

THE VINE

ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH, 57 BROWN STREET, WESTON, MA 02493

DEACON VINNIE'S MESSAGE UPON HIS ORDINATION

Jesus said,
"I am the vine;
you are the
branches.

If a man remains
in me and I in him,
he will bear
much fruit."
(John 15:5)

As many of you know, I was ordained to the Holy Diaconate at my childhood parish of St. Paul in Hempstead, NY on July 20th. It was a beautiful day and I appreciate all the love and prayers I received from the St. Demetrios Community. I am blessed and excited to share that I will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood here at St. Demetrios on August 1 by His Eminence Metropolitan Methodios.

One of the very unique things about ordination in the Orthodox Church is that our ordinations can be traced back all the way to the Holy Apostles, this is called Apostolic Succession. The Orthodox Church is one of the only Body's of Christ that can say this. So, what that means is that the Bishop that ordained Fr. Nick, was ordained by another bishop that was ordained by another bishop, all the way back to the Apostles- most probably St. Andrew or St. Paul.

Ordination is one of our church's great mysteries or sacraments. The Sacrament of Holy Ordination is known as the laying on of hands in which the candidate for ordination is lead into the Altar and walked around the Holy Altar table three times. This is similar to the Orthodox Wedding service where the Bride and Groom are lead around the table with hymns being sung. The candidate then kneels in front of the Altar while everyone in the church kneels. The bishop then reads this prayer: **"The divine grace, which always heals that which is infirm and completes that which is lacking, ordains the most devout Deacon (name) to the office of Presbyter. Let us, therefore, pray for him, that the grace of the All-Holy Spirit may come upon him."** It is then in that moment that the Holy Spirit enters into the candidate and he becomes a priest. He is then vested in the Sticharion, Epitrachillon, Zone, Epimanikia, and Phelonion, the appropriate vestments of a priest, and the Bishop presents the new Priest to the community for approval.

Holy Ordination is a direct response to Christ's call to follow Him. Throughout His time on earth, Christ continuously asks us to follow Him. "Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men" He told Peter and John and James, "Follow me!" he said to Matthew the tax collector and Matthew got up and followed him, the same thing to Philip and so on. The call to follow Christ is not unique to ordained ministry- it is a call to each and every one of us to open our hearts, to let Christ in and follow in His footsteps. It is an opportunity to open our ears and minds and listen to the Will of God. Have you ever felt that yearning? Have you wondered how you can help? How can you make a difference in the Church? We are called to offer our God given talents as not only thanksgiving to God for them but also as a way to follow Christ. I would like to work together with you all to explore how we can offer more to our community, how we can assist those in need, feed hungry and visit those who are lonely. Look inside of your hearts and pray- see what you can offer and answer the question, "What does God want of me?"

For many years I wondered what God was asking of me. As a child, I always felt a great love for the church, the liturgical services, the lives of the saints, the hymns. I felt like I was being called to encounter and learn more about my faith. I struggled and prayed and debated and struggled some more with the call to serve the Church as a Priest. And after much prayer and thought, discussion with my spiritual father and the undeniable fact that I love Christ and I love to serve people and bring those people TO Christ, I decided to enter seminary and begin preparing for Holy Ordination.

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BUILDING ON OUR FAITH

BUILDING CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

As we travel over the summer months many of us are learning something quite remarkable. Greek Orthodox Christians even in locations remote from Boston are aware of and remark very positively on our new St. Demetrios Church. Often their knowl-

edge is detailed with comments on beauty of design, success of fundraising, functionality of space, acoustics, and effectiveness of value. The statement that seems to be most common and most significant is that our parish is harmonious. We

operate selflessly for the good of the church and its Christian ministries. Wow!

Obviously good reviews are not our motivation for being St. Demetrios, we just do what must be done. But, unsolicited recognition is a pleasant surprise. Let us keep the faith. Let us keep our project moving along. There are many giving opportunities still available. Even though our success in pledges made and honored is remarkable, we still have \$665,000 uncommitted new pledges. This amount will allow us to complete fundraising for the Building part of our project. New donors, increased pledges of existing donors, small donors and large named gift donors are all needed.

AS OF JUNE 30, 2015
Building Capital Campaign
Cost of building: \$8,450,000

Pledges: 412
 Pledged Amount: \$7,785,000
 Paid to Date: \$6,500,000
 Pledge Amount Sought: \$665,000

Interior Furnishings

Cost of Furnishings
\$1,024,000

Pledges: 13
 Pledged Amount: \$680,000
 Paid to Date: \$597,028
 Pledge Amount Sought: \$344,000

Available for donations are: Pulpit, Altar Throne, the Chanter's Stand and Royal Gates



ST. DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

57 Brown St.
 Weston, MA 02493
 (781) 237-5561
 (781) 237-8612 (fax)

www.stdemetriosweston.org

Fr. Nicholas Krommydas
 Proistamenos
fnick@stdemetriosweston.org

Deacon Vincent Minucci
vminucci@stdemetriosweston.org

CHURCH SECRETARY
 Cathy Smith

ST. DEMETRIOS CONNECTIONS 781-237-5561 | www.stdemetriosweston.org

Fr. Nicholas Krommydas, Pastor
Deacon Vincent Minucci, Associate Pastor
Cathy Smith, Secretary
Nicholas Korderas, Sexton
Gina Pagonis, Parish Council President
Athena Kalyvas, Philoptochos President

Bookstore, Carol Loridas
Choir, Genie Leussis, Chris Tzellas, Athena Kalyvas
Faith and Works Ministries

Brown Bag Sunday, Lydia Santangelo
 St. Demetrios Inner-City Outreach, Peter Mitsakos
 St. Nicholas Angel Tree, Nancy Savage

Hospitality/Fellowship Hour, St. Demetrios Philoptochos
Library, Cindi Dabrowski

Orthodox Life Series, James Skedros
Outreach and Evangelism, Stacey Kalivas
Philoptochos Care Ministries

Hellenic Nursing Home, Pam Brody
Prayer-Shawl, Elaine Ward
Quiltathon, Debbie Morakis
Visitations, Valerie Wiegel

Prosfora Ministry, Christina Booth
Senior Guild, Artemis Martakis
Stewardship, John McVey

YOUTH

Altar Service, Chris Kourlos
Basketball, Jack Markis
Church School, Stavroula Gurguliatos
Church School Music Director, Jane Kourtis

GOYA, Vincent Minucci
JR. GOYA, Jill Kovatsis
Greek Folk Dancing, Margaret Talmers
Greek Language School, Avra Parpos
HOPE, Donna Markis
JOY, Jill Kovatsis
OCF, Vincent Minucci

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4



CHURCH SCHOOL NEWS

We hope you are all having a blessed summer!

Our first day of Church School is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th. Please mark your calendars!

We are still in need of a few individuals who might be interested in teaching/assisting in the Church School program. If you have a love for children, patience and a strong understanding of our Faith, please contact Stavroula Gurguliatos, Church School Director, at stdemetrioschurchschool@verizon.net

PHILOTOCHOS SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Philo托chos recognizes youth with scholarships given in memory of former parishioners

On Sunday, June 21, following the Divine Liturgy, our parish honored a number of its younger members who have excelled across a wide spectrum of achievements, including scholastic, leadership, service to community, devotion to our parish, love of the arts and beyond. The Philo托chos awarded twelve scholarships given by the families of some of our community's most treasured former members to the following individuals:

Dr. Demetre/Ann Hoty Decaneas Scholarship ~ Leadership & Community Service
Chris Coclin, Needham ~ *George Washington University*

Prof. Peter V. Nychis/Caylee Nychis-Florence Scholarship ~ Life, Arts & Social Justice
Michael Razis, Newton ~ *Boston College*

Harry & Betty Rodes Scholarship ~ Active Role in the Life of our Parish
George Kokkalis, Framingham ~ *University of Hartford*

James Salas/Maria Salas Papoulias Scholarship ~ Overall Academic Performance
Melanie Anthony, Weston ~ *Chapman University*
Nicholas Gallitano, Chestnut Hill ~ *Oberlin College*
Robert Smith, Ashland ~ *Fordham University*

Nicholas & Effe Voss Scholarship ~ Leadership &

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Seating Capital Campaign **Total seats: 450** **Total cost of seats: \$225,000**

Seats Pledged: 377.5
Amount Pledged: \$188,750
Amount Paid: \$188,820
Remaining Seats: 72.5
Remaining Amount Seats: \$36,250

Parishioners have noticed that our interior furnishing have begun to arrive. Just last week, we installed the Altar Throne along with the seating for our altar servers. Very soon we shall also be installing our new Iconostasis and the pulpit is currently being designed. These are indeed very exciting times for St. Demetrios. These and more new furnishings are still available to pledge. Named gifts both large and small totaling \$344,000 are still seeking donors.

Although we have accomplished much, there is still a lot to do and more to plan. Please contact Fr. Nick (781-237-5561) or Peter Bassett (617-266-9200). Thank you.



Scholastic Performance

William Luzaitis, Wellesley ~ *St. John's University*
Christopher Stournaras, Framingham ~ *University of Rhode Island*

Cynthia Speare Zervas Scholarship ~ Excellence in Academics & Extra-Curricular

Ariana Chirban, Carlisle ~ *University of California San Diego*
Katerina Delaveris, Brookline ~ *Georgetown University Biomedical Graduate School*

Antigone Agris Scholarship ~ Devotion to Faith & Culture

Lillian Damaskos, Westwood ~ *Providence College*
Diana Katsikaris, Wellesley ~ *Endicott College*

The Scholarship Committee is chaired by Amelia Nychis. Other current members include: Athena Kalyvas, ex officio, Jean Canellos, Philippa Condakes, Amalie George, Kathy Hamilton, Carol Loridas, Helen Papoulias O'Leary, emeritus, MaryAnn Pappanikou, Nancy Agris Savage and Jenny Zannetos.

...but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity”
(1 Timothy 4:12)

YOUTH

CONTINUED FROM COVER PAGE

Over the past year, I have had the distinct honor and blessing to serve the community of St. Demetrios and I would like to thank you all for the overwhelming love and support you have shown me and my wife in that time. Having the blessing to work with your children, to help with adult education, to chant the Divine Services and with other various ministries of this great parish, I have come to know many of you. I feel welcomed here, I feel supported here and I hope that I will one day be able to offer back all that you have offered me. It is my prayer that I am able to serve this fine community for many years- journeying together on this path towards encountering Christ, and entering into a personal relationship with Him. I want you each to know that you are all in my prayers and I ask that you keep me in yours as I work to serve you.

I have to say that this community is an incredibly unique and harmonious community, one that comes together to do good work in Christ's name for the betterment of the St. Demetrios family. I think I speak for all of us here when we thank Fr. Nick for his guidance and his love for this community. I would like to thank Fr. Nick for the love that he has shown me, the guidance that he has provided me and the many lessons I have already learned from him. He has been a great mentor and teacher and I look forward to working with him for as long as God wills.

My brothers and sisters in Christ, I ask that you pray for me and if possibly to join me here at St. Demetrios on Saturday, August 1 for my ordination to the Holy Priesthood. Orthros will begin at 8:30 am with Divine Liturgy following at 9:30 am. I look forward to serving you and this fine community.

With Love in the Lord,

~ Deacon Vinnie

Spiritual Odyssey 2015

Spiritual Odyssey is an important ministry of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America in that it serves an often forgotten age bracket – our young adults. The 19-24 age group is too old for GOYA, which is geared towards High School students, yet too young to be involved in Young Professional groups. Our young adults, in this very formative part of their lives, often do not have accessible opportunities to continue to interactively experience the rich culture and faith of our heritage. Spiritual Odyssey offers young adults an exciting venue to have that experience, with a travel based itinerary centered around not only our rich Hellenic heritage, but most importantly, our Orthodox faith.

Nadia and I had the extreme blessing of being the trip leaders on this year's Ionian Village Spiritual Odyssey. We led 35 young adults from all over the country to many different spiritual sites throughout Greece. We visited Athens, Aegina, Zakynthos, Kefalonia, Kalavryta, Patras and a few other villages throughout our time there seeing countless churches and venerating some incredible saints. We had the blessing of venerating St. Nektarios, St. Dionysios and St. Gerasimos just to name a few. It was a life changing trip and one of the most special experiences of my life. I count myself truly blessed to have been able to make this pilgrimage just a few weeks before my ordination to the Diaconate. Even though the pace of the trip was grueling at times (wake up at 5 am and we wouldn't get to sleep till 2 am!!) the opportunities to discover this side of Greece and explore our faith was worth the lack of sleep!

If you are 19-24 or know someone who might be interested in this trip, go to www.ionianvillage.org for more information. I highly recommend this trip. It truly is life changing! If you have any questions or if you'd like to get more information, do not hesitate to contact me!

Ionian Village Spiritual Odyssey





PHOTOS

GOYA End of the Year BBQ



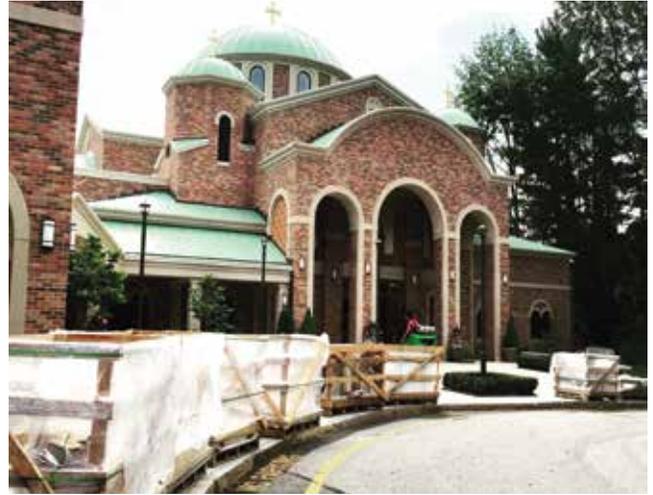
Swearing in of New Parish Council Members



Ordination of Deacon Vinnie



PHOTOS



New Church Fixtures



Church School Graduation and Scholarships





CALENDAR

AUGUST 2015

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 Deacon Vincent Minucci's Ordination to the Holy Priesthood Orthros 8:30 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 am
2 8th Sunday of Matthew	3 Paraklesis, 6 pm	4	5 Great Vespers at Holy Transfiguration, Lowell, 7 pm	6 Holy Transfiguration Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 9:30	7 Paraklesis, 6 pm	8 Learning Program, 8:30 am
9 9th Sunday of Matthew	10 Paraklesis, 6 pm	11	12 Paraklesis, 6 pm	13	14 Great Vespers at Dormition Church, Somerville, 7 pm	15 Dormition of the Theotokos Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 9:30 Nursing Home
16 10th Sunday of Matthew	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 11th Sunday of Matthew	24	25	26	27	28	29 Beheading of St. John the Baptist Orthros 9 am Divine Liturgy 9:30
30 13th Sunday of Matthew	31 Parish Council, 7 pm					

STEWARDSHIP & PHILOPTOCHOS



PHILOPTOCHOS

Dear Philoptochos Members,

I hope that you are enjoying the summer months with your family and friends.

At the General Assembly Meeting on Wednesday, May 13, the following were elected to serve on the 2017-2017 Saint Christine Philoptochos Board:

Jenn Brody	Gena Liacopulos
Pamela Brody	May Lau
Evangeline Calivas	Artemis Martakis
Kathy Damaskos	Olga Calivas Newkirk
Susan Denn	MaryAnn Pappanikou
Athena Kalyvas	Matina Pappas
Eugenia Kourlos	Stephanie Skedros
Presbyteria Elaine	Nikki Stournaras
Krommydas	Valerie Wiegel

The Election of Officers will take place in August.

National Philoptochos Children's Medical Fund Luncheon

The 15th Children's Medical Fund Luncheon is being hosted by the Metropolis of Boston Philoptochos and will take place in Boston, Massachusetts on Saturday, October 31, 2015 at the Renaissance Boston Waterfront Hotel.

During the luncheon, grants will be awarded to hospitals, universities and programs that benefit children throughout the Metropolis of Boston in Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and parts of Connecticut. The remaining funds will be distributed to programs throughout the United States at the 2016 National Philoptochos Biennial Convention. Since its inception in 1989, the Children's Medical Fund has distributed close to \$3 million in grants across the United States. For more information, please contact Athena Kalyvas at (781) 718-5264 (cell) or at adkalyvas@gmail.com.

Please continue to enjoy the remaining weeks of summer. We look forward to seeing you in September!

Warmest regards,

Athena Kalyvas, President

STEWARDSHIP CORNER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

By now, many of you have received your Stewardship Statement for January through May. We are now at the midpoint of our calendar year, and we have already had such an amazing and blessed year. We recently celebrated our annual golf tournament and our Greek Festival. These functions provide us with opportunities for social interaction and also opportunities to share our time and talents. Many other opportunities lie ahead to share our time and talents and I look forward to speaking with you and working together to identify how you might best be able to help.

Then there is our treasure. As you can see, the interior of our church is steadily being filled with our new permanent liturgical fixtures. None of this would be possible without the generosity of each and everyone of you; however, there are so many expenses connected with simply keeping the doors of our church open in order to minister to all of our needs.

I ask that each of us look at how Christ has blessed us thus far this year. We have all made our financial commitment to our church, but has Christ blessed you even more this year? Is it possible that you can offer even more to help our beloved church address its short and long term expenses and goals? Together, we can, and through God's prayers, will ensure the strength and integrity of our church so that it can provide many, many more years of ministry to us, our children and our children's children.

Finally, I want to address the deeper aspects of our Stewardship commitment. I trust that each of us has access to the Daily Scriptural Readings provided by the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America (www.goarch.org). It is imperative that we dedicate some portion of each day to reading scripture, prayer and meditation upon His Word. In this way we will confirm that God is first place in our lives and also ensure our steady growth as Orthodox Christians so we can continue to develop right understanding that will lead us to the insights necessary for navigating this world.

I wish you all a glorious remainder of the summer filled with family and friends dedicated to the word Christ has entrusted to each and everyone of us.

God bless,

John McVey, Stewardship Chair



The Dormition of the Theotokos

The Feast of the Dormition of Our Most Holy Lady, the Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary is celebrated on August 15 each year. The Feast commemorates the repose (dormition and in the Greek *kimisis*) or "falling-asleep" of the Mother of Jesus Christ, our Lord. The Feast also commemorates the translation or assumption into heaven of the body of the Theotokos. The Holy Scriptures tell us that when our Lord was dying on the Cross, He saw His mother and His disciple John and said to the Virgin Mary, "Woman, behold your son!" and to John, "Behold your mother!" (John 19:25-27). From that hour, the Apostle took care of the Theotokos in his own home.

Along with the biblical reference in Acts 1:14 that confirms that the Virgin Mary was with the Holy Apostles on the day of Pentecost, the tradition of the Church holds that she remained in the home of the Apostle John in Jerusalem, continuing a ministry in word and deed.

At the time of her death, the disciples of our Lord who were preaching throughout the world returned to Jerusalem to see the Theotokos. Except for the Apostle Thomas, all of them including the Apostle Paul were gathered together at her bedside. At the moment of her death, Jesus Christ himself descended and carried her soul into heaven.

Following her repose, the body of the Theotokos was taken in procession and laid in a tomb near the Garden of Gethsemane. When the Apostle Thomas arrived three days after her repose and desired to see her body, the tomb was found to be empty. The bodily assumption of the Theotokos was confirmed by the message of an angel and by her appearance to the Apostles.



*By the Grace of God
and through the laying on of hands by*

*His Eminence
Metropolitan Methodios of Boston*

the servant of God

Deacon Vincent J. Minucci

will be ordained to the Holy Priesthood on

Saturday August 1, 2015

at

*Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church
57 Brown Street • Weston, MA*

Orthros 8:30 AM • Divine Liturgy 9:30 AM

Your presence and prayers are humbly requested.

A celebratory reception will follow in the church hall.



Event to Celebrate Longtime Parishioner Pam Manikas Washek Slated for October 18



Pam's Run, a road race and walk to honor the memory and legacy of Neighbor Brigade co-founder Pam Manikas Washek, will take place on Sunday, October 18, in Wayland. Pam was a long-time parishioner of St. Demetrios and the daughter of our former priest, Nicholas Manikas. The money raised from the event will support the organization's programs and expansion to meet the demand

for its services. To register for the walk/run, please visit www.pamsrun.com. Once you register, a fundraising page will be created for you automatically. So, please consider forming a team. If you are interested in corporate or private sponsorship opportunities, please contact Stephanie Lawrence at Stephanie@neighborbrigade.org or Joanna Manikas at jmanikas@verizon.net.



New Parish Council Executive Board

We are pleased to announce the new officers for our Parish Council Executive Board for the 2015-2016 year. We pray that they will guide and serve our parish well!

- President: Gina Pagonis
- Vice President: Georgia Geftas
- Treasurer: Dimitri Georgakopoulos
- Assistant Treasurer: James Houhoulis
- Secretary: Thomas Camp



NEWS FROM THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE

BOOK OF THE MONTH:

Reflections on the Lord's Prayer
by Daniel J. Sahas

This book offers a fresh perspective on a timeless prayer, whose depth and wisdom no volume could ever exhaust. Professor Sahas does a splendid job of unpacking this unique prayer, verse by verse, and connects the praying person with God and with other people. This Prayer given to us by Jesus Christ teaches us how to pray, when to pray, why to pray, and to whom to pray.

We have set aside this book in our Recommendation Shelf.

We invite you to come and visit the parish library and see how much we have grown thanks to the recent donations from our parishioners. The library is staffed every Sunday after Liturgy and Thursday mornings. However, you are welcomed to visit the library when the Church office is opened. As outlined in the Library Policies and Procedures please fill out both cards and leave the orange card in the metal box. Date is the month and year when you borrow the book. This will help us to keep track of our books.

Remember, this library is for you and your family.



DAILY READINGS APP

The Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America has developed and released a Daily Readings App for iOS and Android. It offers the daily Epistle and Gospel readings of the day as well as the saints that are commemorated on that day. Furthermore, it offers prayers, dates of future Feast Days and fasting guidelines. It's a great resource that is offered by our Archdiocese. Sign into your app store and download it today!





ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS

Altar flowers were generously donated by the following parishioners:

June 7

In memory of James Condakes by his family.

June 14

Helen Nayar, in loving memory of her parents and brother.

June 21

Jane Bouyoukas, in loving memory of her son, Nicholas

Chris Karys, in loving memory of his wife, Katina.

July 12

In memory of Benjamin Brody by his family.

Angelika Giovannes, in loving memory of her husband, Nicholas

July 19

Despina Doulos Ayers and Charles Doulos, in loving memory of their mother, Irene Doulos.

BAPTISMS

The daughter of Sophocles and Renee Sophocles was baptized on Sunday, June 7th, and named Eleni Ann. The sponsor was George Sophocles.

The daughter of William and Elizabeth Triant was baptized on Saturday, July 25th, and named Laurel Eleanor. The sponsors were Virginia Triant and Craig Estes.

The son of Peter and Alees Poulakis was baptized on Sunday, July 26th, and named George Magzarian. The Sponsor was Elena Poulakis.

FUNERALS

Basil Kaloyanides of Highland Beach, FL, June 4th.

Paul Stanton of Framingham, June 11th

George Peter Katsikaris of Weston, June 27th.

Nicholas Macaronis of Weston, June 30th

Bradner Littlehale of Dover, July 6th

May their memory be eternal!

WEDDINGS

Patrick Shaw and Alexandra Bassett were united in marriage on Saturday, June 13th. The sponsor was Laura Misbach.

Nickolas Nohos and Christina Krommydas were united in marriage on Sunday, July 12th. The sponsor was Manole Saviolakis.

Peter Gavrilles and Christine Sarmatzis were united in marriage on Saturday, July 25th. The sponsors were Stacy Gigante and David DiMinico.



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WESTON, MA 02493

