

January/February 2007

Chiff Chat

Springfield, MA Chapter
American Guild of Organists



A Message from the Dean

Dear Friends,

As the calendar turns, I look back nostalgically to the events of 2006 and with anticipation to our plans in 2007. We ended last year with a magnificent celebration of our 60th Anniversary at Trinity United Methodist. On behalf of the entire Chapter, I extend gratitude and appreciation to Charles Page, Becky Isaacson and Allan Taylor for their planning, rehearsing, and performance of the beautiful service. Lucy Langrell hosted a lavish reception and many volunteers from the chapter and church assured the whole event ran smoothly. Thank you, also, to the many choristers who participated, including singers from Trinity Methodist, Christ Church Cathedral, First Congregational of Westfield, Unitarian-Universalist Society, and their respective directors, Becky, Peter Beardsley, Allan, and Meg Irwin-Brandon, and Fr. Bill Wallis, our Chaplain and reader. I was honored to join Jim Barry (Region I Councilor) and many of our current and former chapter officers in the procession. It was quite a festive entrance, accompanied by singing, brass and organ, of choristers, dignitaries, and clergy in robes and regalia! Rev. Edward Farrell-Starbuck, pastor of Trinity, joined our guest speaker, Rev. Peter J. Gnomes, in articulating the joy and importance of our work in the church.

Our next event is a pastor/organist dinner hosted by Jan Duffé at Sacred Heart RC Church in Easthampton on Sunday, February

25, 2007. In spite of the title, everyone is invited with or without guests! We will gather at 5 pm for a program by the parish's children's choir and open console, and then move to the dining hall for appetizers and wine. The "Polish Kitchen" will be open for our dinner of homemade specialties. The guest speaker, Dr. Jeffers Engelhardt of Amherst College, will talk on *Conduit of the Divine, Medium of Power: Sound in World Religions*. Please return the enclosed registration form to Don Hooton as soon as possible.

Please mark your calendar for Saturday, March 24, 2007 when we will again present organist Peter Krasinski. He will accompany the epic silent film *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse* at United Congregational Church in Holyoke. If you have never heard Peter improvise to a silent film, make sure you get to this. It is simply amazing!

Planning continues for our July *Pipe Organ Encounter*. We have already received inquiries for the thirty-six slots available for teenagers and will post the brochure on our web site soon. Please download it and spread the word to your students and colleagues.

Blessings of the season and prayers of a healthy 2007 for us all!

Lary

Pastor/Organist Dinner
Sunday, February 25, 2007, 5:00pm

The Pastor/Organist dinner is an opportunity for clergy and musicians to come together to socialize and discuss any relevant issues regarding music and worship. All are members are welcome – it is not necessary to bring your Pastor! Here are the details...

Sacred Heart of Jesus Roman Catholic Church

33 Knipfer Avenue (corner of Franklin and Knipfer), Easthampton, MA,
Free parking in three lots surrounding the Church, Rectory, and School
Rev. Fr. James Sipitkowski, Pastor
E. Janet Duffé, Organist/Director of Music

Sunday, February 25, 2007, 5:00pm – 8:00pm

(Snow Date: Sunday, March 4, 2007, same time)

Evening itinerary

5:00pm	Register at Sacred Heart Church
5:10pm - 5:25pm	Children's choir program in the church, followed by open console
5:30pm – 6:00pm	Socializing, wine/cheese in the Parish Hall, basement of school building
6:15pm	Dinner
7:15pm	Guest Speaker, Jeffers Engelhardt, Professor of Music, Amherst College

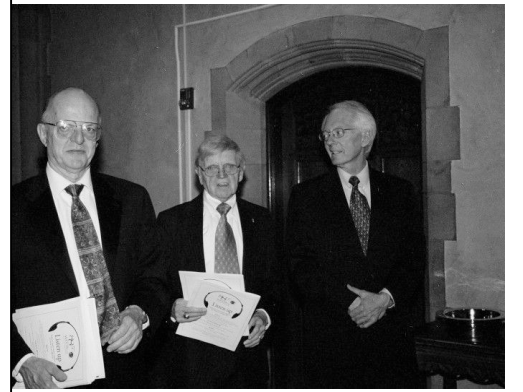
The **dinner** will include a wide selection including salad and bread, Polish delicacies (Pierogis and Golombkis), baked scrod in butter and lemon, and an Italian entrée. This meal will include complimentary white, red, and blush wines, followed by dessert with hot coffee.

Our **speaker, Dr. Jeffers Engelhardt**, will be presenting the topic “Conduit of the Divine, Medium of Power: Sound in World Religions.” Dr. Engelhardt is Andrew W. Mellon Visiting Assistant Professor of Music at Amherst College. He holds degrees from Oberlin Conservatory and the University of Chicago. His musical interests include Ethnomusicology, including Orthodox Christianity in Estonia, Finno-Ugrian popular music, and music in the post socialist world.

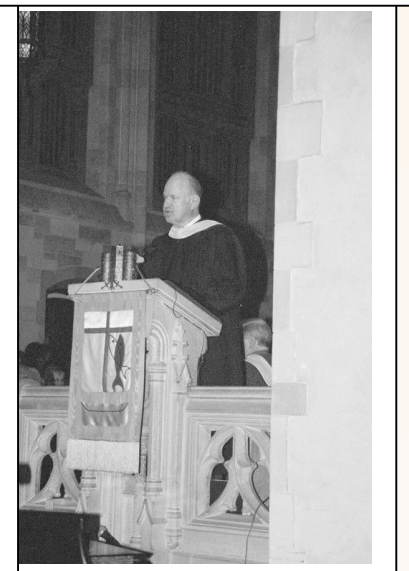
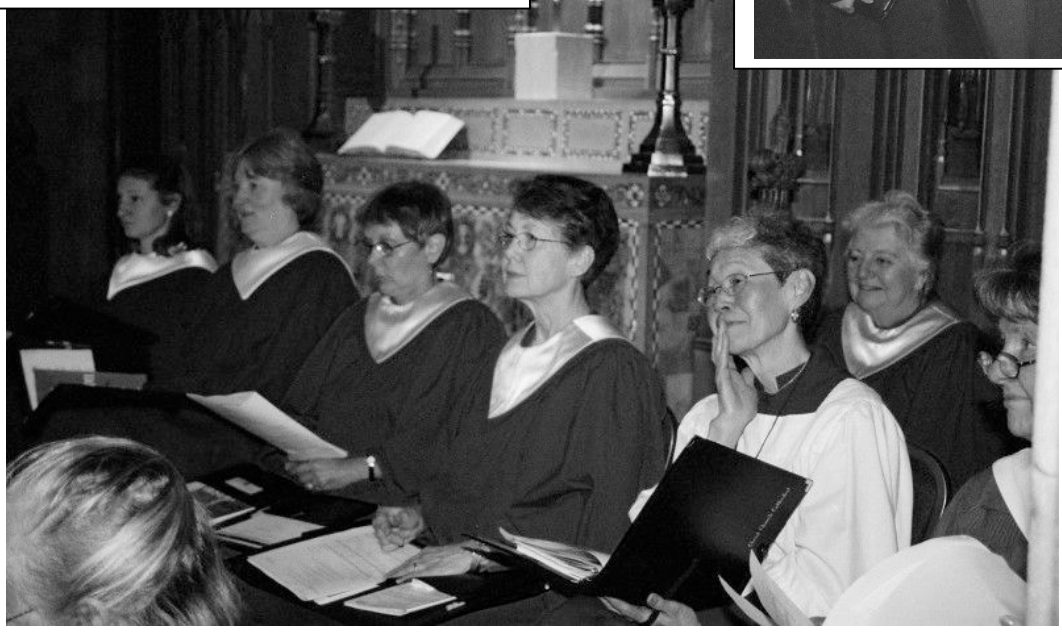
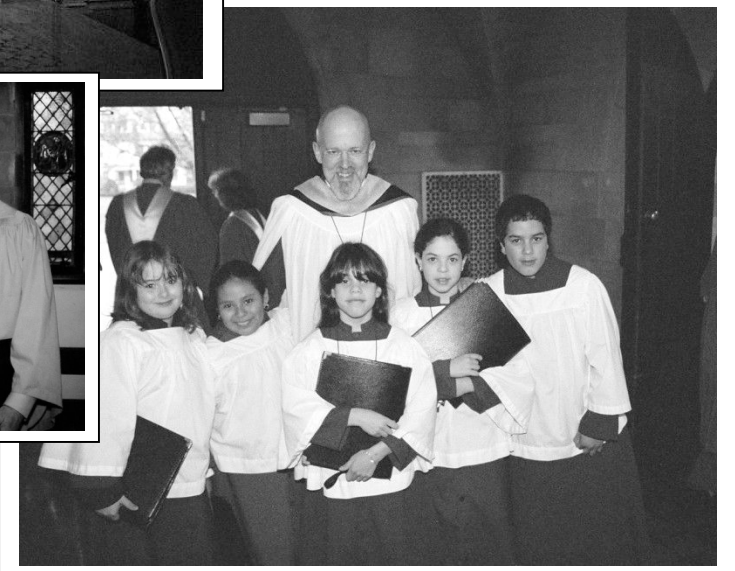
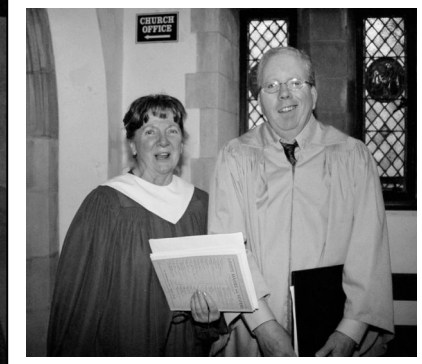
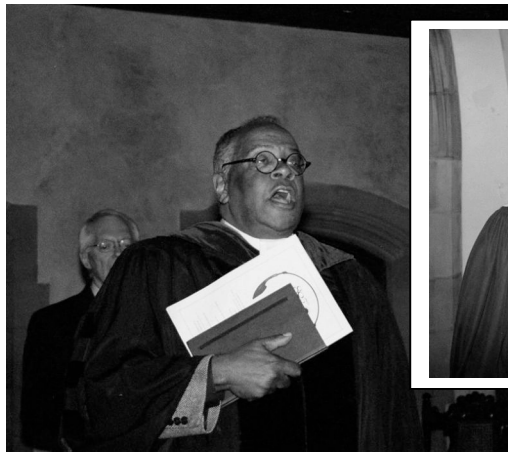
Registration: \$20 per person

Please send a check made payable to Springfield AGO, along with the names of attendees, to:
Don Hooton
43 Prospect Street
South Hadley, MA, 01075

Highlights from our 60th Anniversary Celebration!



Many thanks to all who made our 60th Anniversary Festival Service at Trinity Methodist Church a spectacular event! Here's to another 60 years!



Announcements/Notes

The **Hartford Chapter** has scheduled a **2007 AGO/Quimby Regional Competition for Young Organists**. It will be held on Saturday, March 3 beginning at 12:30 pm at Immanuel Congregational Church in Hartford. (It is presently listed on the AGO website as March 10, but it is on March 3.) The Chapter winner receives a free membership in the AGO for one year, and also competes in the Region I competition. Competitors must be under 23 years of age as of August 1, 2007. Applications must be postmarked no later than January 16, 2007. Repertoire requirements, as well as the application form and other information may be found by going to the national AGO website, click on **Competitions and New Music** and then go to **RCYO**. The instrument at Immanuel is a III/56 Austin. It does have memory levels. The church is located at the corner of Farmington Avenue and Woodland Street in Hartford. The contact person for this competition is Donald Funk (organist at Immanuel). He can be contacted at home in West Hartford at 231-8197, or via email at dfnkjr@comcast.net. Please mail the application to: Donald Funk, Immanuel Congregational Church, 10 Woodland Street, Hartford, CT 06105

The **Greater Bridgeport, Connecticut Chapter AGO** is pleased to announce and sponsor the M. Louise Miller Scholarship Award for 2007. A scholarship fund was established in 1998 to honor the life and work of Dr. M. Louise Miller, a founding member (1948) of The Greater Bridgeport AGO, and to recognize her great achievements in the fields of church music, organ playing and teaching. A \$1,000 scholarship will be awarded in May, 2007 to an undergraduate student pursuing study next autumn in an American college, conservatory or university, leading toward a career in organ performance and church music. The winner will also be invited to play a recital in Connecticut for the AGO. The application process includes writing a short essay and submitting a recording of two standard organ pieces (Bach and Romantic). Application deadline is April 1, 2007. For application, please contact the scholarship coordinator: K. Bryan Kirk, 518.793.2521, kbkirk@fpcgf.org

The early registration deadline for the **14th AGO National Conference on Organ Pedagogy** has just been extended through Friday, January 19, so there is still time to register for the event and enjoy discounted, early registration rates. The Pedagogy Conference will take place at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville on February 14-17. The theme is "Nach Bach: from the Master to Mendelssohn." Recitalists, clinicians, and attendees will have ample opportunities to explore organ music in the century after J. S. Bach's death. The center piece of the conference is the University's exciting new Richards, Fowkes & Co. organ (III/41). Bach scholar Christoph Wolff is the keynote speaker, and featured performers include David Higgs of the Eastman School of Music and Jon Laukvik of the Stuttgart Hochschule für Musik. A complete list of conference presenters and performers and a schedule of events, along with online registration and hotel information, are available online at www.ce.utk.edu/ago;. A paper registration form with additional details can be found on page 59 in the January issue of The American Organist. For further information, contact John Brock, conference chair, at jbrock@utk.edu or 865-974-7539. Registration questions may be addressed to Conferences@utk.edu or call 865-974-0280. The official hotel for the convention is the Hilton Knoxville (downtown). Reservations should be made by Jan. 15 by calling 865-523-2300, or 800-HILTONS. Be sure to mention the conference code "AGO." This is a conference that you won't want to miss, so take advantage of the extended early registration period, and submit your registration by e-mail, fax, or surface mail by Friday, January 19.

Upcoming Events

January 2007

Friday, January 12, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Music Ho! English Madrigals and Lute Songs, Arcadia Players, South Congregational Church, 1066 Southeast St., on Fiddler's Green, South Amherst, MA. From the fertile musical ground of Elizabethan England, an evening of madrigals and lute songs by John Dowland, Thomas Morley, Thomas Campion and others who set poems pastoral, amorous and philosophical, to which Ian Watson will add choice contemporary readings. www.arcadiaplayers.org

Saturday, January 13, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Music Ho! English Madrigals and Lute Songs, Arcadia Players, Caswell Library, Main School Building, Deerfield Academy, Deerfield, MA.

Sunday, January 14, 2007, 2:30 p.m.

Music Ho! English Madrigals and Lute Songs, Arcadia Players, Music Room, Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St, Holyoke MA.

February 2007

Sunday, February 11, 2007 at 3:00 p.m.

Celebrate Valentine's Day, "The Brick Church" Music Series at THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD, 71 Main Street, Deerfield, MA, presents "I Can't Give You Anything But Love". Clifton (Jerry) Noble, piano, Eileen Ruby, mezzo-soprano, and Bob Sparkman, clarinet. A well-known duo, Jerry and Bob, will play familiar improvisational favorites. Eileen joins the duo with a broad range of repertoire from classical to jazz.

Sunday, February 11, 3:00pm Music on Main Concert at First Congregational Church, 165 Main St., Amherst. Deborah Gilwood, piano & Arthur Cooke, cello. \$10.

Sunday, February 11, 2007 – 3:00pm

James David Christie, Organist. Holy Cross Chapel Artists Series, St. Joseph Memorial Chapel, College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA. The complete organ works of the great 17th century North German organist-composer, Dieterich Buxtehude are presented in a cycle of eight concerts to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the composer's death. They will be performed on the

late 17th century North German inspired Taylor & Boody organ throughout the 2006-2007 concert season by Professor James David Christie, the Holy Cross Distinguished Artist in Residence and College Organist. Free. Info: 508/793-3528 or www.holycross.edu

Tuesday, February 20, 10:30 am, Tuesday Morning Music Club, Second Congregational Church, 487 Western Avenue, Westfield. Rod Gisick, organ, Tamara Field, oboe and Marc Winer, tenor. Bach arias for tenor and oboe, Chorale preludes by Krebs and Bach, Krebs Phantasia for oboe and organ, Wolf/Reger- 3 songs from the 'Spanisches Liederspiel' (tenor, organ), Koetsier Partita for oboe d'amore and organ, Leyding chorale prelude on "Wie shoen leuchtet die Morgenstern". \$7 admission.

Saturday, February 24, 2007, 8:00 p.m.

Organ Concert by Ian Watson, "Brick Church Meetinghouse" The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Old Main Street, Deerfield MA. Music of J.S. Bach and D. Buxtehude. Pre-concert talk at 7:10 p.m. about the music and time in which it was written. A reception to meet Watson, Arcadia Players Board members and friends old and new will take place after the concert at the Caswell Library of Deerfield Academy.

Sunday, February 25, 2007, 3:00pm, Christ Congregational Church, 1350 Pleasant St, Brockton, MA, ARTS at Christ Church and the Southeast MA Chapter of the AGO present Elena Paradies, Organ, and Vytautas Tetenskas, Birbyne, in a concert of Baroque music and music of Lithuania.

Sunday, February 25, 2007, 5:00pm, Chapter Event, Pastor/Organist Dinner, Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Easthampton. \$20/person including appetizers, wine, and full dinner. See p. 2 for more information!

March 2007

Saturday, March 3, 2007, 8:00pm

Purcell Songs and Suites, Arcadia Players, Helen Hills Chapel, Smith College, 123-124 Elm St., Northampton, MA. www.arcadiaplayers.org

Sunday, March 4, 2007, 2:30pm

Purcell Songs and Suites, Arcadia Players, Music Room, Wistariahurst Museum, 238 Cabot St,

And More Events!

Holyoke, MA.

Friday March 9, 2007, 7:30pm

Special Gala Choral Concert Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of The Trinity College Chapel AMARCORD, the internationally celebrated German men's a cappella vocal ensemble. Five former choristers of the famous St. Thomas Boys Choir in Leipzig have emerged in the past few years as continental Europe's finest male a cappella ensemble. Amarcord has recently swept both classical categories in the 2006 Contemporary A cappella Recording Awards (CARA), winning both Best Classical Album and Best Classical Song.

Sunday, March 11, 2007 – 5:00pm

Lenten Series Organ Recital, Amanda Mole, All Saints Church, 10 Irving Street, Worcester. Freewill offering. Info: 508/752-3766x17 or www.allsaintsw.org

Sunday, March 18, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. "The Brick Church" Music Series at THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD, 71 Main Street, Deerfield, MA, Margarita Nuller, a brilliant Russian-born classical pianist, will amaze us with her remarkable talent at the keyboard. She continues to concertize world-wide while teaching in Connecticut.

Saturday, March 24, 2007- 10:00am

Master class with James David Christie (and update/tour of the Worcester Chapter AGO Library Cataloguing Project) St. Joseph Memorial Chapel, College of the Holy Cross.

Saturday, March 24, 2007 – 7:00pm Silent Film

AGO Event – Silent Movie, with Peter Krasinski, Organist, featuring "The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse," United Congregational Church, 395 High St. Holyoke, MA. A stunning combination of instrument and performer, and a rare opportunity to experience what movie-going life was like in the age before recorded sound. (\$8 suggested contribution)

Friday, March 30, 2007 at 7:30pm Trinity Organ Series, Trinity College Chapel, 300 Summit St, Hartford, CT. Jason Roberts, Organist. Jason Roberts is a graduate of Rice University and the Yale Institute of Sacred Music. He was finalist in the recent American Guild of Organists Improvisation Competition, and winner of the Albert Schweitzer

Organ Competition, Young Professional Division, 2005.

April 2007

Sunday, April 15, 2007 at 3:00 pm, "The Brick Church" Music Series at The First Church of Deerfield, 71 Main Street, Deerfield, MA, Robert Barney, organist and Director of Music for Trinity Episcopal Church in Concord, MA, will present an organ recital of varied repertoire on our Richards, Fowkes tracker organ, assisted by Chris Hawes, trumpeter, a well-traveled musician much in demand as a soloist. Suggested donation: \$10.00 Reception: Caswell Library, Deerfield Academy Information: Jean Pitman Turner, 413-774-2657

June 2007

June 12, 2007, 6:00pm, Springfield AGO End of Year Banquet/Cookout, Residence of Charles Page, One Bridges Road, Enfield, CT. Our closing event is also a social occasion! Join fellow AGO chapter members in welcoming the summer. Organist Amanda Mole will demonstrate the Austin residence organ.

June 24 to 27 - 2007 REGIONAL CONVENTION

The AGO Region I Convention will occur from Sunday, June 24, 2007 through Wednesday, June 27, 2007, in Providence, Rhode Island. AGO Region I members will receive a brochure with registration details before year-end. Accommodations will be at the Providence Marriott. The Convention will include recitals by Patricia Snyder, Mark Steinbach, Paul Jacobs, Brink Bush (in Middletown/Newport!), Andrew Galuska and Hope Davis, as well as a "grand finalé" recital on Wednesday, June 27 with Gillian Weir. If you need more details prior to receiving the brochure, contact the Rhode Island Chapter, Doris Alberg, Registrar, 665 Maureen Circle, Mapleville, RI 02839 dorisja@cox.net.

July 2007

July 22 – 27, 2007, Springfield Chapter AGO Pipe Organ Encounter, Smith College. For more information, contact Lary Grossman, Dean & POE Director. Stay tuned for our color brochure – coming shortly!

Positions Available

Director of Music/Organist. Sacred Heart Church, 446 Mountain Road, Box 626, Suffield, CT 06078. Phone: (860) 668-4246. Director is responsible for three weekend liturgies, seasonal celebrations, weddings and funerals. Applicant must have experience directing and training adult choir, cantors and instrumentalists; excellent keyboard and pedal board skills; knowledge of Roman Catholic Liturgy as well as a genuine willingness to grow program. Immense potential and tremendous resources in this parish of eighteen hundred families. AGO, NPM and Archdiocesan guidelines form the basis of our expectations and compensation package. This position will be open January-March 2007. Please contact Rev. Michael C. DeVito, Pastor. HLP-6796. (Posted 01/05/07)

Chorus Director, The Pioneer Valley Chordsmen (formerly the Springfield Chordsmen), a 35 member chorus, is looking for a new director. The chorus is an all male, a capella singing group that has been entertaining audiences with its appealing four part harmony for close to forty years. The group was founded in 1969, is a member of the Barbershop Harmony Society, and has won two division championships in the last ten years competing with other choruses. In addition to the competition, the chorus sings at numerous shows and charity events throughout the year. The highlight of the season is the annual November show featuring the chorus, chapter quartets and still other musical groups. The chorus wishes to improve its singing skills and become even more competitive with other barbershop choruses and is planning to increase its on stage membership to some 50 singers. At present, the chapter offers many positive qualities, including an enthusiastic leadership, a supportive membership, a well established program as well as a comfortable rehearsal hall. The **Chorus Director position** responsibilities include directing a weekly two and a half hour rehearsal on Monday evenings, 7:30pm – 10:00pm, at the K. of C. in Chicopee. Compensation is \$80 per rehearsal. For additional information, call Chuck Desmarais at 413-532-1067 or Jim McCarthy at 413-527-9009.

Chapter Yearbook Corrections

The AGO Springfield Directors and their terms should read as follows:

Michael-Thomas Gilman and Warren Hutchinson, 2007

James Barnes and Ronald Trunzo, 2008

Mary Jeanne Tash and Donald Hooton, 2009

Alcombright, Matt:

email: matt.alcombright@gmail.com

"BMus" after his name, no longer a student. Congratulations, Matt!

Gates, Richard:

email: rgates715@yahoo.com

Geehern, Joseph J. Jr.:

email: joegorganist@verizon.net

Jacobson, Mark:

104 Pondview Dr. Springfield MA 01118-1152

Springfield, MA
Chapter,
American Guild
of Organists

Chiff Chat Newsletter

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email newsletter@springfieldago.org. Submissions for the March issue are due by February 15, 2007.

If you prefer to receive an electronic copy of Chiff Chat newsletters, please let us know! Visit us on the web at www.springfieldago.org.



Celebrating 60 Years as a Chapter!

CHIFF CHAT

American Guild of Organists

Springfield, MA Chapter

R. Trunzo, Newsletter Editor

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Greenfield, MA 01301
