



capca newsletter

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CAPCA Nominates Leslie Wilson for NPCA Board

Watch for your mail-in ballot — Contested Election to Occur in July

At its May 2nd Meeting, the CAPCA Board nominated current CAPCA President Leslie Wilson as a candidate for the Great Lakes Regional Representative seat on the National Peace Corps Association (NPCA) Board of Directors.

All dues-paying NPCA members and recently returned RPCVs will be receiving (or have already received) an NPCA ballot in early July. The CAPCA Board strongly encourages all NPCA members to vote for two reasons:

- 1) Strong voter response from our region will demonstrate our substantial interest in and concern regarding actions that the NPCA undertakes in all of our names
- 2) The Board could not more strongly believe that Leslie Wilson is the right candidate to serve the Great Lakes Region, the broader RPCV community, and Peace Corps in this role.

Q. Does this Great Lakes board position cover only the Chicago area?

A. No. All RPCVs from the Midwestern Great Lakes Region are included and are eligible to cast ballots in this election. This region includes areas served by many other RPCV groups including Madison and Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Southeast Michigan and Western Michigan, and CAPCA. The CAPCA Board is increasingly committed to building bridges among all of these groups and believes, therefore, that any representative elected will need to serve all these areas and help support the effort to build such bridges. Leslie has highlighted this as an important need, one to which she is strongly committed.

Q. Why did the Board Nominate Leslie?

A. We believe that Leslie's skills and capabilities, coupled with her record of service to others, to Peace Corps, and to the broader RPCV community, make her uniquely qualified to represent the Great Lakes region. Leslie's association with Peace Corps and the Peace Corps community has taken on many faces: as a PCV (Thailand '90-'92), as staff (Associate Peace Corps Director, Moldova '95-'97), and as an RPCV (CAPCA Board of Directors '98-present and CAPCA President 8/99 to present). In addition, Leslie's education, her professional background, and her considerable experience in the independent sector with not-for-profit leadership, board governance, and fundraising will suit her well to contribute meaningfully to the efforts of the NPCA Board of Directors.

Q. Are there other factors that make her a strong candidate?

A. Yes (probably too many to list, but here's a selection). Leslie has demonstrated an ability to marry effectively the managerial rigor and results-orientation of a graduate management education with the practical lessons and organizational understanding gained from over two decades of experience with a selection of organizations from across the not-for-profit spectrum. These organizations have included a small liberal arts college, a nationally ranked medical school, an international refugee support organization, and an international children's welfare organization, in addition to her experience with the Peace Corps itself. Her past volunteer involvements (in areas including hospice care, her alma mater's alumnae development and involvement program, the arts, and CAPCA) have also provided her with the direct understanding of what it means to be a member, participant, and volunteer of a mission-centered voluntary association.

Q. So how do I vote?

A. In early July all NPCA members will receive a ballot. There are three candidates running for the sole Great Lakes Region Representative position (you may only vote for one). After casting your vote, return the ballot via standard U.S. Mail by the date identified (toward the end of July).

CAPCA Member Assists Habitat for Humanity in Costa Rica

by Stephanie Arnold

For those RPCVs not currently working in the international development field — have you ever wished that you could satisfy your desire to remain involved in this area while you pursue your current career or education? I know this has been at the top of my mind, and I have recently found a great way to do just this. For the past two years, I have been a participant in Habitat for Humanity International's Global Village Programs in the Dominican Republic and Costa Rica. Global Village projects provide one- to three-week opportunities for individuals to work alongside families in developing countries to build new homes, which fulfill their dreams and greatly enhance their standard of living.

This year, from May 5-13, I worked with two families in Cartago, Costa Rica in the construction of their new homes. In order to participate, I was responsible for making a \$500 contribution to the local Habitat affiliate in Cartago and covering my own expenses for the trip (airfare, lodging and meals). Because Habitat is a charitable organization, participants are encouraged to ask for donations, which may be tax deductible. I requested donations from my colleagues and friends and made a request to CAPCA's Board of Directors to match the \$380 I had received from other sources. The CAPCA Board generously approved my request, and I am extremely grateful for this support which allowed me to participate in such a worthwhile activity.

Since 1976, Habitat has built more than 100,000 houses in more than 60 countries, including some 30,000 houses across the United States. The eventual homeowners purchase their own Habitat houses. Three factors make the houses affordable to low-income people worldwide: the houses are sold at no-profit, with no interest charged on the mortgage; homeowners and volunteers build the houses under trained supervision; and individuals, corporations, faith groups and others provide generous financial support. A decent, solid home from Habitat costs a Costa Rican family approximately \$6,300. They pay the no-interest loan over ten years, and their payments, in turn, create the ability for another family to receive a home.

A Habitat for Humanity work camp entails long days of very hard labor. This aspect makes it quite different from my Peace Corps experience in Ghana, where I was not permitted by the local community to actively participate in the construction of the latrines and wells, which I initiated in my village. However, in so many other ways, the Habitat work camps do provide a sort of miniature Peace Corps experience. I was able to work closely with the families that would be the eventual beneficiaries of the homes, take part in their daily lives, and really have a chance to experience the Dominican and Costa Rican cultures at a grass-roots level — far beyond the experience that would be afforded to the average tourist.

Both the families and the volunteers really feel as though we have touched each others lives in a meaningful way, and it is a highly rewarding experience for all involved. Volunteers leave the worksite knowing that they have moved the families closer to their goal, and that provides a very satisfying sense of accomplishment.

Habitat for Humanity's Global Village Program presents numerous opportunities to participate in such projects around the globe. You can find out more about current "open" Global Village trips in 2001 and 2002 by visiting the Habitat website at www.habitat.org/gv/. There are also special trips organized for "closed" groups, and I may be organizing a trip as a team leader in 2002. Feel free to contact me if you would like more information.

Check out details for NPCA's 40th Anniversary Celebration: www.rpcv.org/pages/celebrate.cfm ... or ... call Cori Wellbourn at (202) 293-7728 x20

Founder's Day: Huge Success

by Elizabeth Versten

CAPCA's annual "Founder's Day" fundraising dinner was held on Saturday, June 6, 2001. About 100 RPCVs and friends gathered at Maggiano's this year to celebrate Peace Corps' 40th anniversary. The RPCVs in attendance came from all four decades and dozens of Peace Corps countries.

The evening, which featured a delicious family style Italian feast, a thought-provoking speaker, a raffle, an auction, and world music, was a success by all standards, with a wonderful time had by all and nearly \$5,000 raised. CAPCA President Leslie Wilson served as Emcee and Elizabeth Thomas, of the Chicago Peace Corps office, gave an update on current Peace Corps statistics worldwide.

Following an introductory overview of his major responsibilities as Cook County Public Guardian, our guest speaker, Patrick Murphy, then shared stories about his own experience as a volunteer lawyer in Somalia in the mid-'60s. With legal experience under his belt, Patrick's assignment was to help the Somali government create an effective and appropriate legal code. Patrick thoughtfully — and amusingly — interwove reflections of his PCV experience along with thoughts on his ongoing life experience ... in a big Irish Catholic family and as Cook County Public Guardian ... among other aspects of his life before and since Peace Corps.

In addition to Mr. Murphy, other special guests were Tamara Carpenter and Helen Dixon, who represented the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), CAPCA's new ally in encouraging RPCVs to become CPS teachers in the first years of their return from service.

Another very special guest and good friend of CAPCA's, John Zeigler, joined us with his wife Theresa, and graciously accepted the Loret Miller Ruppe Award for Community Service, which CAPCA received in 2000 in recognition of our partnership with the "Connections" youth leadership development program, which John leads.

The silent auction and raffle offered three dozen items of art, crafts, services, entertainment, and miscellany — something for everyone who was in the mood to bid! Included in the raffle was a framed 40th anniversary commemorative poster with photo images from each of the Peace Corps' four decades of history.

The evening was topped off with dancing to a selection of music from around the world, including Senegal, Morocco, Ireland, India, Pakistan, Peru and Brazil. Many thanks to Eric Levy, the world music DJ.

Proceeds from the dinner will fund two Partnership Projects and one "Connections" student's participation in the group's annual summer journey to West Africa. Connections is a youth leadership development program through West Englewood's Harper High School. The two Partnership projects we are sponsoring this year are:

- * The Los Miche School Construction Project in the Dominican Republic, to help purchase building materials for a school so children can continue their education beyond the third grade.
- * The Ammeln Valley Women's Training Center Project in Morocco, to provide women with a place to improve their reading skills, receive job training and join in income generating activities.

Special thanks for major support is due to our advertisers: Chicago Public Schools, Ask4Staffing, Travel Medicine Source, and Karen & Bill Goodyear, in honor of their daughter Alexandra, who is currently serving in Senegal. Their ads appear throughout this edition of the newsletter, too.

Hand-Painted Note Cards for Sale!

To help preserve the traditional Mithila art form, and to help girls ages 10 to 15 develop creative skills for safe employment, Save the Children, the world's largest non-sectarian international development & relief organization, sponsors a group of young girls in the Siraha district of Nepal to hand-paint cards for sale. Sales from the cards directly benefit these young girls.

Cards are \$2 each or 10 for \$12.

(There are nominal postage & handling charges, too, for cards bought via e-mail or phone.)

Sales also benefit CAPCA's Peace Corps Partnership Projects, community-based projects such as Connections, in Chicago, & other humanitarian initiatives worldwide.

Contact Leslie Wilson (773) 973-6560 or lfwilson@hotmail.com for more information.

Upcoming Events

CAPCA Dinner

Break out the beret—It's La Creperie time!

La Creperie

2845 North Clark Street
Chicago

Tuesday, July 10, 6:30 pm

\$20 for dinner, cash bar

Join CAPCA at the one and only Peace Corps-parent-owned crepe restaurant in Chicago. Moldova RPCV Mark Sheehy will be entertaining us with his singing & guitar playing, and his new CD will be available. Check out Mark's website: www.marksheehy.com

The restaurant is on Clark Street, just north of the Clark Street-Broadway split at Diversey, across from the Century theater complex. Take a bus (Nos. 22 or 36) to Diversey or the el—Brown line to Diversey and walk east to Clark.

RSVP to Maxine.Gere@bcbsa.com or (773) 868-4361 by July 8.

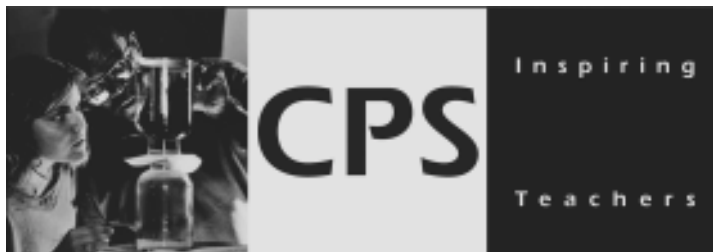
Book Signing/Reading

Come join **Jim Toner**, the author of *Serendib*, a story of Sri Lanka and Peace Corps.

The Savvy Traveller,
310 South Michigan
Chicago

July 24, 2001, 6-8 p.m.

For more information, check out the Happenings section of the Savvy Traveler website at www.thesavvytraveler.com.



Chicago Public Schools' Department of Human Resources congratulates Peace Corps on 40 years of exemplary service.

We look forward to a continued partnership!

www.cps-humanresources.org

ASK4 Staffing provides staffing solutions to Chicagoland human services providers. There are short- & long-term assignments * flexible placements * full- & part-time jobs * exciting options in a broad range of social service settings: child welfare / counseling / substance abuse / welfare-to-work / teaching / community outreach.



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* Check out our web site: www.ask4staffing.com *

* Call M.J. Foster, Recruitment Manager at 312.641.3184 *

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CAPCA Members Volunteer in Community

by Kara Malenfant and Trina Janes

Friends of the Chicago River Annual River Rescue Day

A dozen CAPCA members joined thousands of others on Saturday, May 12, to clean and revitalize the Chicago River from the north suburbs to downtown. With over 2,200 volunteers and 33 tons of trash removed from the river, the 9th annual River Rescue Day was by far the biggest Friends has ever had. The CAPCA team worked in Horner Park picking up bag after bag of garbage along the riverbank between Montrose and Irving Park. In addition to their own strange finds, CAPCA volunteers depositing their trash on the garbage barge saw that another team had found a wheelchair in the river! After a hard morning working, the CAPCA group joined approximately 1,000 other volunteers for a picnic at East River Park.

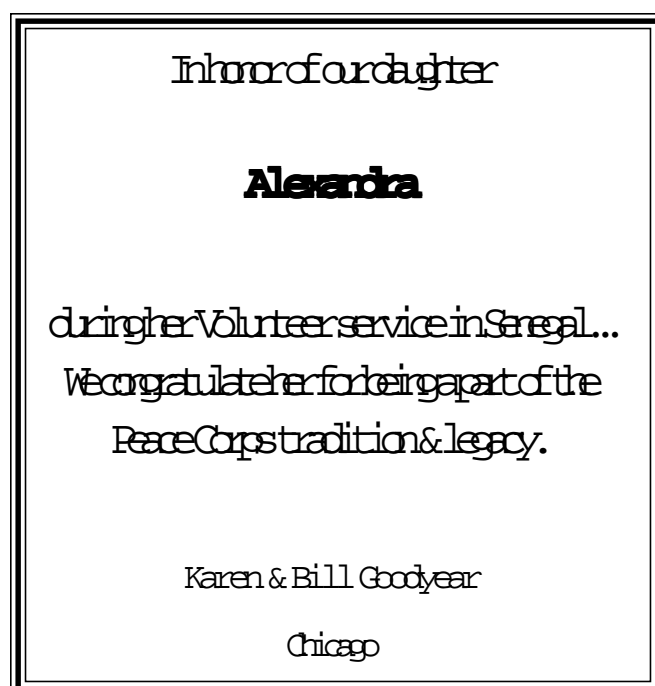
Greater Chicago Food Depository

A team of CAPCA volunteers helped rescue food on Tuesday, May 22, at the end of the National Restaurant Association Trade Show at McCormick Place. The team worked part of the convention floor approaching vendors as they dismantled their booths and scavenging for abandoned food. Canned, frozen and fresh food used for display purposes is often left behind when vendors pack up at the end of the trade show. The volunteer teams moved the food to a central location and labeled it for pickup and transportation to the Greater Chicago Food Depository. The Food Depository works to reclaim what would be wasted, and redistributes it to qualified agencies such as soup kitchens, shelters and pantries.

Chicago Cares Serve-a-thon

In honor of Peace Corps' 40th anniversary, a team of CAPCA volunteers participated in the 8th annual Chicago Cares Serve-a-thon on Saturday, June 9th. The team was comprised of RPCVs as well as several Harper High School students from the CAPCA-supported **connections** program. The CAPCA team joined over 8,000 other volunteers who provided a collective 40,000 hours of volunteer service to Chicago schools, social service agencies and senior citizens.

The CAPCA team spent the day at St. Leonard's House, an Episcopal Church-run halfway house near the United Center. St. Leonard's House provides structured living, counseling and job training to paroled felons- both men and women - who need a place to go upon release from prison. They also offer apartments for longer-term independent living. St. Leonard's House was recently featured on WBEZ with testimonials from several of the agencies' beneficiaries. The CAPCA team planted flowers, cooked lunch, cleaned and painted rooms, stairs and hallways. The staff of St. Leonard's House was very well organized and very appreciative of the volunteer efforts.



Announcements

Peace Corps Writers Celebrate 40 Years of International Service at the NPCA Conference, September 20-23, 2001

WASHINGTON, DC, May 5, 2001—A Peace Corps Volunteer stint lasts two years, but Peace Corps writers make the experience last a lifetime with their fiction, poetry, and letters to friends and family. This year, the Peace Corps will celebrate its 40th anniversary at a gathering of returned volunteers and friends from September 20 to 23 in Washington, DC, and Peace Corps writers will recall their experiences and memories over three days of readings.

Participating writers will include award-winning returned volunteers such as Mary-Ann Tirone Smith (Cameroon), Simone Zelitch (Hungary), Michael Tidwell (Zaire), Richard Wiley (Korea), Marnie Mueller (Ecuador), Mark Brazaitis (Guatemala), Joanne Omang (Turkey), George Packer (Togo), Nancy Scheper-Hughes (Brazil), Christopher Conlon (Botswana), Kathleen Coskran (Ethiopia), and Maureen Orth (Colombia), as well as some of the latest volunteers who were affected enough by their volunteer experiences to put words to paper.

“The impact of Peace Corps service on the volunteers is evident in their writings,” says John Coyne, published novelist and editor of PeaceCorpsWriters.org, a volunteer-operated website that is for, by, and about Peace Corps writers. “The writers continue in the legacy of earlier American expatriate writers like Hemingway, Fitzgerald, and Anderson.” Coyne was a Peace Corps volunteer in Ethiopia from 1962-64. All volunteers and returned volunteers are welcome to read at the 40th anniversary celebration. Interested readers should send their materials to Joe Kovacs at The Woodner, 3636 16th Street, NW, Apt. A909, Washington, DC 20010. Please also e-mail Joe (Joe_Kovacs@hotmail.com) a one-line e-mail description of what you will read and a confirmation receipt that your materials are forthcoming. Most Peace Corps readers will have ten minutes. The three-day schedule of readings will be posted as available on peacecorpswriters.org.

Job Opportunities

Lions Clubs International

Position: Grants Program Coordinator

Description: Major international foundation seeks individual to analyze grant applications, make funding recommendations and monitor approved projects, especially from South Asia.

For more information contact: Human Resources Department, Lions Clubs International, 300 W. 22nd Street, Oak Brook IL 60523-8842

Email: pkatrive@lionsclubs.org
Fax: (630) 571-8890

Center for International Development

Position: Environmental Consultant

Description: Provide technical assistance to CILSS in the preparation of a regional action plan for the legal, institutional and organizational framework for participatory and decentralized management of natural resources in the Sahel.

For more information contact: Eileen Reynolds, Center for International Development, Research Triangle Institute, 3040 Cornwallis Road, PO Box 12194, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-2194

Email: ereynolds@rti.org
Tel. (919) 485-2746
Fax (919) 541-6621
Web: www.rti.org

Cross-Cultural Solutions

Position: Program Coordinator

Description: Cross-Cultural Solutions seeks an International Volunteer Program Coordinator needed to coordinate a short-term volunteer program in Peru operated in conjunction with CARE USA.

Program Coordinator will be based in New Rochelle, NY and will be in close communication with the Peru Country Director.

For more information contact: Andrew Motiwalla, International Programs Manager
Email: andrew@crossculturalsolutions.org
Fax: (914) 632-8494.

CAPCA Board Meeting Minutes

9 April 2001, 6:00 pm

Present: Marie Erdman, Wallace Goode, Trina Janes, Nancy Kramer, Kara Malenfant, Ben Peeters, Alissa Strauss, Leslie Wilson.

Not Present: Stephanie Arnold, Maxine Gere, Melissa Hall, Greg Nessinger, David Pope, Juliann Wilson Salinas, Chuck Sheftel, Elizabeth Thomas, Elizabeth Versten.

1. **Minutes.** The minutes from the 5 March 2001 board meeting were presented. Janes moved to approve the minutes with one amendment from Wilson. Malenfant seconded and the motion passed unanimously.
2. **Treasurer's Report.** The final balance as of 4/6/01 was \$6,903.01. Erdman moved to approve the treasurer's report, and Janes seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. **Founder's Day:**
 - a. **Invitations.** It was decided to print 450 invitations, using the best printing quote that Kramer found. The 450 number includes active and recently lapsed members, plus extra for special invitees. We will supply our own paper, per samples provided by Wilson, which has a "Family Reunion"/Italian style motif. Individual board members also gave comments on Peeters' invitation wording.
 - b. Price will remain at \$65 per ticket, with Donors at \$85 and Patrons at \$100. Discounts may be given, but not for less than \$50 for a ticket.
 - c. **Silent Auction.** Wilson gave a list of silent auction items already given, and encouraged the Board to look for more.
 - d. Kramer will work on centerpieces for the tables.
 - e. Board members are strongly encouraged to invite people outside the CAPCA community to attend.
 - f. Strauss put together a press alert which will be sent to Community Calendars, and is also talking to Jerome McDonald of WBEZ.
4. **Fundraising.** Janes presented three Peace Corps Partnership projects that the subcommittee recommended. The board picked two to fund with proceeds from the Founder's Day Dinner: The Ammeln Valley Women's Training Center in Morocco and the Los Miche School Construction in the Dominican Republic. Because of the timeliness for the projects, the board decided to send each project \$500 each now, and send an additional amount, if CAPCA finances permit, after Founder's Day. The board also committed to sponsoring the Connections for at least \$1000, from Founder's Day proceeds.
5. **Donations.** Stephanie Arnold has raised \$380 to support her trip to Costa Rica with Habitat for Humanity. Erdman made a motion to match her donations (\$380) and Wilson seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Sheftel has chosen an organization to donate the India Earthquake Relief money to - and will write an article for the next newsletter about it. The organization is the Indian Development and Relief Fund (IDRF).
6. **Volunteering.** Malenfant is organizing a Friends of the Chicago River cleanup on May 12, Wilson and Erdman are organizing a volunteer day to assist the Greater Chicago Food Depository recover food after the National Restaurant Association conference on May 22, and Janes is organizing CAPCA's participation in the Chicago Cares Serve-A-Thon on June 9. We will send a postcard at the end of April to remind people of the volunteer activities.
7. The dinner meeting will be held April 17 in Oak Park.
8. The next board meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 2 at 6:00 pm in Wallace Goode's office at 20 N. Clark, 28th floor.

CAPCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2000-2002

Stephanie C. Arnold ('02)
Treasurer & Database Manager
stephanie.c.arnold@us.andersen.com
312/507-4885 (work)

Marie Erdman ('02)
Secretary
marie@exlibris-usa.com
847/864-6881

Maxine Gere ('01)*
Immediate Past President
maxine.gere@bcbsa.com
773/868-4361

Wallace Goode ('01)
Vice President
wgoode@pcv@aol.com
773/624-0560

Melissa Hall ('01)
Newsletter Editor
capcanews@yahoo.com
773/539-6798

Trina Janes ('01)
cjanes1999@kellogg.nwu.edu
847/663.0484

Nancy Kramer ('02)
Membership Coordinator
kramernancy@worldnet.att.net
773/725-6944

Kara Malenfant ('02)
malenfant@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu
773/561-0310

Gregory (Greg) Nessinger
Web Site Team, ex officio
gregory.nessinger@ssmb.com
708/442-5933

Ben Peeters ('01)*
ben_peeters@email.com
773/267-0441

David G. Pope ('01)*
david_pope@att.net
708/660-1156

Juliann Wilson Salinas
Web Site Team, ex officio
juliannws@earthlink.net
847/394-0375

Chuck Sheftel ('01)*
shef3886@aol.com
847/ 831-3886

Alissa Strauss ('01)*
alissa.s@juno.com

Elizabeth (Liz) Thomas ('01)
ethomas@peacecorps.gov
708/445-1946

Elizabeth (Beth) Versten ('02)
verstene@rotaryintl.org
773/343-8685

Leslie F. Wilson ('01)
President
lfwilson@hotmail.com
773/973-6560

*One-year Presidential appointee.
All phone #s are home #s unless
otherwise indicated.

CAPCA MEMBERSHIP FORM

Want to become a member? Membership about to expire? Please send your dues today. Make checks payable to CAPCA. Send your dues and this form to Stephanie Arnold, c/o CAPCA, PO Box 1149, Chicago, IL 60690 ... or go to www.rpcv.org and join CAPCA and NPCA electronically.

Check one: RENEWAL NEW MEMBER ADDRESS CHANGE

NAME _____

MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

ADDRESS _____

\$15.00 CAPCA Annual Dues

\$40.00 Joint CAPCA & NPCA Dues

EMAIL _____

\$55.00 Family CAPCA & NPCA Dues
(2 members/one address)

HOME PHONE _____

One year free for newly returned RPCVs

WORK PHONE _____

\$500.00 Lifetime CAPCA Membership

COUNTRY/YEARS OF SERVICE _____

\$ _____ Unrestricted contribution

\$ _____ Restricted contribution

JOB ASSIGNMENT _____

CURRENT POSITION _____

Interested in giving talks about Peace Corps

CURRENT EMPLOYER _____

Would NOT like my name in the CAPCA Directory

CAPCA MEMBERSHIP

c/o Stephanie Arnold
PO Box 1149
Chicago, IL 60690

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