FALL 2015

Celebrating 35 Years

Beaver Tail to Baked Alaska: A History of the American Plate

Fall Program on Sunday, November 15

ooking for a recipe for roasted beaver tail or eel pie for your Thanksgiving table? Or just curious about when and why those dishes were served? Then come to the Chevy Chase Historical Society's 2015 fall program, "Beaver Tail to Baked Alaska: A History of the American Plate".

Historian and author Libby O'Connell will tell the intriguing story of America's culinary past at an illustrated lecture on Sunday, November 15, 2015, at 4:00 p.m. at the Chevy Chase Village Hall, 5906 Connecticut Avenue. She will discuss her new book, "The American Plate: A Culinary History in 100 Bites", a rich chronicle of the evolution of American cuisine and culture, from before Columbus' arrival to the present day.

With an engaging combination of humor and historical accuracy, O'Connell will explain how remarkable changes in ingredients, recipes and menus provide a window on just how different life was during various periods in America history. Within the framework of history, she will take us back in time, exploring the techniques, textures, smell and tastes of Americans over more than three hundred years. From the roasted beaver tail of early explorers to colonial Shoo Fly Pie, from Civil War soldiers' rations to the Baked Alaska of the Gilded Age, and from Jello to microwave popcorn, O'Connell will show how economics, technology and social movements have changed our culinary tastes.

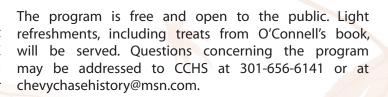
O'Connell is Chief Historian and Senior Vice President for Social Responsibility at the History Channel and A&E Networks, where she oversees corporate and educational outreach. She also executive-produces on-site films for



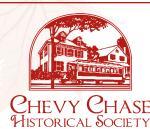
organizations such as the Smithsonian, Ellis Island, and Gettysburg, which the network donates as part of its commitment to corporate citizenship.

O'Connell developed Mission to Honor: the Veterans Campaign, Take a Veteran to School Day, and Save Our History, three corporate initiatives that have been recognized by the White House as well as the Mayor's Office of New York City. She has received three Emmy Awards for her work in television, and appears on national TV as a guest commentator. In 2007, she received a Vanguard Award from the NCTA, cable television's highest honor, for her work in public affairs.

O'Connell received her M.A. and Ph.D. in American History from the University of Virginia after graduating from Tufts University magna cum laude. She serves on the boards of several organizations, including the Thomas Jefferson Foundation at Monticello, the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and National History Day. In 2013, the White House appointed her as a commissioner on the United States World War I Centennial



Commission.



P.O. Box 15145 Chevy Chase, Maryland 20815

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Open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday and by appointment

The Chevy Chase Historical Society collects, records, interprets, and shares materials relating to the history of Chevy Chase, Maryland, one of America's first streetcar suburbs. The organization provides resources for historical research and sponsors a variety of programs and activities to foster knowledge and appreciation of the community's history.

Red Cross War Cake

Our fall program speaker, Libby O'Connell, includes on her website and in her book the following recipe for Red Cross War Cake. During World War I, the American Red Cross not only provided medical care overseas, but also communicated with families on the home front about helpful ways to support American troops. This recipe was recommended for folks who wanted to send their soldier a shippable treat that would remain moist and fresh all the way to the Western Front. Try soaking the raisins in rum for a few days or even a week before you make the cake. Your Doughboy will thank you.

Ingredients:

- 2 cups brown sugar
- 2 cups hot water
- 2 Tbsp lard
- 1 tsp each: salt, cinnamon, cloves
- 8 ounces raisins (about one package), chopped
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 3 cups flour

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350.

Put all ingredients except the flour and the soda in a large pot. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring frequently. Bring to a boil, then reduce the heat to a medium low and let it cook at a low boil for 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Stir in flour and soda. Mix well.

Grease 2 mini-loaf pans. Pour batter into the pans and bake for 45 minutes.

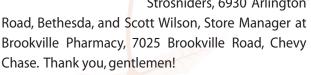
Special Thanks to Strosniders and Brookville Pharmacy



Scott Wilson

For the past five years, Strosniders Hardware Store and Brookville Pharmacy have faithfully displayed and sold CCHS' book about our local history, "The Placenames of Chevy Chase, Maryland". CCHS is

deeply grateful to these two respected retailers for their ongoing support of CCHS and their many decades of service to our community. Pictured here are Chuck Kelley, Store Manager at Strosniders, 6930 Arlington





Chuck Kelley

A Special Gift: Chevy Chase Streetcar #11

The Chevy Chase Historical Society is delighted to announce a recent gift by Katharine Farr of a very special, detailed model of Chevy Chase Streetcar #11, Capital Traction Company. The trolley was created in the early 1990s by Mrs. Farr's late husband, artist and designer William Sharon Farr, Jr. (1937-2007). It was displayed at the 1995 CCHS Spring Gala, and again in October 2006 at the CCHS program, "Chevy Chasing History: A Heritage Fair."

Farr, who attended the California School of Fine Arts (now the San Francisco Art Institute), was a graphic artist by profession and in retirement worked in various mediums in his home art studio. He discovered his innate talent for sculpting in wood, although never formally trained in this technique. Farr used a variety of woods, including basswood, ebony, pine, maple and cherry, working with what he had on hand. He created many "whimsical faux folk art" carvings, as he called them, as gifts for family and friends, and was also commissioned by admirers of his work. After the establishment of CCHS in 1981, Farr donated his time designing the CCHS logo and membership brochure, "History Lives Here".



Here comes the trolley!

The model of the Chevy Chase Streetcar is mounted on a wooden platform and includes a number of human figures, both inside and outside. The streetcar is approximately twelve inches by six inches, with the electrical trolley line extending overhead.

The carved figures are dressed in the style of the early 20th century with men in suits and women wearing hats. There are ten figures standing outside the streetcar, and a dog follows a boy running along one side. A man in a top hat watches as a woman in a long skirt reaches up to step on the trolley. Seven passengers sit inside, and two conductors, dressed in their blue uniforms, stand at each end of the car.

A picket fence runs along one side of the model. The boxes and bags of groceries represent the practice of streetcar deliveries.

A variety of materials were used to construct this model. Each figure is carved from wood. Their hats and some elements of their clothing are made of paper and each is painted. The streetcar is composed of various materials: woods, metals, plastics, and thread. Like the figures and the fence along the back, it is also carefully painted. The car sits on metal rails embedded in the wooden platform.



All aboard!

William Sharon Farr Jr. was a great-grandson of Senator Francis G. Newlands, the founder of the Chevy Chase Land Company. His father, William Sharon Farr, was President of the Chevy Chase Land Company from 1946 to 1972, and his mother, Janet Sharon Johnston Farr, was a granddaughter of Senator Newlands. Read more about Farr and his parents in their oral histories, available at the CCHS Archive and Research Center.



Wait for me!

CCHS is extremely pleased to accession this distinctive model, and to make it available to patrons of CCHS in our Archive and Research Center in the Chevy Chase Library. We are deeply grateful to Katharine Farr for her generosity.

News From The Center

collection.

Welcome Graduate Student Intern Tyler Vachon



Please welcome **Tyler Vachon**, the new graduate intern County Above Party who began working at the Archive and Research Center in early September. Vachon has a BA in American History, and is currently enrolled in the UMD College of Information Studies library science MLS program, with an emphasis on archives.

Vachon is currently working on the CCHS Oral History Collection, transcribing recently recorded interviews. In addition, he is accessioning new items, and will be working with Board Member Henry Gwiazda on organizational materials related to the Chevy Chase Village Coordinating Committee. Along with excellent technical skills, he has a strong interest in how archival materials are presented to the public, so he will also be assisting with new online exhibits.

Over the summer, interns Conal Huetter and Katherine Ann Stetzer worked on several large accessions (see Recent Acquisitions). Like Vachon, both Huetter and Stetzer are graduate students in the UMD iSchool program. Huetter has worked for CCHS since September 2014. Stetzer worked part-time over the summer, and hopefully her schedule will make it possible for her to come back in the future.

The Archive and Research Center has benefited greatly from all of the graduate interns who have worked with CCHS and is particularly pleased with those coming from the excellent UMD program.

Recent Acquisitions

Julie Rude Thomas donated a wealth of materials to CCHS which will be included in the Julie Rude Thomas Collection of Chevy Chase History. Conal Huetter is completing this accession. In addition to postcards, photographs, B-CC alumni materials and other Chevy Chase items, Thomas donated a 1990 English translation of the book Near to the Wild Heart by the notable Brazilian author Clarice Lispector. The author lived in the Town of Chevy Chase from 1952 to 1959. Some years later, after the Thomas family had purchased the same house, the Lispector's children returned to the DC area and

visited their former home. They shared family photographs with the Thomas family that will now be in the CCHS

The Barrow Family Collection

Over the summer, Katherine Ann Stetzer assisted CCHS in organizing and accessioning materials donated by Jane Barrow. Barrow grew up in **ChevyChase and graduated** from B-CC High School in 1960. The collection includes local

school materials and photographs, as well as materials related to the Methodist Youth Fellowship group. Ms. Barrow also donated documents and newspaper clips about her father, Wiley Barrow (1904-1986), who served on the Board of Education of Montgomery County from 1949 to 1958, among other volunteer and public service activities.

A House History: 3125 Northampton Street NW, Washington, DC - Square 2312 - Lot 22, by J. Kirkpatrick Flack. A resident of Chevy Chase, DC, Flack used two photographs from the CCHS Archive and Research Center in his beautifully designed and carefully researched house Now on the CCHS shelves, his book will serve as an excellent model for anyone interested in house history research.



Chevy Chase Library Celebrates 50 Years, 1965-2015

The Chevy Chase Library celebrated its 50th anniversary this fall with two special programs: on September 26, an official ceremony with speeches (and cake!), and on October 3, a day long program for readers of all ages, sponsored by the Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter.

When the library opened on September 21, 1965, it was the 14th library in the Montgomery County Library System that was created in July 1951 (MCPL). To commemorate its first 50 years, the Chevy Chase Historical Society provided research and design services for an exhibit. Printed with the support of the Friends of the Library and now on display on the main floor of the library, the exhibit outlines the history of this wonderful community resource.

When Chevy Chase was a brand new suburb in 1896, the Chevy Chase Free Library Association began raising funds for a library. In 1901, a new building designed by Arthur B. Heaton on land donated by the Chevy Chase Land Company opened at West Kirke Street and Connecticut Avenue. The Chevy Chase Free Library served as a community center as well as a volunteer-run library. Even after the building became the town hall for the Chevy Chase Village, many residents still referred to it as the "Chevy Chase Library."

Beginning in 1952, the Montgomery County Library System provided Bookmobile service to residents of Chevy Chase with stops along Brookville Road.



Chevy Chase Library, 1978 – invitation to dedication of the garden

In August 1962, the Montgomery County Council approved funds for a new Chevy Chase Library. In 1964, the County purchased land from the Chevy Chase Land Company. According to an interview with George Moreland, first Director of the MCPL, the Land Company insisted that it be given authority to choose the library's architect. The well-known firm of Bagley, Soulé and Associates was selected to design the building. Its colonial revival design was undoubtedly intended to blend with the traditional style of nearby buildings, including the Woman's Club of Chevy Chase, The First Church of Christ, Scientist, and single family homes. After a formal bidding process, the construction firm Farragut Builders, Inc. was selected and the land-clearance and construction began.



Left to right: Dr. Paul Wasserman, Dean of the Graduate Library School of the University of Maryland, John Henry Hiser, Montgomery County Councilman, and Mrs. Mary A. Hepburn, President of the County Council, receive the first three library cards from branch librarian Margaret Riordan and her staff. (The Sentinel, September 30, 1965)

The building design program called for 15,097 square feet, with shelving for 75,000 volumes. It provided seating for 176 patrons in the readings rooms, as well as 150 in the lower level meeting room. The final cost for building construction and site development was \$253,333, with an additional \$15,000 for fees, and \$30,000 for book shelving, furniture and library equipment. The shelving and special library equipment were designed and constructed by staff of the County Department of Buildings and Grounds.

Over 200 people attended the opening of the new library on September 21, 1965. Moreland introduced the three guest speakers: Dr. Paul Wasserman, Dean of the Graduate Library School of the University of Maryland, John Henry Hiser, Montgomery County Councilman, and Mrs. Mary A. Hepburn, President of the County Council. Branch librarian Margaret Riordan and her staff gave the speakers the first three library cards. The above photo capturing this moment appeared in local newspapers.

(Continued on page 6)



The new Chevy Chase Library became a popular venue for public programs. Lectures, film series, and meetings were scheduled on a regular basis either by the staff of the library or by local residents. In 1967, a collection of 200 books on the craft of weaving was donated to the library by the Potomac Craftsmen in memory of Barbara Burke Linde. In 1975, the library celebrated its 10th Anniversary with special programs in honor of the 1976 U.S. Bicentennial, including a children's program on American Legends. In 1978, the National Early American Glass Club donated a collection of over 300 items in honor of Helen N. Barger and Ruth M. Suppes for their knowledge of art in glass.

The library's 20th anniversary in 1985 was celebrated with music, cake, and a pet parade! After 25 years, plans were underway for necessary building updates, including better handicapped access and an elevator between the main and lower floors. On July 14, 1990, the Chevy Chase Library closed for renovation with plans to reopen in the fall of 1991. But county-wide budget deficits delayed the opening by more than a year.

On March 27, 1993, the Grand Re-opening Celebration was a happy occasion, although patrons were concerned about the reduction in hours brought on by the budget cuts. More than 600 Chevy Chase residents joined a petition drive calling for the restoration of full funding for their library and the entire library system. In May 1993, a group of twenty Chevy Chase authors sent an additional petition to the County Council and in August, funding for Monday hours was restored. Shortly after, the Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter, was founded and paved the way forward with its advocacy for programs, events, and financial support for the library.

The 30th anniversary celebration in September 1995 was marked by a day of special programs, including a book talk by National Public Radio's Linda Wertheimer and programs for children. A special historical exhibit and a commemorative 1996 calendar were developed for the occasion by the Chevy Chase Historical Society. Just a few years later, CCHS began a capital fund raising campaign. These funds were used for a major renovation of the lower level of the library, including the new location of the CCHS Archive and Research Center that opened in 2002.

In 2005, the 40th anniversary celebration included a "Celebrity Read-a-Thon," featuring local politicians and writers. The President of the County Council, Tom Perez, and Congressman Chris Van Hollen read aloud to guests.

Ann Brashares, the author of the best-selling book, "The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants", spoke to a crowded room of readers of all ages. The Friends of the Library sold raffle tickets for a beautiful quilt, "Bountiful Bookshelves" that was created and donated by the Chesapeake and Potomac Applique Guild. As with previous celebrations of library milestones, there were speeches and once again, cake!

As the library now marks its first half century, Chevy Chase residents continue to demonstrate their devotion to reading and their support for this important community resource. Library patrons look forward to the next 50 years.



Carol Coffin and Fran Schorr during the 2002 renovation of the space that is now the CCHS Archive and Research Center on the lower level of the library.



Left to right: Uzoma Onyemaechi, Library Manager, Chevy Chase Branch, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Richard S. Madaleno, Jr., Maryland State Senator, B. Parker Hamilton, Director, Montgomery County Public Libraries, Tom Thomson, Secretary of the Board of Trustees, Friends of the Library, Montgomery County, and Stephen Schmal, President, Friends of the Library, Chevy Chase Chapter, at the 50th anniversary celebration.

Rosemary Remembered: Class of 1958

It started in September 2014 when a group of friends, organized by Jim McConaughy, toured their old school. It grew into something much bigger.

During the following year, McConaughy was again the moving force behind an effort to reach out to members of the Chevy Chase Elementary School Class of 1958 and help long-ago classmates become reacquainted. He solicited their childhood stories and memories of their days at what was then called "Rosemary School," These reminiscences

were gathered into a volume titled "Rosemary Remembered: Chevy Chase Elementary School Class of 1958." A more formal class reunion was held on September 26, 2015, at which more old friends were reunited and toured their former school as well as their childhood neighborhood.

Here are some of the fond memories recalled in "Rosemary Remembered" and in interviews taken by CCHS at the reunion:

The safety patrols were posted at every corner from Brookville Road to Meadow Lane to Hillcrest Place, wearing their khaki uniforms and white belts with chest straps. — Rich May

I remember getting under our desks for air raid drills. — Carole Meininger Moore

Loved playing sports with Frank Hays, Jim McConnaughy and Tim Wexler and broke my wrist in 3rd grade tripping over a baseball bat. — George Bernstein

We played dodgeball and raced cars on Hillcrest Place.

— Charles Muir

Learning to read in Miss Lang's first grade class.

— Bobbie Hershberger

In the lunchroom, I ignored the hamburgers and sandwiches and slid my tray toward heaven on earth—the baked spaghetti casserole. It was perfection!—Irene Kovakas Creed

My belated apology sixty years later to all my fellow first, second and third graders who suffered my actions gracefully. And for those who beat me up, I realize I had it coming and you are forgiven.

— Bobby Fox

Our neighborhood kids' ventures into the woods back of Chevy Chase Junior College (now the National 4-H Youth Conference Center) brought the worst case of poison ivy I've ever encountered. Covered head to toe with red rash, I had to take painful shots and soak daily in a tub of water with dissolved purple tablets to dry the rash. Lesson learned (sort of...still went back to the woods)! — Ken Spriggs



Bonnie Montroll Korr

Carden Holland was a great friend who drew the picture on the front cover of our yearbook. That's me in the Brownie uniform! — Bonnie Montroll Korr



Sixth Grade Class of 1958 September 26, 2015

We may no longer hold much resemblance to the children we once were, but at one time in our lives, we all walked along the same tree-lined sidewalks each morning and afternoon, we sat together in the same classrooms, our coats hung on hooks in long, narrow closets at the back of the room. We smelled the same indigo mimeograph ink on our worksheets, felt anticipation at receiving the newest "My Weekly

Reader," played dodge ball together on the playground, square danced in the cafeteria when it rained, and stood shoulder-to-shoulder on the same stairway to have our photo taken once a year. These photos have turned into gold and have succeeded in reuniting some of us, while bringing these sweet open-hearted children back to life.

— Kathleen Porter

Architects of Chevy Chase: Noted Washington Architect Waddy B. Wood Left His Mark on Chevy Chase

An earl<mark>ier article about Waddy Wood was published in the Fall 1997 edition of the CCHS Newsletter.</mark>

At the beginning of the twentieth century, Waddy B. Wood was a prominent member of the Washington architectural community, whose celebrated work included public, institutional, commercial and residential structures. His contributions to the architectural landscape of DC and Chevy Chase were innovative then and are still important today.

Waddy Wood was born in St. Louis in 1869 and studied at Virginia Polytechnic. Unlike many of his contemporaries who went abroad, Wood rounded out his education by studying the architectural collections at the Library of Congress. In admiration of the early architects of Washington, he strived to build on those firm foundations while incorporating the practical necessities that the "modern" times demanded.

Working alone and with his partners Edmund Donn, Jr. and William I. Deming, Wood's designs were considered practical, or "anti-academic" in nature. While showing versatility and a mastery of many architectural traditions, Wood's modern renditions of these historical styles satisfied the varied demands of his clients.

Virginia Minnegerode, daughters of Mrs. George Minne gerode—posed in the garden of their home.

Helen and Virginia Minnigerode on the steps of 8 Oxford Street

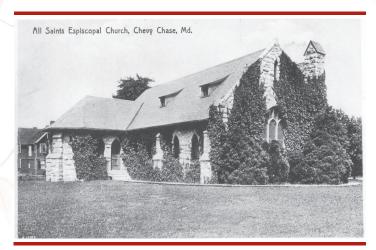
One of their significant works is the 1907 Trust Building Union in Washington's 15th Street Financial Historic District. With this project, the city's largest banks broke with the tradition of retaining nationally known architects and instead selected the local firm of Wood, Donn and Deming. Other important projects include the Masonic Temple (currently the National Museum of Women in the Arts), the Southern Railway Office Building, the George

Washington University law library, the Geophysical Laboratory of the Carnegie Institution (currently the Levine School of Music), and the home of Ambassador George Barclay Rives (later purchased by singer-songwriter Art Garfunkel and movie director Hugh Wilson).

Perhaps Wood's greatest project was the headquarters for the Department of the Interior. Wood was personally selected by then Secretary of the Interior Harold Ickes to design a building considered innovative at the time with its air-conditioned rooms, central vaccum cleaning system and a parking garage in the building.

Wood incorporated these thoroughly modern amenities in his design of private residences too. As his reputation grew, so did his list of prominent clients. One of his most famous residential designs is the Henry Fairbanks House (1915), later owned by Woodrow Wilson and now a National Trust property. Though formal in design, it carries Wood's trademark feeling of intimacy and informality with well-proportioned and comfortable rooms.

At the time the United States entered World War I, there was a need for inexpensive and plentiful housing to accommodate the large number of women coming to Washington to work for the federal government. Wood undertook the task of designing temporary buildings for this purpose. Out of patriotic duty and because two of his brothers were serving overseas, he waived a fee for doing so. In a letter to Henry Morganthau in November 1925, Franklin D. Roosevelt praised Wood's service to the government during the Wilson Administration.



Minnie Brooke postcard of All Saints Episcopal Church, circa 1900-1910

Venturing north of the District to Maryland, one of the most visible of Waddy Wood's projects in Chevy Chase is located at Number 3, Chevy Chase Circle —the Gothic Revival stone chapel of All Saints' Episcopal Church that faces Grafton Street. On May 14, 1900, the church membership voted to build a church on land donated by Senator Francis Newlands. Waddy

Wood was selected as the architect with Arthur B. Heaton. Work must have begun immediately because ground was broken on June 13, 1901 and enough of the building completed to permit the resumption of church services by December 1, 1901.

Designed in the English Parish style and built of local stone with a slate roof, the cost of construction, exclusive of furnishings, was \$8,398.33. The building features an open bell tower and one story entry with a polygonal roof. Further additions to the church were made in later years but the portion designed by Waddy Wood is still used today and is referred to as Memorial Hall by the All Saints' parishioners.

At their annual meeting on December 1, 1925, the Chevy Chase Club Board of Directors approved the borrowing of \$250,000 for new construction to include "an entirely new dormitory for men to replace the old clubhouse, together with a swimming pool, bath house and tennis house". Wood designed the structures and engaged James Baird & Co. to perform all of the construction work with the exception of the pool. The result are the stone extensions to the original H-shaped Georgian Revival Club House and a frame addition known as Bradley House on the south side (built as "the men's dormitory"), which incorporated a single beam and chimney from the 1747 farmhouse that was original to the property.

Wood designed several residential homes in Chevy Chase as well— a charming shingle and stucco home at 4 Oxford Street, its "twin" at 8 Oxford Street, and another Mediterranean inspired house at 15 East Melrose that revived the popularity of this design style in the area.

Built sometime between 1910 and 1911, 4 Oxford Street was designed by Wood for his partner William Deming. Wood built 8 Oxford Street at around the same time for George and Helen Minnigerode and their two daughters Helen and Virginia. In a 1981 CCHS Oral History interview, Helen described her happiest memories on Oxford Street — the Christmas tree lit up at the bottom of the stairs, the "kewpie doll fairs" on the high banks of Brookville Road, driving a Dodge coupe down Connecticut Avenue at age 12, and sending messages to the Deming children next door via a pulley system rigged between the two houses. A booklet published by the Chevy Chase Land Company, Chevy Chase for Homes 1916, featured 8 Oxford Street as a prime example of the architecture that made the neighborhood a highly desirable place to live.

Wood died on January 25, 1944 in Warrenton, Virginia. His philosophy is best summed up in a 1928 speech as president of the Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects, "We will eventually build up a modern style of architecture based on evolution and not revolution which has to rest, as all civilization does, on a foundation of precedent."

1981-2016 Celebrating 35 Years

The year 2016 marks the **35th Anniversary** of the Chevy Chase Historical Society! Since 1981, we have been collecting historical documents, photographs, oral histories, house histories, and maps that tell the story of our local history. In each of the 35 years since, we have shared that story with you through twice-yearly, public lectures on topics of historical interest, our tri-annual newsletters, and most recently, through online exhibits on our website at www.chevychasehistory. org. We have made our community's past part of your present. With your help, we can carry our history into the future. Won't you join us today and celebrate 2016 with us?

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