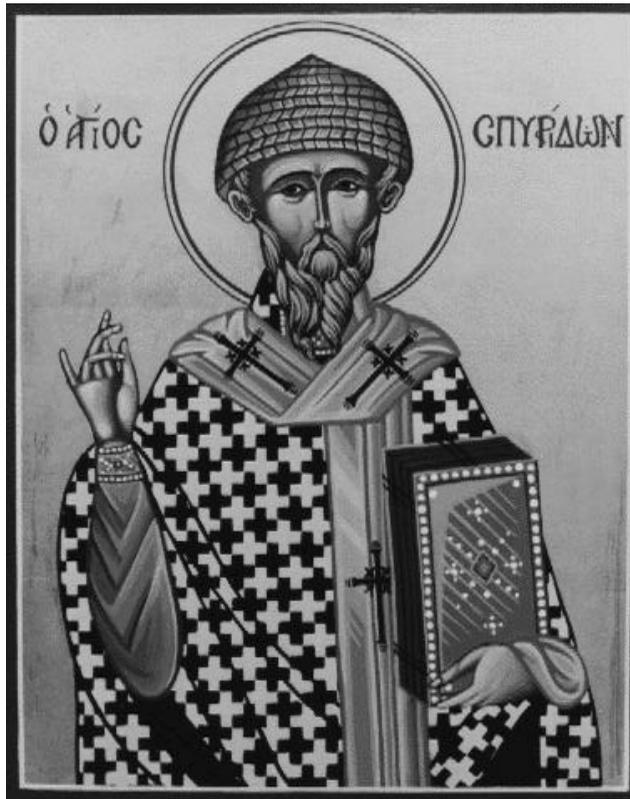

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JUNE 2005



Saint Spyridon Greek Orthodox Church
PO Box 427
Newport, RI 02840
tel: (401) 846-0555, fax: (401) 841-0960
www.stspyridonchurch.org



SAINT SPYRIDON GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH
www.stspyridonchurch.org

Reverend Presbyter Anthony Evangelatos
franthy@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest: Tuesday– Friday, 9 am– 3 pm

Church secretary, Ellen Anagnostos: Tuesday & Thursday, 9 am– 1 pm

Parish Council President: Steven Mellekas

Chanters: George Spiratos

Basile Panoutsopoulos

Choir Director: Paul Cotsoridis

Organist: Jane Iandolo

Religious Education : Marianne Menas

Stewardship: Zoe Adamedes

Philoptochos President: Zinovia Canale

Acolytes: Team A– Nick Mellekas

Team B– James Canale

GOYA President: James Canale

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

Greek School:

Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Bulletin: Aliko Cooper (alikooper@yahoo.com)

Affiliated Organizations

AHEPA President: Basile Panoutsopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President:

Stella Volpicelli

Island of Skiathos Organization:

Christina Rua

SERVICE TIMES

Sunday Summer Hours Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9 am

Wednesdays Vespers (or Small Paraklesis on
 last Wednesday of month) 7 pm*

Saturdays Great Vespers 6 pm*

Festal celebrations in the week:

Vespers– 7 pm*

Orthros– 9 am

Divine Liturgy– 10 am

* Note: Holy Confession is available each Saturday after vespers, after Wednesday or other evening services (when there are no adult classes), and during office hours by appointment.

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER ANTHONY

Later this month, we will be celebrating the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the Church, on the great day of Pentecost. It is difficult for us to grasp the reality of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church, simply because He is not visible. We cannot see nor touch the Holy Spirit, so we struggle to understand His power and omnipresence. The reality though, it that the Spirit is truly present everywhere, and gives life and breath to everything, most especially the Church.

St. Basil the Great has written a wonderful treatise titled, "*On the Holy Spirit.*" Chapter 9 is titled, "*Distinctive ideas concerning the Spirit which follow the teachings of Scripture*" (the translation used here: St. Vladimir's Seminary Press, New York, 1980). He starts out this chapter by saying, "*We shall now examine what kinds of ideas about the Spirit we hold in common, as well as those which we have gathered from the Scriptures, or received from the unwritten tradition of the Fathers.*"

St. Basil then gives the following description of the Holy Spirit: "*First of all, who can listen to the Spirit's titles and not be lifted up in his soul? Whose thoughts would not be raised to contemplate the supreme nature? He is called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, right Spirit, willing Spirit. His first and most proper title is Holy Spirit, a name most especially appropriate to everything which is incorporeal, purely immaterial, and indivisible.*" These words alone begin to draw our attention to the supreme holiness of the Holy Spirit, whose source is God the Father. St. Basil goes on to say, "*When we hear the word 'spirit' it is impossible for us to conceive of something whose nature can be circumscribed or is subject to change or variation, or is like a creature in any way. Instead, we are compelled to direct our thoughts on high, and to think of an intelligent being, boundless in power, of unlimited greatness, generous in goodness, whom time cannot measure.*"

St. Basil continues his description of the Holy Spirit with these most eloquent, poetic terms: "*All things thirsting for holiness turn to Him; everything living in virtue never turns away from Him. He waters them with His life-giving breath and helps them reach their proper fulfillment. He perfects all other things, and Himself lacks nothing; He gives life to all things, and is never depleted. He does not increase by additions, but is always complete, self-established, and present everywhere.*"

Upon hearing these words, we should be awestruck as we meditate on the multiple gifts of the Holy Spirit, which we received through Holy Chrismation after being baptized. St. Basil's description continues: "*He is the source of sanctification, spiritual light, who gives illumination to everyone using His powers to search for the truth – and the illumination He gives is Himself. His nature is unapproachable; only through His goodness are we able to draw near it.*" These words clearly illustrate the power of Holy Chrismation. To make use of these gifts granted through Chrismation, however, one must have faith, as St. Basil goes on to say: "*He fills all things with His power, but only those who are worthy may share it. He distributes His energy in proportion to the faith of the recipient, not confining it to a single share.*"

When we are chrismated, we undergo our own personal Pentecost, sharing in this original outpouring of the Holy Spirit which can never be depleted. St. Basil concludes his description by speaking of the multiple outpourings of the Spirit: "*He is simple in being; His powers are manifold: they are wholly present everywhere and in everything He is distributed but does not change. He is shared, yet remains whole. Consider the analogy of the sunbeam: each person upon whom its kindly lights falls rejoices as if the sun existed for him alone, yet it illumines land and sea, and is master of the atmosphere. In the same way, the Spirit is given to each one who receives Him as if He were the possession of that person alone, yet He sends forth sufficient grace to fill all the universe. Everything that partakes of His grace is filled with joy according to its capacity – the capacity of its nature, not of His power.*"

Beloved in Christ, hopefully you have been uplifted by these spiritually edifying comments of St. Basil, as we approach the holy day of Pentecost. I pray that the Holy Spirit may continue to sanctify each and every one of us, and to guide us in our spiritual lives, as we continue our journey to eternal life in the next world.

Christ is risen!

+Fr. Anthony

PARISH COUNCIL & CHOIR HONOR PAUL COTSORIDIS

On Sunday, May 22nd, Paul Cotsoridis was honored with a luncheon, in recognition of 50 years of service as the choir director of St. Spyridon. The luncheon was co-hosted by the parish council and choir; however, the invitations which were mailed out, inadvertently listed only the parish council as the host. In addition, there was a problem with the post office regarding the mailing of the invitations, so therefore, some parishioners did not receive the invitation in time. We apologize for these oversights. Our entire parish family congratulates and thanks Paul for his 50 years of service!

SUNDAY SUMMER HOURS BEGIN

Please remember that we begin summer hours **on Sunday, 6/5**. Orthros begins at 7:45 am, followed by the Divine Liturgy at 9:00 am. Please remember that feast days during the week are celebrated at the same time throughout the year: Orthros 9:00 am, Divine Liturgy 10:00 am. In addition, vespers on weekdays are always at 7:00 pm, and Saturday vespers at 6:00 pm throughout the year.

GOODBYE AND THANK YOU

Our parish bids farewell to the Johnston family who will be relocating to the South. We are happy to see Emily doing so much better after her diagnosis of leukemia last year, and we also wish Elizabeth well during her pregnancy. We especially express our gratitude to the Johnstons' for their most generous gift of four brand new highchairs for our parish hall. May the Lord bless them all and keep them in good health.

NEW ST. SPYRIDON BANNER

The entire Parkos family has made a memorial donation of a hand-crafted banner of St. Spyridon, in memory of Fr. Carl Vouros. The banner, created by the nuns of Holy Protection Monastery in Weatherly, PA, features a hand-written Byzantine icon of St. Spyridon, placed on a burgundy velvet banner decorated with crosses and a grapevine in gold and silver thread. We express our gratitude to all of the Parkos' for this beautiful and meaningful gift, honoring the memory of our beloved Fr. Carl of blessed memory.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

(The following is taken from *The Orthodox Church: 455 Questions and Answers*, by Fr. Stanley Harakas, Light & Life Publishing Co. 1987)

“Can you explain the connection between Christ and His Church and those pins that they put on babies that have an eye on them? What is the power of that pin?”

“The pin with an eye on it is a very wide-spread and ancient practice related to the belief in the evil eye. This belief holds that some people, consciously or unconsciously, cause misfortune or injury to come upon others when they look or stare at them. Since babies are frequently admired and praised, some parents seek to protect them with such pins. The pin, usually blue in color, with the image of an eye on it, is believed to repel the bad consequences of the evil eye...In my judgment, both those who accept the evil eye as true and those who do not (even though they recognize the power of evil at work in the world), should not focus their attention on beads and amulets, etc., but on Christ as the victor over evil. The Christian who trusts in Christ needs no ‘beads with eyes’ to protect him and those he loves. Christ and His cross are all that is needed.”

“Why don’t some priests allow you to kiss their hands?”

“The practice of kissing the priest’s hand is in the same category of liturgical acts as the reverencing of the holy icons and the cross. The Orthodox Church explains that when we kiss an icon or the cross, we are not worshipping or adoring the wood, paint, metal, etc., of which they are formed, but that which they represent. So it is with kissing the priest’s hand. This act is a liturgical act through which we show respect, not so much for the individual priest as a person, as we do for the priesthood in general and sacramental life of the Church which its existence makes possible...In fact, the practice of kissing the priest’s hand is meaningful only within the framework of our Orthodox understanding of the Church and its sanctifying work. When, other, alien ideas enter into consideration, both clergy and laity have departed from the essence of the matter, and we begin to make changes. The best response is to return to the true meaning of the practice. Then, it will no longer be an issue for us.”

“Dear Father, what is the purpose and significance of ‘Koliva’?”

“‘Koliva’ is the name given to the mixture of boiled wheat, sugar and other ingredients (such as raisins, almonds and spices) which are presented at Memorial Services...It is traditional for members of the congregation as they eat the Koliva to say, ‘May God forgive him/her!’ Wheat early became a symbol of the resurrection which we expect, based on Christ’s word, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit’ (John 12:24). Thus, the wheat becomes a symbol of what we confess to be our faith in the Creed: ‘I expect the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.’ The sugar is added as a prayer that the deceased’s resurrection will be a sweet one and pleasant one. Thus, the Koliva are a symbol of our faith and prayer for the beloved deceased person. It is especially significant because each person shares in the symbol not only as part of the service, but also through consuming some of the Koliva, and offering a personal prayer for the deceased.”

HELLENIC FEST 2005— JULY 29, 30, 31

The Parish Council is seeking volunteers to lead the various areas of the pre-festival functions. Please call the church office or see any member of the parish council to volunteer for leading one of the following important areas:

1. Raffle
2. Publicity
3. Food/Product Ordering
4. Food Workshop Coordinator
5. Pastry Workshop Coordinator
6. Cultural Marketplace Ordering
7. Taverna (Ordering and bar servers)
8. Volunteers Coordinator
9. Loukoumades
10. Set-up and Breakdown/Cleanup

Once enough volunteers have been secured, meeting dates will be publicized.

JUNE 2005

Sunday Summer

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
			1 Small Vespers 7 pm	2
			<i>(fast day)</i>	
5 6th Sun. of Pascha, Sun. of the Blind Man (summer hours begin) Altar Team B	6	7	8 Leave-taking of Pascha, Orthros 10 am; Vespers of the Ascension, 7 pm <i>(fast day – fish, wine & olive oil permitted)</i>	9 The As Orthros
12 The Holy Fathers of the 1st Ecumenical Council Altar Team A	13	14	15 (No vespers) <i>(fast day)</i>	16
				Father A
19 Sunday of Pentecost (visiting priest) Altar Team B	20 Monday of the Holy Spirit (no services)	21	22 (No vespers)	23
			<i>No fasting during week of Pentecost-</i>	
			Father Anthony on vacation	
26 Sunday of All Saints (visiting priest) Altar Team A	27	28	29 The Holy Apostles Peter & Paul (no services)	30 The Sy 12 Apr Lit.
			<i>Fast of the Holy Apostles—no animal products; fish, wine & olive oil permitted</i>	
	Father Anthony on vacation			

s Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9 am

Fri

Sat

3

4

Great Vespers 6 pm

(fast day)

10

11

Great Vespers 6 pm

Our Lord,

(fast day)

17

18

(No vespers)

(fast day)

in vacation

24

25

(No vespers)

is permitted

the Holy
Orthros &

Upcoming Events

June 5— Last day of Religious Education Luncheon after Liturgy

June 6— Little Lambs Lunch

June 7— Parish Council Meeting, 7 pm

June 13— Soup Kitchen at St. Spyridon

June 19— Greek School end of year luncheon after Liturgy

Regular Events

Children’s Greek School— Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 4-6 pm (on break for the summer)

Adult Greek School— Mondays, 5-6 pm (on break for the summer)

Religious Education— Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion (on break for the summer)

Holy Confession— available after Saturday Vespers or other evening services and during office hours by appointment

FILM FESTIVAL NEWS

Mark your calendars. The fifth annual St. Spyridon Orthodox Christian Film Festival will be on Saturday, July 9. Come and partake of the assorted amateur videos submitted for competition as well as Greek Orthodox Telecom videos (time permitting). Welcoming fellowship begins at 10:00 AM. Snacks are provided and then a luncheon will follow the videos. At about 1:30 PM we will announce prize winners and then at 2:00 PM we will begin to make our way down towards the Black Pearl where the crew of the 75 foot schooner Madeleine will be awaiting our arrival for a 90 minute sail to begin at 2:30 PM sharp. All activities are free. For more information see:

<http://www.stspyridonchurch.org/filmfestival/>

LITTLE LAMBS GROUP NEWS

The Little Lambs Group's final meeting before the summer will be lunch together on Monday, June 6th at Mama Leone's Pizza Restaurant on Connell Highway at 11:30. Please email Aliko Cooper at alikooper@yahoo.com if you plan to come so we know how many to expect.

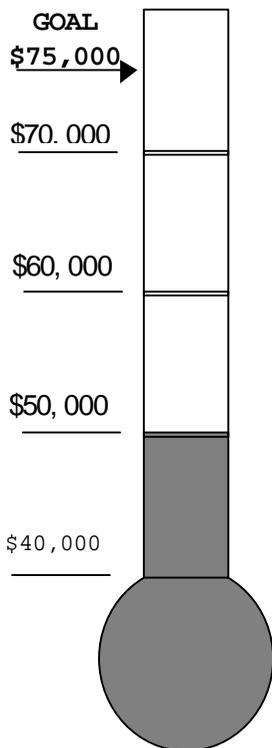
The Little Lambs Group would like to thank everyone who generously donated items during our toy drive. The toys will be much appreciated by the children at Child and Family Services and we appreciate the support from the church.

All of the Moms in the group would also like to thank Vivian Mateer who was so dedicated in starting this group and single-handedly keeping it running since its first meeting in October. She provided food and crafts for each meeting and generally inspired us all with her enthusiasm. We wish her and her family good luck in their move to England and want them to know how much they will be missed.

RETIREE LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

We wish to thank our organist, Jane Iandolo, for her wonderful presentation on growing a "kitchen garden," and for the delicious meal she provided at the May gathering. We will be taking a break for the summer months, and will resume our monthly event in the fall. Please join us then!

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP



A sincere “thank you” to all who have filled out and returned their Stewardship Pledge cards! So far, the pledges towards the work of St. Spyridon’s total nearly \$50,000. This is a great start, but we still have a long way to go to reach our Stewardship goal of \$75,000. Remember, it is NOT necessary to include your total pledge with your pledge card. So take the time to send in your pledge card today!

PENNIES FOR EDUCATION

Little Hattie Wiatt faithfully attended Sunday School until she became ill. Following her death, fifty-seven pennies were found wrapped in a note and stuck in her red pocketbook. The note read: "To help build the little Temple bigger so that more children can go to Sunday School." Hattie had saved her pennies for nearly two years to build a Sunday School large enough for all the children who wanted to attend. Newspapers publicized Hattie's story and within five years, Hattie's fifty-seven pennies, like the loaves and fishes, had grown to \$250,000. Pastor Russell Conwell used the pennies as the catalyst to raise more money to build the Baptist Temple in Philadelphia. From that great church sprang Temple University, one of the nation's strongest educational institutions. A little girl gave what she could to Jesus, and He used it magnificently.

- Walter B. Knight

SOUP KITCHEN COMMITTEE UPDATE

Thanks once again to all those who helped with the May Soup Kitchen. We had a great turn out of guests and volunteers. Thanks to all who contributed food items and their time. Our guests enjoyed the meal and our hospitality! Special thanks to Rose Apostal for donating all of the fruit for last month's soup kitchen.

The next soup kitchen is scheduled for Monday, June 13. Those able to bring a dessert, cook, set up, serve, or clean up are asked to contact Presv. Themmi at 847-1558. Again, thank you to everyone for your support!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Dear Families,

Our academic year of 2004-2005 is coming to a close. Our last day luncheon is scheduled for June 5, 2005. We will be giving out certificates to those children only receiving a perfect attendance award. Also, we have two graduating seniors this year who will be getting certificates from the Metropolis of Boston. The two seniors are James Canale and Carissa Borodemos. We wish them luck at college next year! We wish everyone a wonderful summer vacation and the new academic year will start in September.

The Religious Education Department

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The next parish council meeting will take place Tuesday, June 7, 2005 @ 7:00. Items discussed at the May meeting were:

1. Building maintenance- repairing of the roof, repairing of the sidewalk(Brewer St.), removal of the metal cross.
2. Discussion on the memorandum of stewardship prepared by Zoe Adamedes
3. Preparation of the Hellenic Fest- please note upcoming meetings, involvement is imperative for the promotion of the church community

Please feel free to contact anyone on the parish council for further questions.

Steven J. Mellekas
Parish Council President

GREEK SCHOOL

The St. Spyridon Greek School program is nearing the completion of another successful year. On June 19th it will hold its end of year celebration at the Church Hall after Liturgy. We invite everyone to join us. We are currently planning the program for the next school year starting in September. If you have school age children that are interested in attending please contact Mrs. Loula Eliopoulos, or Evangelos Giannopoulos (782-9457). In addition adult classes are held by Basile Panoutsopoulos. Please contact Basile directly if you are interested. It is important for us to know so we can prepare appropriately.

METROPOLIS CAMP NEWS

Check your calendars for Saturday, October 1 and Sunday, October 2. We are going to the Metropolis Camp in the beautiful pine forests of New Hampshire! From hiking, canoeing, and campfire camaraderie to lakeside Bible studies and the Divine Liturgy in the beautiful, new, wooden camp chapel, there are many things to do at the camp in Contoocook, NH (about a 2.5 hour drive). Learn all about it by going to

<http://www.boston.goarch.org/youthoffice/bdc/>

We will plan on arriving there at midday on Saturday and leaving around midday on Sunday. There is no cost for either the accommodations or the meals however a free will offering is suggested. Non-Orthodox users of the camp pay \$35 a night and \$10 a day for meals.

Speak to Father Anthony, Marianne Menas or Michael Sisak if you have questions or would like to sign up to go.

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS

The Newport Hellenic Dancers started their practices again in May. Our focus for the next two months is performing at the festival. In addition to teaching the children that participated last year, we also started a second class to teach new members. There is still time to join us if you want to participate and dance at the Hellenic Festival. We have a rich program with many new dances from all over Greece. Our next practice will be held on June 5th after Liturgy. A more detailed schedule will be provided at that time. Please contact Evangelos or Xanthoula Giannopoulos at 782-9457 for more details.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE

The Daughters of Penelope would like to thank everyone who came to our Palm Sunday Fish Dinner and also bought tickets for our raffle. Our proceeds have been sent to Penelope House for Abused Women and their Children in Mobile AL and the Sylvester (Papanicolaou) Cancer Center in Florida. We are so grateful for your generosity!

The next meeting will be held at our June function which has yet to be determined. All members will be sent details as soon as they are available. Election of officers will take place at that time.

IN OUR PARISH

50th Anniversary: *Constantine (Gus) & Joanne Hologgitas* will be celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on June 19th, which this year is the Sunday of Pentecost. Please wish them well during the coffee hour. We congratulate them, and pray that they have many more years together!

Birth: A baby girl was born to *Anthony & Julia Moisiades* on 5/25, and was named *Antonia Eleni*. We congratulate the parents and the proud grandparents, parishioners *Kostas & Eleni Moisiades*.

Baptism: *Hannah Elizabeth Gianetis*, daughter of Tom & Gina Gianetis and granddaughter of Costas & Garnet Gianetis, was baptized on 5/15, and was given the name *Anna*. Her sponsor is Pam Houlihan. May she live many years!

Deaths: *Boyce Connally*, father of Tom Connally, fell asleep in the Lord during Holy Week in California. We pray for the repose of his soul, and for comfort to Tom, Annie and their children.

Rose (Triantafilia) Spotts, sister of Koula Tsaparas, fell asleep in the Lord on 5/13 in Florida. She is survived by her husband and children. We pray for eternal rest for her soul, and comfort for Koula.

Catherine (Bishop) Kennedy fell asleep in the Lord on 5/16 and was buried on 5/20. We extend our condolences to her husband Earl and their children, as well as to the entire Bishop family. May her memory be eternal!

Marriages: *Brian Teusink & Alexandra Korolenko*, daughter of parishioners Kyrill & Svetlana Korolenko, were married on 5/8. Their sponsor is Olga Spilewsky. Many years to both of them!

Christopher Keefe & Stacey Krones, daughter of Peter & Deborah Krones, were married on 5/22. Their sponsors are Stacey's grandmother, Christine Krones, and Stacey's godfather and uncle, Tommy Krones. Many years to the couple!

<p><i>In loving memory of</i> <i>Gredo Vincent Volpicelli</i></p>	<p>Order of AHEPA Maud Howe Elliott Chapter No. 245 Daughters of Penelope Ares Chapter Number 49</p>	<p>Mel's Cafenio 25 Broadway Newport 849-6420</p>
<p><i>With compliments of...</i> Dr. Joanne and Mr. C. Gus Hologgitas</p>	<p>Aquidneck Pizza Breakfast ? Lunch ? Dinner 27 Aquidneck Avenue Middletown Take out orders: 849-3356 Daily 7am-12am, Fri & Sat 7am-2am</p>	<p><i>✍</i> Tommy's <i>✍</i> Deluxe Diner 159 East Main Road Middletown 847-9834 Established in 1936</p>
<p>Nikolas Pizza 38 Memorial Blvd West Newport 849-6611</p>	<p>Astro Construction Inc. PO Box 522 Portsmouth, RI (401) 683-9120 Established 1954</p>	<p>CODDINGTON BREWING COMPANY 210 Coddington Highway Middletown 847-6690</p>
<p>Compliments of the ATLANTIC BEACH CLUB 53 Purgatory Road Middletown 847-2750</p>	<p>A-1 Pizza 306 Broadway Newport Free Delivery 849-2213</p>	<p>Rhea's Bed & Breakfast <i>Accommodations with jacuzzi's available!</i> 120 West Main Road Middletown 841-5560</p>
<p><i>Compliments of</i> Island of Skiathos Organization Established 1967</p>	<p>Flo's Drive-In <i>Portsmouth</i> Flo's Clam Shack <i>Over Flo's</i> <i>Middletown</i> <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p>	<p>The Mainstay Inn 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road Newport 849-9880</p>
<p>ELLAS Greek and American music We play all types of functions. Call Andy. (978) 532-0771</p>	<p><i>Compliments of</i> A Friend</p>	<p>Sandwich Board Deli 397 Thames St. Newport, RI 849-5358</p>



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