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SJSU ERFA News, Spring 2012

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SJSU
ERFA
News



Photo by Carol Christensen

The Steinbeck House, scene of the Spring Event. More photos on Page 3

A Newsletter of the San Jose State University Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

President's Message

Dick Tracy Would Have Loved Skype

By Dennis L. Wilcox,
SJSU-ERFA president

Dick Tracy, the comic book hero of our youth, was ahead of his time. I was particularly impressed with his wristwatch, a picture phone that enabled him to talk with his fellow detectives and also see them on a small screen. And that was more than 60 years ago.

Fast forward to today. We still don't have Dick Tracy's watch but we do have a computer on our desk and a smart phone in our pocket that now makes it possible for all of us to use an Internet application that Dick Tracy would have envied. It's called Skype, which allows us to have a video chat with loved ones and friends across town or even 8,000 miles away in Tbilisi, Georgia.

I became a frequent user and advocate of Skype when I recently found myself on a six-week U.S. State Department assignment in Georgia. I was far away from my wife, daughter, and three-year-old grandson so it was really a godsend to simply call up Skype on my netbook and have a video chat with them. And, of course,

exchange funny faces with my grandson who, in his enthusiasm, occasionally leaned on the wrong key, thus making it necessary to call again.

Skype is really the ultimate picture phone that was hyped so much by Popular Science magazine in the 50s and 60s. I've even used Skype to give a lecture at the University of Bucharest in Romania, which was a first for me. And I've also found that Skype can also be used on smart phones. A former student, who is now the public relations manager of Apple in Moscow, recently Skyped me on her iPhone while she was sitting at the bar in an Austrian ski resort.

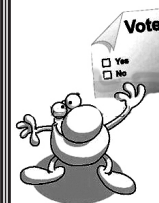
Email and Facebook are nice to share photos, but if you really want to have an interactive, visual conversation with your loved ones who are on vacation or simply live in another city, Skype is the way to go. And it's free. It's Internet based so there's none of this nonsense about long distance charges or using the minutes on your cell phone. It is necessary, however, for the person you call to also be signed up for Skype. If this is the case, you can have a

lengthy video chat that could even last an hour. If, by chance, you call someone who isn't on Skype, there is a small charge of virtually pennies per minute.

So sign up for Skype today at www.skype.com and begin that video chat with your grandchildren. As always, if you are confused about how to get on Skype, ask a 15-year-old.

Dues Increase?

Your Vote Requested!



Enclosed in this issue you will find, in addition to the regular Spring Luncheon flyer, a ballot which requires

your attention. After a lengthy discussion, the majority of the Board voted to raise the dues. Before that can happen, however, the decision must be ratified or rejected by a vote of the membership. That's where you come in. On the back page of the ballot you will find the arguments, pro and con, to help clarify the issue. Please read them, vote, and send in your ballot by May 1. Please use the enclosed envelope for your ballot only.

calendar

Friday, May 11

Spring Luncheon

The Villages

Speaker: Carol Christensen

Topic: "Monkey Business"

*See enclosed flyer
and
reservation form.*

University & Academic Affairs News

It's a New World

By Peter Buzanski (History)

Over the past year, a new President, Provost and a host of administrative changes have so altered the SJSU landscape that emeriti might not recognize the new University. Some of the more far reaching changes follow, and it should not surprise readers to discover that money plays a significant role in producing such profound academic alterations.

For this Academic year, 2011-12, the Office of the Chancellor (CHO) assigned SJSU an enrollment quota of 21,045 FTE/S. However, SJSU

enrolled 22,600, or 6% more. CHO allows for a 3% variation, but for all enrollments above 3% the cost is \$1 million for each one percent, meaning CHO has already deprived us of \$3 million. In addition, our administrators currently believe that Governor Brown's tax increase proposal for this fall is likely to fail. This would trigger further cuts, costing SJSU \$20 million more, to which the Provost responded by suggesting we must "rethink, innovate and diversify for fund raising purposes." Thus, everyone at the university--faculty, students

and staff alike--must do their utmost to find new sources for fund raising.

The over-enrollment problem is compounded by the fact that CHO has imposed a quota for the coming year, 2012-13, which is identical (21,045 FTE/S) to that of the current year, at a time when we have already accepted applications of 9% more students. As a result, the Chancellor has imposed an order prohibiting any new enrollment for Spring 2013. To meet these quotas handed down by Long Beach, the Vice President for Student Affairs, Bill Nance, announced that for 2013-14 SJSU will impose new restrictions. These new restrictions reveal very clever thinking on Nance's part. A large number of students who in the past applied for admission to impacted departments were admitted as undeclared students, who then had two years to find a major or program that would admit them. This route will be closed for the 2013-14 admissions by the simple device of naming "undeclared" to be an "impacted program." In addition, more students will be denied admission to SJSU by simply not accepting all students in our service area who currently qualify. How? By raising the standards for admission.

After President Qayoumi's arrival last fall, nearly fifty meetings were held to develop a strategic plan. Once the Provost Ellen Junn arrived, she set out to develop an "Academic Plan 2017" to coincide with the upcoming five-year WASC reaccreditation report. A draft of this Academic Plan 2017 is now being submitted to the Campus Community for reaction and changes. Two town meetings are being held this semester. Emeriti faculty are encouraged to attend

Continued on Page 8

SJSU ERFA Officers, 2011-2012

President -- Dennis Wilcox

Vice Pres. -- Jill Cody

Secretary -- Irma Guzman-Wagner

Treasurer -- Abdel El-Shaieb

Members at Large -- Marian Yoder

Bobbye Gorenberg

Susan Meyers

Academic Senate -- Peter Buzanski

Past President -- John Pollock

Ex Officio Members

Membership Wayne Savage **Communication** Sebastian Cassarino

Newsletter Gene Bernardini (Editor) and Clyde Lawrence (Layout/Design)

Consolations -- Cindy Margolin

Activities Dolores Escobar-Hamilton **Archivist** Lonna Smith

Beverly Jensen **ERFA Reps** David Elliott

Evelyn Neufeld Don Keeseey

Bob Wilson

Webmaster--Carol Christensen

ERFA Member-at-Large--Adnan Daoud

SJSU ERFA Office

MacQuarrie Hall 438D

Telephone (408) 924-2478

email lonna@pacbell.net

Visit the SJSU ERFA Website at www.sjsu.edu/emeritusfaculty/

Views and opinions expressed in this SJSU ERFA Newsletter are those of the contributors and do not necessarily reflect the position of the editor or of San Jose State University.

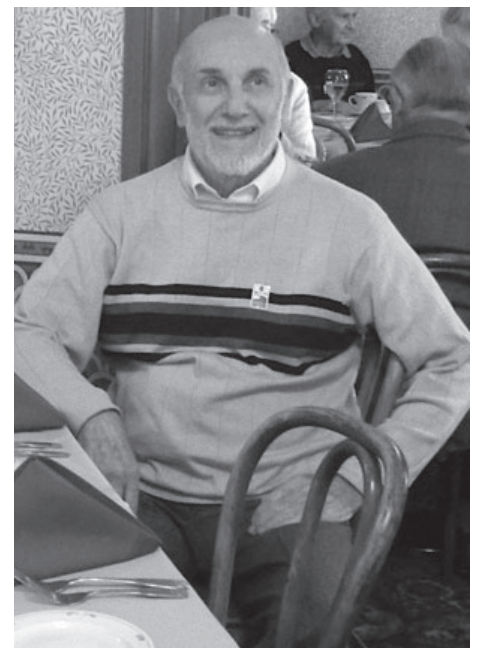
Spring Event
**An afternoon
east of Eden**

Photos by Carol Christensen

Looking forward to lunch are Sheryl Walters, Lonna and Michael Smith, Susan Meyers and Cindy Margolin.



Marian Yoder, Jill Cody and Jerry Grimes get together at the Steinbeck House in Salinas.



Gene Bernardini reserves a table in Olive Steinbeck's dining room.



Don and Phyllis Keesey enjoy a relaxing moment at the Steinbeck Center.

Chat Room . . .

Special news from and about our members.
 Edited by Gene Bernardini

This edition contains news about travels and activities taken from the membership renewal forms. Members are invited to send additional news about themselves to Gene Bernardini at geebarnard@comcast.net or by snail mail at 775 Seawood Way, San Jose, CA 95120

• **Simone Renaud** (Foreign languages, '81) welcomes the ninth edition of her book, *En Bonne Forme*, originally published in 1973. The text was co-written with her colleagues and friends, Dominique Van Hoof and Jean-Luc Di Salvo. Simone says she now "works less, travels less, paints more and smells the roses."

• **James Willis** (Economics, '98), with his wife Marianna, spent two months in Africa at the end of 2010. Their trip included a 30-day cruise beginning in Istanbul, then through the Mediterranean and down the east coast of Africa to Capetown. They then went on safaris in South Africa and Botswana and ended their trip in Livingstone, Zambia.

• **Jack Kurzweil** (Electrical Engineering, '06) says "I have not engaged in any activities of which ERFA would approve."

• **J. Benton White** (Religious Studies, '92) says "I play golf four times a week but I do not seem to get any better." He's published a novel entitled *Unto Us Is Born*, which appears to be well received and is available on amazon.com. Its story is set in the South in the early 1950s and includes everything from murder to Alabama football. In October of this past year he and Mary Lou traveled back to Alabama to visit family and to take a much anticipated Panama Canal adventure.

• **Henry Robinson** (Biological Sciences, '88), with his wife Beverly, continue to divide time between their home in Lincoln, CA, and their condominium in Honolulu, Hawaii. They often travel to Lake Tahoe (only two plus hours from Lincoln) to experience

the seasonal changes; and in Hawaii, they enjoy visiting the outer islands. This past year they celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary with a cruise through the British Isles with their children and their spouses. Beverly "joined the ranks of Bionic Women" with a knee replacement which allows her a more active lifestyle. Henry had a parotid gland tumor removed, followed by radiation treatment. His answer to why he retired: "I needed to retire in order to keep our medical appointments."

• **Wanna Pitts** (Biological Sciences, '92) asks, "Do you know about TENS (transcutaneous electrical neural stimulation)? It's a remedy for pain that I highly recommend." She and Jerry continue their trips from their home in Half Moon Bay to the desert, to Maui, and to our "other home" in Southern Oregon. Her granddaughter Patricia is back in Haiti, where she had spent the previous year, to continue her work as a pharmacist and educator.

• **Ada Loewer** (widow of Bob Loewer, Marketing, '89) traveled back to Zionsville, IN, last June to visit her granddaughter Amelia and her parents (Ada's son and daughter-in-law).

• **Gordon Greb** (Journalism, '90) says, "No news is good news." He turned ninety years old this past year, which, as he expected, was marked by an "unexpected surprise party." He offers his congratulations to all of his contemporaries and SJSU-ERFA colleagues who already have reached that milestone.

• **Gus Lease** (Music, '93) was recently elected and installed as District C Representative and State Board Member for the

California State Retirees, Inc. That district extends from Napa, down through the Bay Area to King City. Gus holds the distinction of having completed his 61st year of teaching at SJSU last May.

• **Inge Koenig** (Chemistry, '86) says she is forced to cancel her membership in SJSU-ERFA because of "old age and bad health." She extends her "good wishes for friendship and continuing success" to all her friends and colleagues in the organization.

• **Vida Kenk** (Biological Sciences, '06) returned last May to the College of William and Mary in Virginia to attend her 50th class reunion. She and her husband then continued on to Boston to visit their adult children. They now live in the Sierra Nevada near Calaveras Big Trees State Park, where they both volunteer. Vida would like people to know about the passing last year of three colleagues in Biological Sciences: Victor Morejohn, Richard Ingraham and Ellen Weaver. She has information about how to contact their survivors for more information if anyone's interested.

• **Susan Meyers** (Special Ed, '09) recently served as Director of the Franklin McKinley Children's Initiative. It's a comprehensive project involving the City, County, School District, SJPD Probation, County Office of Education, Catholic Charities and about 50 non-profit organizations. The project is designed to promote self-sufficient families and safe neighborhoods where all children can graduate from high school and enter a college and career.

In Memoriam

❖ **Kichung Kim** (English, '02) passed away on February 2, 2012, after a short, courageous battle with cancer. Kichung was born in 1934 in North Korea and, with his family, fled to South Korea when Russia occupied the country at the end of WW II. In 1950, the Korean War again drove the family further south. Still of high school age, Kichung found work, first as an X-Ray technician in a US military hospital, then as an interpreter. He so impressed his superiors with his hard work, intelligence and talent for languages that an American doctor recommended him for a college scholarship in the US. Leaving his entire family behind, he came alone to the US and soon graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Randolph-Macon College in 1957 with a BA in American Literature. He then earned an MA at the University of Washington, and after three years teaching at the Univ. of Hawaii, returned to work on his Ph.D at UC Berkeley. While finishing his dissertation, he was invited to teach at SJSU in 1966, where he remained for the next thirty six years. In addition to his English and American Literature

classes, he helped found the Asian American Studies Program, and was its first coordinator. Active in the civil rights movement of the turbulent 60s, he supported other ethnic studies programs, protested the Vietnam War, went out on strike with his faculty union colleagues and, with them, was reinstated after initially being fired. From the 1980s onward, he made significant contributions to the field of Korean literature in the US. He wrote papers, translations and reviews and published *An Introduction to Classical Korean Literature* in 1996, which is still used in university courses across the country. For three years he wrote a popular bi-monthly column for the Korea Times of Los Angeles and recently published a translation of one of three short stories in *There A Petal Falls* (Columbia, 2008) which won the important Daewan Award in Seoul for outstanding literary translation. Above all, he was known to students and colleagues alike as a sweet and gentle man with a ready laugh and an innate curiosity about life. He asked his family not to hold a memorial service for him,

a request that those who knew of his modesty could understand: he did not like to be the center of attention. He asked that his ashes be scattered off the coast of Maui, his favorite place. His family is endowing a scholarship in his memory; checks can be made out to the Tower Foundation for the Kichung Kim Endowed Scholarship for English and the Comparative Arts.

❖ **Consuelo Santos Killins** passed away on January 30, 2012, also after a bout with cancer. She is survived by her husband of 43 years, Richard Killins, and a son and daughter. She had a rich and colorful life, beginning as a nurse, first in San Antonio, then Chicago, and finally, teaching at SJSU. She was passionate about her work in the community, much of it as an advocate of the arts. She served on many boards and councils and was Chair of the California Arts Council for 12 years. She also presided over several local non-profit organizations. Those whose lives were touched by her will remember most her intense drive and desire to help others in need.

It's That Time of Year Again!

It's election time for the SJSU ERFA Executive Board and, once again, positions are open to members interested in serving our organization. There are Elective offices and Ex Officio positions available. The Elective offices to be filled this term are: Vice President (to serve as President in 2013-14); Academic Senate Representative; Treasurer; and one Member-at-Large. In addition, our Nominations Committee will receive inquiries and recommend to the Board appointments to the following Ex Officio positions: Membership,

Newsletter Editor, Webmaster, Photographer, Consolations, Activities, Archivist, and CSU-ERFA Representatives. If you would like to be a candidate for any of these positions, please e-mail Dennis Wilcox at denniswilcox@msn.com for details. Please do so by the deadline of April 20.

At the May 11 Spring Luncheon, which doubles as our annual Business Meeting, a slate of candidates will be recommended to the members in attendance. Nominations are also open from the floor at that time.

Conference on Aging

A health and aging conference will be held at the M.L.King, Jr., Library (Rms 225/29) on April 27, from 1:00-4:00 pm. The event is organized by the new Center for Healthy Aging in Multicultural Populations (CHAMP). and is sponsored by the Dean's Office, College of Applied Sciences and Arts. Discussions will deal with problems of aging from bone degeneration, aphasia, strokes, cognitive disorders and physical limitations of the elderly. Early registration is advised at anita.chen@sjsu.edu If you have any questions, call Caroline Fee at (408) 924-3116.

Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

Getting into trouble with the kitchen stove

By Verle Waters Clark

Verle, a retired nursing educator, was Dean of Health Sciences at Ohlone College. She is the widow of two SJSU English professors: Lou Waters and Jim Clark.

Is it an exaggeration to say that in a cold climate, say somewhere north of the forty-fifth parallel, the wood-burning kitchen range is almost a shrine? I remember so clearly the look and the character of the stove I grew up with, both learning about it and from it. During the Minnesota winter the kitchen is often the warmest room in the house and thus the family hangout. I see the stove's large cooking surface with four round covers; I put my hand in the warm water in the reservoir on the right and stretch to reach the doors on two warming ovens above and back. I learned to judge whether the oven was suitably hot for baking bread or cake by pulling the oven door open and sticking my hand inside without touching.

I got into trouble twice with that stove, learning something both times, too.

The first time I was really young--maybe four or five. I was in the kitchen alone on a winter evening, waiting for Mom and Daddy to finish the barn chores. I could neither have reached nor lifted the covers on the surface of the stove, but right in front there was a little door that dropped down, exposing the space under the two left-side covers. I was having a good time; my memory preserves a short, clear movie. The wood box nearby had kindling, nice clean pieces of dry wood that had been split by a steady hand and a sharp ax. Holding a slender piece of kindling in my hand, I stuck it in through the drop-down door,

holding the end over the bed of coals until flames burst forth. Then I pulled it out, waving it back and forth, creating my own little celebration. I knew I was being bad because when I heard sounds of someone coming up from the barn, I quickly stuck the burning sticks into the stove and snapped the drop-down door closed.

Daddy came in through the kitchen door. I suppose I tried to look innocent. I didn't know that because it was dark outside and the inside was bathed in lamp-light, he had seen me clearly as he walked by a window. "Have you been playing with the fire?" he asked. "No", I said, shaking my head. I

hadn't yet learned the essential fact about our father's discipline philosophy that all of us, my siblings and I, realized in time: not being truthful is the cardinal sin; misdeeds might be forgiven, but lying always earns punishment. My memory ends with the spanking, but I probably didn't play with fire again.

My second stove encounter-with-lesson-attached took place when I was around ten years old. Once again I was in the kitchen alone; I don't remember where others were. I decided I would make some fudge. By now I could lift the stove cover, and I stuffed the fire box full of wood, creating a nice roaring fire for cooking my

fudge. I mixed sugar, cocoa and milk--vanilla, I wonder?-- in a small saucepan and put it on the stove to cook. I knew it needed some time to boil, and walked away to do something else. When I went back to check I saw only a black solid. The fire was so hot the fudge mixture welded itself hopelessly to the bottom of the

pan. I was panicked; the saucepan was ruined and it was my fault. To cover up my mistake, I took the pan to a swamp a short walk beyond the chicken house and threw it in, intending the incident to stay hidden. During the next few days--I don't know how many; it may have been just two, but it seemed like an eternity--my mother said several times, "I can't seem to find that nice little saucepan that I like

so much." Guilt saturated my body, weighed me down, and finally caused me to erupt. In the kitchen with her I sobbed and cried out, "Mama I took your little pan!" and sputtered the whole story. I had no idea what kind of punishment might be in store, but by then I felt so bad that no punishment short of death itself would be too extreme. Instead, my mother put her arms around me and hugged me tight. I don't remember what she said, but what came through to me was that she was responding to me and not to the loss of her little pan. At that moment I felt a surge of love for her that clings forever to this memory.



Remembrance of Things Past

Sharing memories with our members . . .

What was and what will be

By Nils Peterson (English)
The Bus

Sunny day. June. California. But I'm in Plainfield, New Jersey. November night. Standing in the cold with my mother waiting for a bus on the corner of Front Street and Watchung Avenue, the bright window of a cafe shining square behind us where hot dogs, bright as pumpkins, go round and round on a rolling grill. At its side, exotic, unSwedish jars of yellow mustard and green relish glisten. I stand jiggling from one foot to another, cold and salivating. The night is black and, though there are store lights and street lights, unilluminated. It is 1939.

Around the corner lives the ice cream parlor where sometimes after mother had bought something at the Surprise Store which pleased her, she'd buy me a cone and I'd order rum raisin with a delicious sense of sin. Down the street is the newspaper store run by the two weird brothers, (one limped left and one limped right) where I had my first sip of Coca Cola. It was from my father's glass. No styrofoam. A Coca Cola glass, pleasingly shaped and emblazoned with curling script in white. No drink better, ever.

A couple of blocks away lurks the Courier News where in 15 years I'll work in the circulation department for 35 bucks a week, but now I'm cold and hungry, no hot dog, and the bus, the bus, the bus -- is not coming, will never come, will never take me where I want to go. No. Never!

School

In autumn, I descended from Hillside Avenue down Evergreen lined then from sidewalk to the curb with maples. I, not an

especially triumphant boy, walked in triumph through a processional of torches – fiery yellows, shiny oranges, fierce reds – all lit up for me.

When the rains came, heavy leaves fell, and my path was lined with gold like the streets of heaven, but soggy. Home owners who didn't sweep quickly, possessed a sidewalk abstract etched by leaf. Brown November. Homeward in the early dark, breathing in an acid smell of burning leaves, nodding to the men leaning on iron-tined rakes, tending the smoky pyres.

The Reading Room

had at its center an enormous globe that showed the way the world was. It turned as easily about its expensive spindle as the world itself and I spun it slowly, exploring place after place, each country with a color defining its "I amness." How much blue the sea took to get its proper share.

Sometimes I would sit in the room and read my books for awhile before roller skating home on the streets that had the smoothest sidewalks so the wheels clamped to my shoes with a key would not catch on a tree-root-propped slab, tear loose, and send me tumbling to another scraped knee. Sometimes I'd finish my book and return it before setting off from the friendly silence.

The room was high-ceilinged, tall-windowed, square, with a

square of leather-cushioned chairs surrounding the globe. This is how I want to live, I felt rather than said, in a solid, permanent, somewhat dustily elegant place, with the round certainty of the way things are before me.

This was sixty years ago and more. Only the blue of the sea has stayed itself. Now the whole old globe with its intricate, pattern of forgotten countries rests, a curiosity, in the back room of the antique shop of the world. Maybe the library still stands, though most of the books I read have long ago disintegrated or disappeared.

The boy who sat there reading whispers to me sometimes. He tries to tell me what was. I listen, nod, but cannot tell him what will be.



Tax Board Requirement

The following amendments will be incorporated into our SJSU-ERFA CONSTITUTION, if ratified at our annual Business Meeting:

- 1) This organization does not contemplate pecuniary gain or profit to the members thereof and is organized for nonprofit purposes;
- 2) This association shall not, except to an instrumental degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the specific purposes of the association.

It's a New World

Continued from Page 2

either the April 10th meeting in WSH 109, or the May 10th meeting in BBC202, both held from 1:00-3:00 p.m. You can read the Academic Plan beforehand by going to the SJSU website, clicking on Provost and then on Academic Affairs Plan.

The goals of the plan emphasize the importance of using 21st century technologies. In the "new university" the Provost has stressed the need for faculty to adopt new teaching methods. The lecture method, according to numerous statistics and surveys, is only effective for eight per cent of students. Provost Junn argues that there are outstanding lecturers available free of charge on the internet, from Carnegie Mellon, MIT, Stanford and UC Berkeley.

SJSU faculty who adhere to the lecture method could easily assign students a specific lecture to be seen before the next class period, at which time, using the Socratic Method, an oral discussion based on the lecture can take place in the classroom.

On another subject, Senate members were told that at this time SJSU has a ratio of 53% tenure-track and tenured professors to 47% lecturers, which puts us in 21st place, near the bottom of the 23 CSUs. Junn stated that she will work in the coming years to improve the ratio to lift us out of our near-basement standing. The Academic Senate's ancient resolution that we should have an 80-20% ratio is probably unattainable, given the budget deficits under which we shall operate for many years.

If this essay has been a downer, it gives me great pleasure to conclude with a happier theme. On April 4, from 4:00-5:30 pm there will be a convocation in Morris Dailey Auditorium to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Academic Senate, which began in 1952 as the Academic Council. At this function, SJSU-ERFA's second treasurer, Ted Norton, will be honored. He was the Chair of the Senate on two separate occasions, has written an informative pamphlet on the history of the Senate, has served as Chair of numerous committees over many years, and is responsible for much of the Senate's constitution and by-laws. To mark the occasion the Senate has unanimously passed a resolution honoring and thanking Ted for his service to the Senate and the University.

SJSU
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News

Newsletter of the Emeritus and Retired Faculty Association

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One Washington Square

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