provide at the seminar?

For Parents:

- What is your attendance policy regarding cases involving domestic violence?
- What is your policy regarding seminar participants who appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs?
- What is your policy when a temporary protective order has been issued?
- What is your policy when substance abuse is a problem?
- Do you have a domestic violence screening prior to the seminar?
- Do you have a substance abuse screening prior to the seminar?
- How do you ensure the safety of your staff?

Research on the effectiveness of the parent education programs:

- Do you have a formal evaluation process?
- Would you be willing to share your results?
- What do you believe are the strengths of your program?
- What would you like to improve?
- Do you see any relationship between the divorce education program for parents and their ability to mediate?
- If you were going to approach a judge and attorney in your jurisdiction to request that they support divorce education for parents, what would you say?

Thank you for your participation

Parenting Time Protocols

Coordinator: Fred Mitchell - fred_mitchell@sc.co.pima.az.us

After a flurry of responses to our interest group site, we have officially changed the name from "Visitation Protocols" to "Parenting Time Protocols" to get more in step with a national trend away from referring to parent-child access as "visitation." We now need your input to make our interest group truly interactive. Some very thought provoking issues have been raised by the membership, including:

- Plans for gradual re-introduction of parenting time when there has been alienation or absence of a parent.
- Special considerations for high-conflict parents.
- Guidelines for long-distance parenting.

We are also interested in comparing parenting time protocols from around the world. One example to generate discussion, Arizona's

continued on next page

Interest Groups Update

continued from previous page

Supreme Court has just published statewide standards for parenting-time. They can be viewed at: www.supreme.state.az.us/dr/booklets.htm. I urge you to join our interest group and contribute!

Relocation Interest Group

Coordinator: Linda Cavallero - cavallel@ummhc.org

Members of the Relocation Interest Group are considering an

exciting project that would combine the suggestions of several members and perhaps provide networking with other interest groups. The group is proposing to establish a set of guidelines for custody evaluations in post-divorce relocation cases. We will need to review recent case law nationally and internationally, review the research literature, including new research on the importance of fathers (hence networking with the fatherhood group) and literature on parenting plans (hence networking with the interest group looking at parenting plans). If you are interested in working on this project send me an email at the address above.

AFCC Arizona Members Develop Model Parenting Plans

The Arizona Supreme Court Workgroup on Parenting Time Plans has developed a comprehensive booklet entitled "Model Parenting Time Plans for Parent/Child Access." The Workgroup had a strong AFCC influence as ten of the 12 members are also members of AFCC. Workgroup and AFCC members include" Hon. Leah Pallin-Hill, Chair, Sid Buckman, AFCC Arizona Chapter President, Clarence Cramer, Jennifer Howard, Marlene Joy, Philip Knox, Fred Mitchell, Rhonda Repp, Sandra Volgy and Zenia Kuzma.

The booklet is designed for parents who are making decisions about post-separation parenting plans. The introductory section

provides parents with information on: (1) the importance of parenting plans; (2) ideas for how to determine the most appropriate parenting plan for their family; (3) "do's" and "don'ts" for post-separation parenting; and (4) special circumstances for which further intervention may be necessary.

The booklet offers three optional parenting plans. Plan A is designed for when one parent has an extremely busy work schedule, has not been the child's primary caregiver and wants regular access without extensive caregiving responsibility. Plan B is for parents who have been involved in the day-to-day care of the child. Plan C is a shared access plan for ages three

and above, designed for parents with extensive caregiving experience who want maximum access.

The booklet also provides a wide range of developmentally appropriate schedules for plans A, B, and C in the age categories of birth to twelve months; 12-24 months; 24-36 months; 3-5 years, 6-9 years 10-13 years; and 14-18 years. Holidays, vacations and long distance parenting are addressed and sample calendars and language for court orders are offered.

"Model Parenting Time Plans for Parent Child Access" is available on the Arizona Supreme Court web site at www.supreme.state.az.us/dr/booklets.htm.

Supervised Visitation Network: A Decade of Service and Growth

by Jane Grafton, Vancouver, British Columbia

Nearly ten years ago eleven people met in New York to examine the possibility of forming an organization dedicated to the emerging field of supervised visitation. The group was comprised of service providers, lawyers and therapists and other interested parties. The first annual conference was planned for the following year in Tucson, Arizona. At the conference a Board of Directors was elected, committees were designated and the Supervised Visitation Network was underway.

By 1996 the Network had developed and adopted Standards and Guidelines for the profession. Conferences had become an annual event and by the year 2000 the Supervised Visitation Network had grown to nearly 500 members and an executive director was hired. The Network now has chapters in Florida, New York, Washington and Ontario.

As the Network has grown so has the need to revamp the Standards and Guidelines and examine the possibility of a formal accreditation program. When the first meeting was held, most agreed on what a supervised visit should look like and that there were really two types of supervision. The first would be straight supervision, where a provider would offer to watch the

visits and document in an objective manner simply what was seen and heard. The types of notes that were kept varied, some were "tick the box" others more a narrative style while others were a combination. The supervisor would only intervene when the visiting parent was inappropriate, breaking the rules or where the child/ren's safety was an issue.

Over the years additional models have developed that require greater involvement by the supervisor. These are described as "directed" or "supported" models. In some programs actual parenting classes are provided. The majority of the programs are on-site visits but an increasing number of agencies offer off-site visits.

Over the past decade some issues have become more problematic. Recently, the Network has been debating proper protocol for "off-site" visits and the various safety issues one has to consider before undertaking such a program.

Because members are from so many different jurisdictions, our needs and programs are quite different. What Network members have learned is that each of us has information and experiences that we need to share, that while we may differ in our approach, the child or the children are our main focus.

For more information, visit the Supervised Visitation Network website at www.svnetwork.net

AFCC Member News

Jeanne Ames, AFCC member from San Francisco, CA has been selected as one of the 25 top volunteers in the San Francisco Bay Area by the 2001 Points of Light Celebration. She was honored at a luncheon on August 15, 2001 at the Westin St. Francis Hotel.

Jeffrey M. Leving, AFCC member from Chicago, IL has been named President Emeritus of The Fatherhood Educational Institute located in Chicago. The organization is partners with the U.S. Department of Education's Partnership for Family Involvement in Education.

JoAnne Pedro-Carroll, AFCC member from Rochester, NY was honored by the American Psychological Association with its 2001 Award for Distinguished Contributions to Public Service. JoAnne was the recipient of the AFCC's 2001 Stanley Cohen Distinguished Research Award. She is Associate Professor of Psychology and Psychiatry at the University of Rochester and Director of Programs for Families in Transition at the Children's Institute.

Sharon Zingery, AFCC member from Chicago, IL, took an early retirement after working for more than thirty years for Cook County, Illinois. Sharon worked for the Circuit Court for 28 years as a Child Custody and Adoption Evaluator and a Custody and Visitation Mediator. Sharon now provides family mediation training at the College of DuPage in Glen Ellyn, IL and joins the mediation practice of fellow AFCC member Brigitte Schmidt Bell, JD, in Chicago.

Chapter Update

New Jersey

by Ron Silikovitz, President, AFCC New Jersey Chapter

AFCC's New Jersey Chapter invites all current and prospective members to attend AFCC's Northeast Regional Conference, September 13-15, 2001. The conference agenda will provide plenty of activities and opportunities for New Jersey members.

The New Jersey Chapter will be awarded its Chapter Charter during the conference luncheon on Friday, September 14 and will hold a meeting for its members the same day at 5:00pm. On Saturday, the New Jersey Chapter will sponsor the workshop "Collaborative Family Law: Thoughts for Implementation Using the Progressive Divorce Model," presented by Curtis J. Romanowski, J.D.

For further information please contact Chapter President Ron Silikovitz at (973) 736-2424.

Arizona

by Sid Buckman, President, AFCC Arizona Chapter

AFCC members in Arizona are gearing up for the Arizona Chapter Conference to be held February 8-10, 2002 at the Hilton Sedona Resort in Sedona, AZ. Participants can expect an outstanding conference program coupled with the Arizona Chapter's renowned hospitality. For further information watch future editions of the *AFCC Newsletter* or contact Arizona Chapter President Sid Buckman at sbuckman@infomagic.net.

The Arizona Chapter also announces that Russ Schoeneman, a long time Arizona Chapter Board Member and former President of AFCC, has resigned from the Board of Directors. Hon. John M. Quigley has retired from the bench in Pima County and has also resigned from the Arizona Chapter Board.

California

by Susan King, AFCC California Chapter

Crossroads — In Our Courts, Our Professions and Our Families is the theme of the AFCC California Chapter's Conference February 8-10, 2002. Pre-conference institutes will be held on Friday, February 8. There will be an all-day session on domestic violence to enable mental health professionals in the private sector and who work in the court system to satisfy their annual requirements. Two half-day sessions are also being planned. The first is entitled, "Identification, Treatment and Parenting Considerations in Substance Abuse Cases" The second will examine issues related to child alienation and will be presented by members of the Northern California Task Force on the Alienated Child, whose members produced the July 2001 special issue of the *Family Court Review* on the same topic.

The conference will begin Friday evening and continue until Sunday afternoon, February 10 and will feature a motivational speaker who will explore the impact of our professional lives on our personal lives. Additional sessions will include:

- Medical Observations and Theories of Attachment
- Judges' Panel on Evidence in Custody and Visitation Disputes
- Extended Family Conferencing in Family Court
- Interventions in High Conflict Cases—Models from 3 Counties
- Legal and Research Updates

The conference will take place at a new facility, the Lodge at Sonoma. Application will be made for LCSW, MFT, MCLE and CFLS credit. For information, please contact Susan B. King at sbking1@mindspring.com or (415) 479-7716.

Florida

by Linda Fieldstone, AFCC Florida Chapter

AFCC's Florida Chapter is looking forward to its Inaugural Conference, November 9-10, 2001 at the Tampa Airport Marriott Hotel.

Supreme Court Justice Barbara Pariente will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon plenary. Four pre-conference institutes will provide concentrations in Domestic Violence, Collaborative Lawyering, Psychological Evaluations and Parent Coordination. Workshops will include:

- Therapeutic Jurisprudence
- Managing Financial Issues in Mediation
- Parent Education and Legal Issues
- Innovations in Court Practice
- Strengths of Collaborative Efforts

Join us for a Cocktail Reception which will showcase Florida Family Court Innovative Programs and our first General Membership Meeting with a presentation of new board and elected officers and chapter awards. The conference registration fee is \$135. For more information/brochure please contact: JoAnne Holt, 2077 First Street, Suite 209, Fort Myers, FL 33901 Fax: 941-337-1199, jholtcpa@gate.net or Linda Fieldstone at Fieldston6@aol.com.

Make your hotel reservations now. The group rate is \$119 per night and reservations can be made by calling the hotel at (800) 228-9290 or (407) 812-6040. Be certain to ask for the AFCC Florida Chapter Group Rate.

The Florida Chapter was also proud to co-sponsor the Dispute Resolution Center Conference on August 22-25, 2001 in Orlando. A general membership meeting of the FLAFCC was held and Chapter Board members Greg Firestone, Hon. Hugh Starnes, Joe Hood, and Deborah Day were in attendance.

Texas

by Hon. Susan Baker, President, AFCC Texas Chapter

The AFCC Texas Chapter's Fall Conference, *Re-structuring the Fractured Family*, is scheduled for October 12-13, 2001 at the Park Plaza Warwick Hotel in Houston. The chapter meeting will be Saturday morning. There will be an election of President-Elect, board members and a motion to amend the by-laws. The conference will directly follow the 17th Annual Conference of Texas Association of Domestic Relations Offices at the same location.

For more information and to visit a truly great Internet site go to www.texasafccnet.org.

Massachusetts

by Linda Cavallero, Treasurer, AFCC Massachusetts Chapter

On May 4, 2001 the Massachusetts Chapter of AFCC held a conference entitled *Focusing on Fathers: Completing the Parenting Equation*. The keynote speaker was Kyle Pruett, M.D., who spoke about the different and important roles of fathers in their children's development. A respondent panel was chaired by Nancy Dowd, J.D., Visiting Professor at Northeastern University School of Law. Afternoon workshops focused on father absence, gay and lesbian families, developmentally appropriate parenting plans and attachment theory. The conference was well attended and evaluation forms indicate that it was well received.

On July 25, 2001, the Massachusetts Chapter held its annual meeting at the college club at Wellesley College. Following up on the conference theme, roundtable discussions centered on applying research on fathers to parenting plans. In the business meeting, a new board was elected with a mandate to revise the chapter bylaws in light of the newly suggested model bylaws provided by AFCC. The first board meeting of the fall will be held on Wednesday, September 19, 2001 at 5:30 p.m. All members are invited to attend. The agenda includes reports of the conference committee on next spring's conference, discussion of next year's roundtable presentations and an update from the bylaws committee.

Family Court Review Special Issue on Alienated Children in Divorce

The *Family Court Review's* special issue on Alienated Children in Divorce was published in July 2001. This journal was guest edited by Drs. Janet R. Johnston and Joan B. Kelly and it highlights the work of the California Task Force on the Alienated Child. It presents a reformulation of Parental Alienation Syndrome and offers articles on treatment and intervention of domestic relations disputes in which children have become alienated from a parent.

The issue includes the following articles:

- "The Alienated Child: A Reformulation of Parental Alienation Syndrome" by Joan B. Kelly and Janet R. Johnston
- "Should Judges Close the Gate on PAS and PA?" by Justice R. James Williams
- "Assessing for Alienation in Child Custody and Access Evaluations" by S. Margaret Lee and Nancy Olesen

- "Legal and Psychological Management of Cases With an Alienated Child" by Matthew J. Sullivan and Joan B. Kelly
- "Therapeutic Work With Alienated Children and Their Families" by Janet Johnston, Marjorie Gans Walters and Steven Friedlander
- Student Note: "Evidentiary Issues With Parental Alienation Syndrom" by Lewis Ziogiannis

All AFCC members received a copy as a benefit of membership, however many members have requested additional copies to share with colleagues who have not yet joined AFCC. AFCC has authorized a special printing of the journal and it is available for \$15 per copy, plus shipping and handling.

If you are interested in ordering copies, please complete and return the form below.

Order Form

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