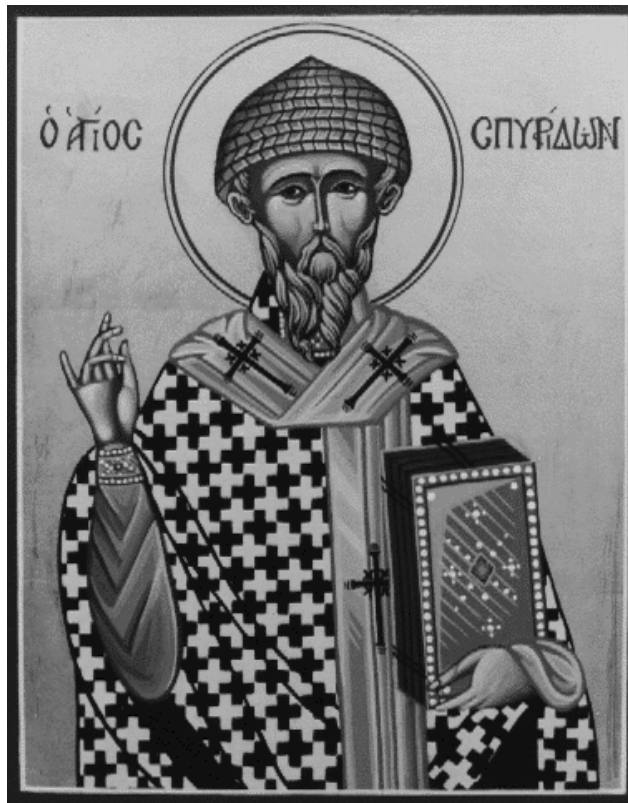

THE SAINT SPYRIDON VOICE
MAY 2008



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
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: 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

Greek School: Loula Eliopoulos

Basile Panoutsopoulos (adult classes)

Soup Kitchen: Presvytera Themmi

Bulletin: Aliko Cooper

(alikooper@yahoo.com)

Affiliated Organizations
AHEPA President: Basile

Panoutsopoulos

Daughters of Penelope President:

Ellen Anagnostos

Island of Skiathos Organization:

Christina Logothets

SERVICE TIMES
Sunday Winter Hours Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

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

Saturdays Great Vespers 6 pm*

Weekday Festal Celebrations:

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

CHRIST IS RISEN! ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ ΑΝΕΣΤΗ! ΧΡΗCΤΟC ΒΟCΚΡΕCΕ!
HRISTOS A INVIAT! AL MASSIEH KHAM!

Beloved in Christ, above you see the universal Paschal greeting of all Orthodox Christians worldwide, in various liturgical languages. After the English version, we have the original Greek, Church Slavonic (used by the Russian, Ukrainian, Bulgarian and Serbian Orthodox, as well as other Orthodox of Slavic background), Romanian, and Arabic. No matter in which language we proclaim these blessed words, the basic message is the gift of eternal life that has been granted to the human race through the Lord's Resurrection.

Some of the most beautiful and spiritually rich words written regarding the Resurrection, are those of St. John Chrysostom in his renown catechetical homily of Pascha. This classic sermon is read, per the original tradition, at the end of the Orthros of the Resurrection, or as it is usually done now, at the end of the Divine Liturgy of Pascha.

St. John begins his homily by inviting all to receive their "reward" of the gift of the Resurrection; both those who have fasted and toiled from the "first hour" – the beginning of Great Lent – as well as those who may not have labored as much, or perhaps hardly at all. Many Orthodox Christians who choose not to keep the fast during Great Lent, other than perhaps the first week and Holy Week, sometimes like to quote St. John in order to point out that it really didn't matter after all.

St. John's purpose here, however, is not to undo the venerable tradition of fasting, which has been with the Church from her very beginning. Instead, he is making the point that our merciful and loving Lord accepts all Orthodox Christians to the radiant banquet of His Resurrection at the feast of Holy Pascha. In fact, the glorious message of the Resurrection is not just for Christians, but for all peoples of the world, who will also benefit from the destruction of death. This is why we have the tradition of reading the Gospel at the Agape Vespers of Pascha in various languages, since the message of the Resurrection is universal.

In his homily, St. John goes on to tell us not to "*grieve over sins, for forgiveness has dawned from the tomb.*" Again, this statement regarding forgiveness of sins is not to be interpreted as a replacement for the holy mystery of confession. We must remember that the Lord Himself established the mystery of repentance on the day of Pascha when He appeared to His Disciples and said, "*Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, shall be forgiven them; and whose sins you shall retain, shall be retained.* (John 20:23)."

St. John's statement is meant to emphasize the forgiveness of sins as being one of the fruits of the Resurrection. This forgiveness is fully accomplished, however, through the power of the Holy Spirit working through the holy priesthood of Christ, through which Christ's ministry on earth continues.

We are also told, "*Let no one fear death, for the death of our Savior has set us free. He has destroyed it by enduring it.*" Beloved, this statement is key to our entire foundation of faith. The Lord's Resurrection has given us the clear answer to what happens to us upon physical death. This belief in Christ's destruction of death is central in the life of the Orthodox Church. Many describe the our Church as the "Church of the Resurrection", and rightly so. Every feast and celebration throughout the liturgical year is a reflection of Pascha, the greatest of all feasts. Every Sunday is a "mini-Pascha", which is why we celebrate the mystery of the Holy Eucharist – the living Body and Blood of our Lord – each Sunday, without exception.

St. John's homily ends with beautiful and uplifting words that we never tire of hearing... "*It (Hades) took a body, and lo, it discovered God. It took earth, and behold, it encountered Heaven. It took what it saw, and was overcome by what it could not see. O death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*"

And here I end with no further comment, since the beautiful words of St. John Chrysostom speak for themselves!

In the love of the Risen Christ,

+Fr. Anthony

MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY VISITS

On Memorial Day, **Monday, 5/26**, Fr. Anthony will be at the following cemeteries to chant the *trisagion* for our loved ones who have fallen asleep in the Lord.

- Island Cemetery Annex – 10:00 am (for anyone with loved ones at the main Island Cemetery across the street, please meet at the Annex and we will proceed to the main cemetery after)
 - Middletown Cemetery – 11:00 am
-

IN APPRECIATION

At this time we would like to thank everyone involved with the services and preparations during Great Lent, Holy Week and Pascha. Most especially, we thank our volunteer chanters, Basile Panoutsopoulos and Paul Cotsoridis, our faithful choir members, all the volunteers readers, *kouvouklion* decorators, the men who carried the Epitaphios, as well as our faithful acolytes under the direction of head acolyte, James Mellekas. We also thank all our youth and the JOY and GOYA advisors for their loving contribution of palm cross weaving and decorating of the church for Palm Sunday, and to the Goyans for successfully executing their *tsoureki* sale, and children's *anastasi lambades* sale (which brought in an additional \$237). We should also remember all organizations who hosted the Wednesday Lenten Suppers. Let us also express our appreciation to our faithful egg-dyeing crew under the guidance of Joanne Hologgitas – a large task, indeed! Knowing that there are other “behind the scenes” volunteers who have accidentally been overlooked, we thank all of them as well, most especially, all the donors toward the floral and other needs of Holy Week. The beautiful and moving services of this holy season cannot be executed successfully by the priest alone; it takes all of us together to make this happen. May God bless and keep all of you well during these holy days of Pascha!

In the Risen Christ,
+Fr. Anthony

GODPARENTS SUNDAY—5 / 18

Sunday, May 18th has been designated as “**Godparent Sunday.**” On this, the 4th Sunday of Pascha, we invite all godparents to attend church with their godchild/children, and if properly prepared, to receive Holy Communion together. This is a special way to remember the spiritual bond of godparents and godchildren through the grace of the Holy Spirit, during this most spiritually renewing time of Holy Pascha.

RETIRES LUNCHEON & PRESENTATION

Our April gathering featured a short talk on the background of Great and Holy Week by Fr. Anthony. The lunch was provided by Komars Rozes of *Flo's Clam Shack*. Our next gathering will be on **Tuesday, May 13th at 12:00 noon**. Please join us for good food and fellowship! This will be our last luncheon until the fall.

2008 LAITY AWARD RECIPIENT

The parish council has elected Steve Mellekas as this year's recipient of the Metropolis Laity Award, which will be given at the annual Metropolis awards banquet **on Sunday, June 1, 2008**. At this time, ticket information and other banquet details have not yet been received. If you would like to attend to honor Steve, please contact Ellen Anagnostos at the church office for reservations.

Over the years, we have all seen the multiple contributions Steve has made to his parish in various capacities. Most importantly, although his work situation requires him to work Sundays, he still makes it a priority to attend church as often as possible, especially for evening Lenten services, and other special evening services throughout the year. Steve has always shown great love and respect for the Holy Orthodox Church, his parish, and toward the hierarchy and clergy of the Church. While serving as parish council president, his leadership style was typical gentle, always seeking to preserve peace and harmony among his brother and sister parishioners. We appreciate all that he has done, and the wonderful example he has set for his children and fellow parishioners. Axios!

PHILOPTOCHOS NEWS

We are happy to share some information with all from the community regarding a trip to Ellis Island. The Philoptochos Society of Fall River is planning a trip to Ellis Island on Saturday May 17, 2008. A bus will be leaving from St. Demetrios in Fall River on this day at 8:00 AM and will return at 11:00 PM. The cost is \$55.00 (maybe less). Questions may be directed to Presvetera Anastasia Georgiadis at 401- 435-3355.

St. Spyridon Philoptochos has scheduled our End of The Year Get-Together for June 30, 2008 with dinner at the Coddington Brewery at 6:00 PM. If you would like to attend, please let Elaine Brown know at 849-3480 by June 20th.

Our next General Meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2008 at the Church Hall at 6:30 PM. Refreshments will be served. Hope to see you all there!

THOUGHTS ON STEWARDSHIP

Hopefully by now you have received the 2008 Stewardship packets whereby we are all given the opportunity to give to the work of the church, through our talents, our time, and of course, our financial means. Please prayerfully consider your 2008 pledge and return it to the church as soon as possible.

In last month's bulletin, the names of several 2007 financial stewards were inadvertently omitted. I deeply regret any confusion these omissions may have caused. Those faithful stewards are listed below.

Mr. James Borodemos
Mr. & Mrs. Francis Flowers

Zoe Adamedes
zadamedes@yahoo.com
401-274-1316

THE \$20 BILL AND THE \$1 BILL

A well-worn one dollar bill and a similarly distressed twenty dollar bill arrived at a Federal Reserve Bank to be retired. As they moved along the conveyor belt to be burned, they struck up a conversation.

The twenty dollar bill reminisced about its travels all over the county. "I've had a pretty good life," the twenty proclaimed. "Why I've been to Las Vegas and Atlantic City, the finest restaurants in New York, performances on Broadway, and even a cruise to the Caribbean."

"Wow!" said the one dollar bill. "You've really had an exciting life!"

"So tell me," says the twenty, "where have you been throughout your lifetime?"

The one dollar bill replies, "Oh, I've been to the Methodist Church, the Baptist Church, the Lutheran Church, the Orthodox Church,...."

The twenty dollar bill interrupts and asks, "What's a church?"

MAY 2008

Sunday Winter Hour

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

1
Paschal Vespers
of Life-Giving S^g
the Theotokos, 7

<i>Renewal Week-</i>

4
Sunday of Thomas
Altar Team B

5

6

7
Small Vespers 7 pm
followed by adult rel. ed.

8

(fast day)

11
Sunday of the
Myrrhbearers
Altar Team A

12

13

14
Small Vespers 7 pm
followed by adult rel. ed.

15

18
Sunday of the Paralytic;
“Godparents Sunday”
Altar Team B

19

20

21
Sts. Constantine & Helen,
Orthros & Lit.;
Small Vespers 7 pm
followed by adult rel. ed.
(fast day)

22

25
Sunday of the Samaritan
Woman
Altar Team A

26
Memorial Day (Fr.
Anthony at cemeteries –
see entry)

27

28
Paraklesis 7 pm
followed by adult rel. ed.

29

(fast day)

ours Orthros 8:45 am Divine Liturgy 10 am

Fri

Sat

Vespers & Feast of the Spring of the Theotokos, 7 pm	2 The Life-Giving Spring of the Theotokos, Orthros & Lit.	3 Gr. Vespers 6 pm
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Week—no fasting; all foods permitted daily.

9	10 Gr. Vespers 6 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>	
16	17 Gr. Vespers 6 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>	
23	24 Gr. Vespers 6 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>	
30	31 Gr. Vespers 6 pm
<i>(fast day)</i>	

Upcoming Events

- May 6—Parish Council Mtg, 7 pm
- May 12—Soup Kitchen; setup 4 pm, meal 5 pm
- May 13—Retirees Luncheon & Presentation, 12 noon
- May 13—Daughters of Penelope Mtg, 7 pm Ahepa Housing
- May 21—Philoptochos General Meeting, 6:30 pm, Church Hall

Regular Events

- Religious Education—Sundays, immediately after Holy Communion
- Adult Religious Education—each Wednesday after Vespers
- Children’s Greek School— Monday-Thursday, 4-6pm
- Adult Greek School—Mondays, 5-6 pm
- Holy Confession is available after each evening service (except Wednesdays), and by appointment during office hours.

SAINT SPYRIDON BOOKSTORE

Mothers Day and Women in the Orthodox Church.

Did you want to read about how to contribute more to the church? How did women influence the men in the church? The Orthodox Church is thankful to the mothers of Saints. Many of the mothers have been recognized as Saints themselves.

Here is a catalog of related books:

(Many are available at our Bookstore or through the Light and Life Catalog 2007, <http://www.light-n-life.com/>)

Our Hearts' True Home: Fifteen Warm Inspiring Stories of Women Discovering the Ancient Christian Faith

Encountering Women of Faith

Ministry of Women in the Church

Saints and Sisterhood: The Lives of 48 Holy Women: A Menologion or

Month-by-Month Listing and study of Women Saints on the Orthodox Calendar

Women of God

Gender: Men Women and Feminism

The one Thing Needful: Meditations for the Busy Orthodox Woman.

Orthodox Women Speak: Discerning the Signs of the Times

Female Diaconate: A Historical Perspective

Feminism in Christianity: An Orthodox Christian Response

The Forgotten Desert Mothers

Holy Women of the Syrian Orient

Matericon: instructions of Abba Isaiah to the Honorable Nun Theodora

More Spirited than Lions

The Ordination of Women in the Orthodox Church

Woman and the Salvation of the World

Women and Men in the Church

Women and Men in the Early Church: The Full Views of St John Chrysostom

Women and the Priesthood

Women Deacons in the Orthodox church: Called to Holiness and Ministry

Internet Sites of Interest:

Ancient Faith Radio is an Orthodox Christian media ministry, offering two 24-hour internet radio stations and a wide variety of on-demand podcasts and audio specials.
<http://ancientfaith.com/>

A journal for and by Eastern Orthodox Women and other interested people, published by the Women's Orthodox Ministries & Education Network (WOMEN), an international organization dedicated to exploring, celebrating, and cultivating the rich and diverse gifts of women and men in the Orthodox Church.
<http://www.stnina.org/home.htm>

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN NETWORK. Producers of: Come Receive the Light.
The Ark: The 24 hour source for Orthodox music and more.
The Rudder. SOFIA from today's Christian Ascetics
<http://www.receive.org/>

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

A few things for our students to keep in mind:

1. To please return OCMC mission boxes to me, Marianne, by Sunday May 4th.
2. Class pictures for the end of the year program will be taken on Sunday, May 18th.
Please make it a point to attend.

Also, Toula Mellekas and Alexander Antonopoulos represented our congregation on April 5 at the Metropolis's southeast district St. John Chrysostom Oratorical Festival held this year at the Assumption Church in Pawtucket. They did a wonderful job and many people expressed admiration for their efforts and for the quality of their performances.

Thanks,
Marianne Menas
Director of Religious Education

PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

During the April 1st meeting of the Parish Council, the status of the church's website was discussed. It was unanimous that all efforts should be made by the entire community to provide news, information and photographs of Parish activities for posting on the website. Our website is not only a way for our community to learn about what is going on, but also a ministry tool so that people who are curious about Orthodoxy can learn about our Parish.

The Parish Council unanimously nominated Steve Mellekas, in recognition of his untiring service to our community, to receive the annual Metropolis Laity award for our Parish.

The Parish Council reviewed the final bids on the roof repairs and set the date of 13 April for the Special General Assembly in order to review and approve the repairs and to authorize the funding. Based upon their experience and competitive bid (\$42, 500), B&R Fournier Construction was selected by the Parish Council. During the Special General Assembly, the community authorized these repairs and approved the use of interest from the Protulis Fund to pay for these repairs. The work will commence on 28 April and will probably take 2 weeks to complete. During this same Special General Assembly, the installation of a Heat Recovery Unit to improve the ventilation and air exchange in the basement, as well as the hooking up of the dehumidifiers so that automatically empty the collected water was also approved. The cost for this effort is \$4500 and will be performed by UG Nason. Again, the General Assembly unanimously approved the use of interest from the Protulis Fund to pay for these repairs. Once the basement air exchange improvements are made, then the repairs to the dropped ceiling will take place. We should all remember in our prayers and thank God for the generous gift made to our community by Mr. James Protulis, without which these repairs would probably have been impossible.

Our Parish had wonderful representation during the recent Greek Independence Day Activities held on March 25th, both in Newport and at the State House. The students of the Protulis Greek School read poems at the State House, including our own Eleni Giannopoulos and Sofia Stefanopoulos, who did a terrific job. Father Anthony read an opening prayer to open the meeting of the RI State House of Representatives. Governor Carcieri made a meaningful speech in honor of Greek Independence Day as well. Following the State House festivities, members of our Parish attended a wonderful reception at the Assumption Greek Orthodox Church in Pawtucket, where the Newport Hellenic Dancers put on a terrific show. We should all be proud of all our children who participated in these wonderful events!



Efforts continue to renegotiate the terms of the Parking Lot Lease with the Newport Yachting Center. As these terms are finalized, the Parish will be notified via the bulletin.

The next Parish Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6th 7pm. As always, should any parishioner have an item of concern or matter they wish to have placed on the next meeting's Agenda, please contact any Parish Council member, or the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Zoe Adamedes, Parish Council President
274-1316, zadamedes@yahoo.com

NEWPORT HELLENIC DANCERS NEWS

The Newport Hellenic Dancers will begin preparing for Hellenic Fest 2008, after Easter. We will hold a kickoff meeting and our first practice on Sunday May 4th after liturgy. We invite everyone (young and old) that would like to be part of the dancing group, to join us. Once again, we will open up the group to the young children of our community as well as any adults that want to be part of our group. You don't need to have any prior dancing experience to join us. We plan to hold separate classes for the various ability levels. For children under six we invite the parents to participate during the lessons.

A detailed schedule will be provided during the kickoff meeting.

IN OUR PARISH

Birth: A baby boy, *Christos*, was born to Athanasios & Ourania Stefanopoulos on 4/4. We congratulate the parents and grandparents, parishioners Christos & Sophia Stefanopoulos. May he live many years!

Chrismations: Three members of the Johnson family were brought into the Orthodox Church through Holy Chrismation on the Saturday of Lazarus, 4/19 – Gary & Melinda, and their oldest son, Aaron. The parents took the names *Stephen & Anna*, but kept the beautiful biblical name *Aaron* for their son. Their younger son, Tyler, is scheduled to be baptized on 5/11. The sponsors for the entire family are Lucian & Gabriella Dobrot. May they live many years!

AHEPA NEWS

AHEPA Day Celebration

The AHEPA DAY will be celebrated on the 3rd Sunday of May in the Community Hall with a presentation and gifts (books). All are invited to join us during the coffee hour.

Greek Independence Day

The local chapter of AHEPA and Daughters of Penelope donated \$200 towards the expenses of the celebration of the Greek Independence Day, 25th of March 1821.

AHEPA and Daughters—The Saint Spyridon Memorabilia

Please provide anything related to our church's history, such as books, photographs, memoirs, etc.

AHEPA and Daughters will soon have an exhibition of collected material. For further information contact a brother or sister, or email: AHEPA245@verizon.net. Please see Basile or Michel Sisak.

Photo and Video Workshops

Photo editing and video editing tutoring will be offered free of charge to anyone interested on select Saturdays in the fellowship hall. Michael Sisak will share his knowledge of Adobe Photoshop Elements, Adobe Premiere Elements, and Pinnacle video editing software on select Saturdays from 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM. The Saturday workshops currently planned for the month of May are May 10, May 17, and May 31. For the month of June, workshops are planned for June 7, June 14, June 21, and June 28.

AHEPA and Journey to Greece Program

The AHEPA Journey to Greece Program was a great success in 2007. We Invite You To Join Us for the 2008 Journey to Greece Program. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to earn college credit while learning about ancient and modern Greece. Visit the AHEPA web site: <http://www.ahepa.org/> and select "Journey to Greece". Contact Basile for details.

PAIDEIA News: URI Center Of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies

The construction work for the URI Center Of Byzantine and Modern Greek Studies will start, as soon the proper permits are issued. The "official" ground breaking ceremony will take place in the Fall. You can admire a tentative design of the building on the AHEPA NEWS board in the Community Hall.

PAIDEIA News: Greek Summer Camp

Two age based groups, 8-13 and 14-18. For more information and application contact Basile (848-6487 or AHEPA245@Verizon.net). PAIDEIA web site at www.paideionline.org

Maud Howe Elliott, Our Chapter's Namesake

During the White House reception for the Pope, the Army chorus sang the "The Battle Hymn of the Republic". The hymn was written by Julia Ward Howe, mother of Maud Howe Elliott, for whom which the local chapter of AHEPA has been named. Maud Howe Elliott was the daughter of Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, a hero of the Greek revolution, and Julia Ward. Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe, helped the Greeks in the 1821 revolution as a physician.

Maud Howe Elliott was a founder of the Newport Art Association and was a Miantonomi Park Memorial Commission member, responsible for the memorial for the First World War (the tower). Ms Elliot made Newport her home until her death in 1948. Many members of our community still remember her and there are pictures of her with members of our community at her 90th birthday.

We invite you all to join the local AHEPA 245 and Daughters of Penelope 49 chapters.

DAUGHTERS OF PENELOPE NEWS

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our Palm Sunday Fish Dinner a big success. We are grateful for the support of the St. Spyridon community. Thanks again.

Our next meeting will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 13th at 7 pm at the Ahepa Housing.

<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 www.enthimia.com</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</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 Portsmouth Flo's Clam Shack Middletown <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><i>Compliments of</i> A Friend</p>	<p><i>In loving memory of</i> Anthony & Dorothea Rozes</p>