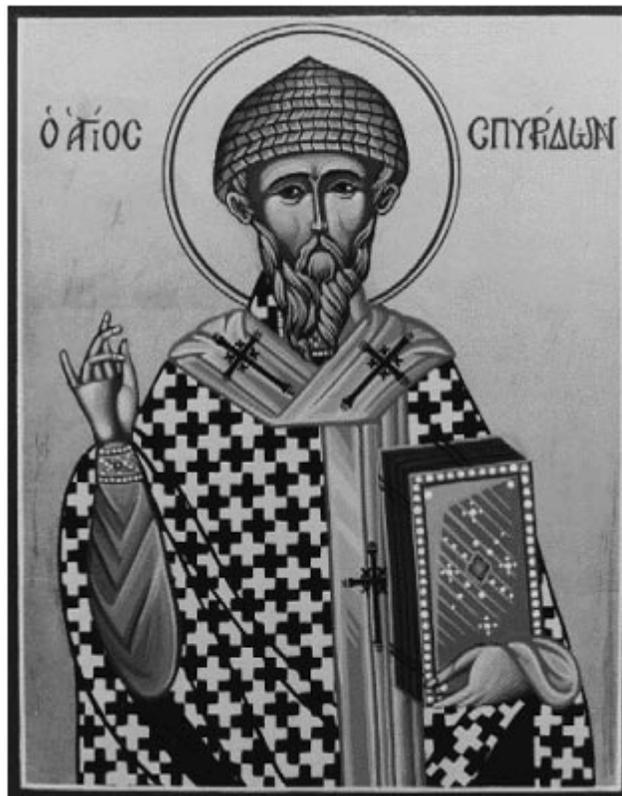

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
JULY/AUGUST 2008



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

New priest to be announced.
priest@stspyridonchurch.org

Office Hours

Priest: To be Announced

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

Parish Council President: Zoe Adamedes

Chanters: George Spiratos
 Basile Panoutsopoulos

Choir Director: Paul Cotsoridis

Organist: Jane Iandolo

Religious Education: Marianne Menas

Stewardship: Zoe Adamedes

Philotochos President: Elaine Brown

Acolytes: James Mellekas

GOYA President: James Mellekas

JOY Advisor: Sandy Giannopoulos

SERVICE TIMES

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

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|------------|--|---|
| Wednesdays | Vespers (or Small Paraklesis on last Wednesday of month): <i>Not scheduled for July & August at this time.</i> * | Weekday Festal Celebrations: Vespers—7 pm* Orthros—9 am Divine Liturgy—10 am |
| Saturdays | Great Vespers: <i>Not scheduled for July & August at this time.</i> * | |

* 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

(The following has been reprinted from the July 2004 edition of the St. Spyridon Voice.)

Many of us have heard, from time to time, about the “Jesus prayer.” Then again, many of us are completely ignorant of this theologically rich but simple prayer. So, what is this prayer and how can it be of help to us? Let us explore what the Church has to say about this deeply spiritual prayer.

First of all, we should know the text of this prayer before we say another word: ***Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me a sinner!*** What simple words! Who ever thought that such an important prayer could have so few words?

In his book, *The Jesus Prayer*, by a “Monk of the Eastern Church” (St. Vladimir’s Seminary Press, 1995), the author says the following in the introduction to the book: “A Romanian writer, N. Crainic, has written that the Jesus Prayer is the ‘heart of Orthodoxy...’ More than a private devotion, it borders on the realm of liturgy and even penetrates it. Its implications and possibilities deserve careful attention...”

The Jesus prayer has been the central prayer of Orthodox monastics throughout the ages, as well as a central prayer for countless of the pious laity. If one were to visit an Orthodox monastery today, one would encounter both monks and nuns continually whispering this holy prayer on their lips, as they go about their daily chores. Those monastics who are quite spiritually advanced, would not be uttering the prayer at all, but would be praying it from the heart, where the name of Jesus resides in all of us.

The prayer actually has scriptural roots in both the Old and New Testaments. In the Old we have clear indications of the extreme holiness, and divine presence surrounding the name of God. In the New, we have very clear directives regarding the veneration of the name of Jesus: “Most assuredly I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (Jn. 16:23-24); “...there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12); “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil

2:9-10).

In the book, *The Jesus Prayer* (cited above), the monastic author also says the following: “*To pronounce the name of Jesus in a holy way is an all-sufficient and surpassing aim for any human life... We are to call to mind Jesus Christ until the name of the Lord penetrates our heart, descends to its very depths... The name of Jesus, once it has become the center of our life, brings everything together.*”

The premise for using the Jesus prayer, therefore, should be clear to us if we truly understand Christ as the very center of our lives. If we live our lives in such a manner, then we should feel the need to call upon Him throughout the day, and even as we lie down to sleep. Many of the Church Fathers speak of “unceasing prayer” and the “prayer of the heart.” The Jesus prayer is *precisely* that to which they are referring. It is a prayer that we can all offer to God *consistently, effortlessly, and straight from the heart*. It is a prayer that chases away the evil one at the time of temptation. It breaks the distraction that we are all subject to during prayer time. It is the prayer *par excellence* that brings us immediate peace of mind and spirit.

There are more and more pious laymen who practice the frequent repetition of the Jesus prayer. We must not mistakenly believe that this prayer, as well as many other pious practices, are meant only for monastics. We that live in the world *need* to have spiritual weapons at our disposal, if we are at all serious about living the life in Christ. I wish to close with some thoughts of a great spiritual leader and theologian of the Church of Greece – His Eminence the Metropolitan of Nafpaktos, Hierotheos (Vlahos). The following comes from his book, *A Night in the Desert of the Holy Mountain*, (Birth of the Theotokos Monastery, 1991):

“It is necessary that we live in Christ, the Word of God and become Christ and the Word of God by grace. This is achieved when we live in the Church and participate in its holy mysteries, for the ‘Church is manifested in the holy mysteries, not as symbols, but rather...as the Lord said, like the vine branches in the vineyard’ (Nicholas Kavalas). This is achieved with the invocation of the name of Jesus and the reciting of the Jesus prayer...All of the theology of our holy Orthodox Church is hidden in this small prayer. That is why we should always meditate on the sweetest and most joy-producing name of Jesus...”

In Christ’s love,

ADDITIONAL EPITAPHIOS FLOWERS DONATION

It just came to our attention that the Greek School students had collected \$177 toward the Epitaphios flowers for Holy Friday. Because of the late notice, the acknowledgement did not appear in the May bulletin with the rest. We thank the students and their families for making the needs of our church a priority!

REGARDING FR. ANTHONY'S DEPARTURE

As previously announced, my last day with St. Spyridon was on Pentecost Sunday, 6/15. I am currently on vacation (6/16-6/30) prior to assuming my duties at the Annunciation Church in Brockton on 7/1. As of 6/16, I will no longer be retrieving nor responding to any new e-mails received, and the address will be deleted by 6/30. A new e-mail address is posted on this bulletin and on our website, but will only be accessed by the new priest upon his arrival. Please do not forward e-mails to that address at this time, since no one will be retrieving them. Also, please do not leave messages in my voice mailbox since they also will not be retrieved by anyone. For any emergency situations, funerals, etc., the church secretary and parish council president will make arrangements for a substitute priest. My voice mailbox will have the numbers to call for emergencies prior to the arrival of your new priest. Thanks to everyone for your patience and understanding during this time of transition.

+Fr. Anthony

LITURGICAL SERVICES DURING THE SUMMER

Please note that this bulletin edition is a combined July and August issue, which was prepared in mid-June. At the time, we had no word on the assignment of a new priest for our parish. The enclosed liturgical calendars have been prepared highlighting only the Sundays and major feast days of the church. Please note that all weekday services for July and August are pending the arrival of the new priest, and will be announced accordingly. In addition, there will be no Wednesday and Saturday evening vespers during this time. If a new priest is assigned before August 1, then, most likely, a supplement to this bulletin issue will be mailed with an updated liturgical calendar; or, at least, Sunday bulletins will announce upcoming services and events.

REGARDING THE THEOTOKOS

(the following is taken from *Orthodox Dogmatic Theology*, by Fr. Michael Pomazansky, St. Herman of Alaska Brotherhood, 1994)

“Two dogmas concerning the Mother of God are bound up, in closest fashion, with the dogma of God the Word’s becoming man. They are: a) Her Ever-virginity, and b) Her name of Theotokos...”

The Ever-Virginity of the Mother of God

“The birth of the Lord Jesus Christ from a Virgin is testified to directly and deliberately by two Evangelists, Matthew and Luke. This dogma was entered into the Symbol of Faith of the First Ecumenical Council, where we read: ‘Who for the sake of us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became man.’ The Ever-virginity of the Mother of God is testified by Her own words, handed down in the Gospel, where she expressed awareness of the immeasurable majesty and height of Her chosenness: ‘My soul doth magnify the Lord... For behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed... For He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is His Name (Luke 1:46-49).’”

The Most Holy Virgin Mary is Theotokos

“With the dogma of the Son of God’s becoming man is closely bound up the naming of the Most Holy Virgin Mary as ‘Theotokos’ (Birth-giver of God). By this name the Church confirms its faith that God the Word became Man truly and not merely in appearance; a faith that, in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, God was joined to Man from the very instant of His conception in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and that He, being perfect Man, is also perfect God.”

“At the same time the name of Theotokos is the highest name that exalts or glorifies the Virgin Mary. The name ‘Theotokos’ has a direct foundation in Sacred Scripture. The Apostle Paul writes: a) ‘When the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman (Gal. 4:4).’ Here is expressed the truth that a woman gave birth to the Son of God. b) ‘God was manifest in the flesh (I Tim. 3:16);’ the flesh was woven for God the Word by the Most

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

The last meeting was held on the 3rd of June. As an update, the Heat Recovery Unit from UG Nason should be installed shortly. Again, a big Thank You to Mr. Kip Cofield for repairing the side door (by the church elevator), which has been leaking water under the doors for quite some time. The Site Survey of the front of the church was completed by Elaine Adamedes Trainor over Memorial Day Weekend and she is in the process of preparing a report on her recommendations for plantings. More information will follow as it becomes available.

The Parish Council, on behalf of the Church, has received the draft renegotiated lease with the Yachting Center for the Church Parking Lot for review. The amount of the lease is \$15,000 per year, which is an improvement over the current \$13,500. In addition, the Yachting Center will be ensuring that certain other aspects of the terms of the lease (including repairing the fencing, sweeping the lot, ensuring that the sidewalks are shoveled after snow, etc) will be complied with. The church will also now have a 24 hour contact at the Yachting Center in case of problems. Attorney Harold Demopoulos graciously donated his time to review the terms of the lease to ensure that the church's interests were properly incorporated. Based upon his recommendations, there will be some verbage added to the lease to clarify the Parish's usage of the lot during Sunday services, Sacraments, and of course the festival. Thank you Harold for this wonderful example of Stewardship to our Church!

Of course, as we all know, Father Anthony and his family will be leaving us, effective July 1st, leaving us without a priest. Until such time as a full-time priest is assigned, we will be having substitute Priests for Sunday services. So, LITURGIES WILL CONTINUE and we all hope to see everyone there!! Father Anthony explained that there are at least 4 additional parishes within this Metropolis in need of priests (due to retirements of clergy) and because of this "backlog", as well as Metropolitan Methodios's other obligations (including a recent trip to Russia), we have not heard anything as of yet as to a new priest. We have provided the Metropolis with contact information (email, cell phone, etc), so that the Metropolis may contact us more directly. Naturally, as more information is learned, this will be provided to the Parish in either direct letter or in the next scheduled bulletin. We must all try to be patient and understanding while this process takes place.

Again, Festival Planning is well on its way under the able leadership of Steve Mellekas. As a reminder (and repeat from last month's bulletin), the difficulty we have every year is finding workers. We truly hope and pray that this year will be different. Again, I ask each of you to carefully review your schedules and try to identify a 4 to 6 hour window (or more) whereby you can help your church. People will be contacting you in the next several weeks to see if you can volunteer. Please prayerfully consider their request and volunteer with your time, or perhaps consider a donation. Remember, the Church is our home, and we are quite dependent on the income from this activity. On a personal note, I would also like to thank those people who have kindly offered to assist in the counting of the money and the chips. We still need more volunteers and I hope to hear from more of you!!

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 1st. Immediately prior to the Council Meeting, the Festival Committee will be holding its second meeting of the year at 6:00. Please make every attempt to either attend or contact Steve in advance of how you can help to make this festival as successful as possible.

Respectfully submitted

JULY 2008

| |
|--------------------------|
| Sunday Summer Hou |
|--------------------------|

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu**

1

2

3

(fast day)

6

7

8

9

10

3rd Sun. of Matthew

(fast day)

13

14

15

16

17

Sun. of the Holy Fathers
of the 4th Council of
Chalcedon*(fast day)*

20

21

22

23

24

5th Sun. of Matthew, Elias
the Prophet*(fast day)*

27

28

29

30

31

6th Sun. of Matthew, the
Great Martyr Panteleimon*(fast day)*

Hours Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9

Fri Sat

4 5

(fast day)

11 12

(fast day)

18 19

(fast day)

25 26

(fast day)

Upcoming Events

July 1—Festival Meeting 6 pm,
Parish Council 7 pm

July 12—St. Spyridon Orthodox
Christian Film Festival, 10 am

July 14—Soup Kitchen; set-up 4 pm,
meal 5 pm

July 18-20—Hellenic Fest

Regular Events

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

Adult Religious Education—each
Wednesday after Vespers (on break
for summer)

Children’s Greek School— Monday-
Thursday, 4-6pm (on break for
summer)

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

Holy Confession is available after
each evening service (except
Wednesdays), and by appointment
during office hours.

AUGUST 2008

| |
|--------------------------|
| Sunday Summer Hou |
|--------------------------|

Sun**Mon****Tue****Wed****Thu**

 3
7th Sun. of Matthew

4

5

 6
The Holy Transfiguration
*(fish, wine & olive oil
permitted)*

7

| |
|---|
| <i>Strict fast – no animal products; wine & olive oil permitted on Saturday</i> |
|---|

 10
8th Sun. of Matthew

11

12

13

 14
Dormition Ves
Assumption Cl
Pawtucket, 7 p

| |
|--|
| <i>Strict fast – no animal products; wine & olive oil permitted on Saturday & Sunday</i> |
|--|

 17
9th Sun. of Matthew

18

19

20

21

 24
10th Sun. of Matthew

25

26

27

28

 31
11th Sun. of Matthew

Hours Orthros 7:45 am Divine Liturgy 9

Fri Sat

1 Dormition Fast begins 2
(weekday services for
August to be announced)

*Strict fast – no animal products; wine & olive oil
permitted on Saturday & Sunday*

8 9

urday & Sunday

15 16
1 Vespers at
on Church,
t, 7 pm
Dormition of the
Theotokos
(fish, wine & olive oil
permitted)

22 23

29 30
Beheading of St. John the
Forerunner
(strict fast)

Upcoming Events

August 11—Soup Kitchen; setup 4 pm, meal 5 pm

Regular Events

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

Adult Religious Education—each
Wednesday after Vespers (on break
for summer)

Children’s Greek School— Monday-
Thursday, 4-6pm (on break for
summer)

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

Holy Confession is available after
each evening service (except
Wednesdays), and by appointment
during office hours.

“SO, YOU DON’T LIKE YOUR PRIEST?”

(The following article bearing the above title, was written by Joy Boosamra Corey, the wife of an Antiochian Orthodox priest, and has appeared in a number of church bulletins. As we anticipate the assignment of a new priest, this is a very apropos message regarding the holy priesthood. Please read this prayerfully, with an Orthodox mindset. I have purposely waited until my departure to share this, so that no one would consider this as “self-serving.” It is meant as a teaching tool to bring everyone to a deeper and proper understanding of the role of the priest within parish life. +Fr. Anthony)

So, you don’t like your priest? He doesn’t give good sermons? Are they too long, too short, or simply too mundane? Maybe they’re over everyone’s head. Can it be that he’s just not spiritual enough? Or perhaps he expects us to be as spiritual as he is. Does he make too many demands, expecting his congregation to fast and attend all the services? He’s the priest, so he’s supposed to do the praying, right? Oh, he wants control over everything? He’s full of pride. He wants to do everything himself! Or, maybe it’s more vague than that and you might respond, “Don’t ask me why, I just don’t like him! I don’t feel I can go to him for confession. He’s too worldly!”

Over the many years I’ve been around church life, I have heard all of these excuses for not going to church. Of course, they don’t have anything to do with why we go to church, or at least they shouldn’t. The priest is not the reason we go to church. As Christ Himself went to the synagogue to worship His Father, God, every Sabbath, so we go to worship the same Father, God, on the Lord’s Day, Sunday.

We don’t go to church because of the priest. We go solely for the purpose of worshiping our God and receiving the Holy Communion which unites us to Christ and to each other as the Body of Christ. However, there could be no Divine Liturgy without the priest. The priest is our mediator who offers up our gifts of bread and wine to God and then calls upon the Holy Spirit during the “epiklesis” to change them into the very Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. He represents the Bishop in our midst, who, in turn, represents Jesus Christ.

Why do we expect more from our priests than we do from ourselves? After, all, they are human and suffer from the same sinful nature as we do. Their struggle is even greater; Satan works overtime trying to bring them down, for he knows if they fall, they bring many with them. Humankind seems to suffer from that malady that deliciously

enjoys the demise of another...especially our priests. There's something deep with mankind that enjoys another's misery. Our priests have to combat the same things we do – lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life (1 John 2:16); they are not exempt.

Why do we think our priest must be perfect? Perhaps he seems insensitive, lacks compassion, or just doesn't seem to care. That may be your perception of him, but have you ever thought of finding out what his background is so you can better understand him? Remember that an outgoing personality is not a prerequisite for the caring of the Sanctuary with its altar and table of oblation. When people have complained to me about their priest, I usually respond, "Have you prayed for him?" Have you tried to love and help your priest, or are you too busy fighting him, gossiping about him and complaining about him?

It is just as important for the priest to recognize in others those gifts lacking in himself and to call upon those to whom the Lord has given such a gift to use for the glory of God and the furtherance of His work. St. Romanos the Melodist had a terrible voice, and the monks couldn't stand to hear him chant. He prayed and promised that if God would gift him musically, he would spend the rest of his life writing music for the Church. The Lord answered his prayer, and to this day, we have benefited from his great and wonderful hymnography. St. John of Kronstadt was a great charismatic married Russian priest and rector of a large cathedral in the naval port of Kronstadt who died in 1907. He also turned to God in prayer when he found himself to be a poor, struggling student of theology at Seminary. Again, God heard his prayers, and to this day, we benefit from his "Spiritual Counsels" and "My Life in Christ." Miracles happen when we pray for our priests. Don't ever doubt it; I have personally experienced it.

God said of His Church in 1 Peter 2:9: "You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's own people..." The sacramental priesthood to which our priests belong is different than this royal priesthood to which we, as God's chosen people (i.e., the Church), belong. Through the laying on of hands by the Bishop at his ordination, the priest received a special grace which can be traced, through apostolic succession, to Christ Himself. No one outside the priesthood will ever possess this grace. This is what separates our priest from us. When we kiss the hand of our priest, we kiss not his hand but the hand of Christ through that unbroken succession from Bishop to priest.

HELLENIC FEST ITEM SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED

Please consider sponsoring these items for the Hellenic Fest. Simply mail your check to the church office, designating the item(s) you'd like to sponsor. We will take it from there. Any questions contact the church office 846-0555. Thanks!

Items to be sponsored:

- Pork Souvlaki 28 cases @ \$70 ea.
- Chicken 28 cases @ \$70 ea.
- Tyropita 25 cases @\$40 ea.
- Pastitsio 46 pan @ \$20 ea.
- Mousaka 10 pan @ \$20 ea.
- Spanakopita 10 cases \$40 ea.
- Gyros 70 cases @ \$25 ea
- Meatballs 20 Boxes @ \$25 ea
- Feta Cheese 4 cases @ \$60 ea
- Tzatziki 5 Cases @ \$20 ea

You may use the following form when mailing in your festival donation for this purpose.

Name: _____

Item (s) Sponsored: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

IN OUR PARISH

Graduation: *Kayla Rose Kutsaftis* graduated from Rogers High School as Salutatorian of her class. Kayla will be attending the University of Connecticut in the pharmacy program. Proud Parents are Anthony and Donna Kutsaftis and proud grandmother is Rose Kutsaftis. We wish her much success in her new endeavors!

Gregory Masiakos, son of Gail Karanikolas Perry, graduated from Emerson College, Boston, with a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing and Communications. He will be working in New York. We wish him great success in his future endeavors!

Wedding: *Leonidas Amarant & Despina Apazides* were married on 6/1 at St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Norwalk, CT. Leon is the son of parishioners Telly & Leeza Amarant. May they live many years!

Death: *Presvytera Metaxia Papademetriou*, beloved wife of former St. Spyridon priest, Fr. Spyridon Papademetriou, fell asleep in the Lord on 6/2 in Pennsylvania, and was buried on 6/7. The family has requested donations to be made to St. Basil Academy, 79 St. Basil Rd., Garrison, NY 10524. Condolences may be sent to Fr. Spyridon at 15 Tewkesbury Dr., Reading, PA 19610. May her memory be eternal!

AHEPA NEWS

Initiation of New Members:

On Monday, the 9th of June 2008, the local chapter "AHEPA – Maud Howe Elliot 245" initiated four new members to the AHEPA family, followed by a dinner at the "Atlantic Beach Club". The initiation of additional members will take place in September.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting of the local AHEPA Chapter will take place the Second Tuesday of September at the Club Room of the Newport AHEPA Housing.

Invitation:

An invitation is extended to all people of our Community and all Philhellenes to join both the local chapters of AHEPA and Daughters. For more information contact a

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| <p><i>In loving memory of</i> Gredo Vincent Volpicelli</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>Enthimia.com The Wedding and Baptism Store Offering elegant accessories Visit us at</p> |
| <p>Nikolas Pizza 38 Memorial Blvd West Newport 849-6611</p> | <p>ASTRO CONSTRUCTION INC. PO Box 522 Portsmouth, RI (401) 683-9120</p> | <p>CODDINGTON BREWING COMPANY 210 Coddington Highway Middletown 847-6690</p> |
| <p>Compliments of the ATLANTIC BEACH CLUB 53 Purgatory Road Middletown</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>Middletown</i> <i>Voted Best in Rhode Island!</i></p> | <p>The Mainstay Inn 151 Admiral Kalbfus Road Newport 849-9880</p> |
| <p>All American Foods, Inc.</p> | <p>Steve H. Jennings Certified Senior Advisor, CSA Advanced Planning Associates Retirement Planning Phone: 401.247.9882 E-mail: sjplanner@aol.com</p> | <p><i>In loving memory of</i> Anthony & Dorothea Rozes</p> |