



THE HOLY TRINITY HERALD

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF

HOLY TRINITY GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA

VOL. 23 ISSUE 6-7

JUNE-JULY 2025

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

A few weeks ago, I had an interesting conversation with a parishioner who recently moved to the United States from a traditionally Orthodox country. She lamented that here she doesn't "feel" Orthodoxy the way she does in her native land. Back home, Orthodoxy subtly pervades everything: most people you meet and talk to are Orthodox, there are churches on every street corner, and the civil calendar follows the major feasts and fasts of the Church. Even if most people in that country aren't especially religious, our faith is still quietly present in the background of everyday life. This woman observed that it's much easier to feel connected to the Church when she is so easily accessible.

I believe that this is quite correct: in ordinary American life, there are few things that readily call us back to our Orthodox faith. Our schools, workplaces, shopping centers and recreational facilities (i.e. the places we spend the vast majority of our time) generally lack any hint of *anything* transcendent, let alone Christian. The churches we see around town are sometimes beautiful, but often uninspiring and almost never Orthodox. Of all of the Great Feasts, the American calendar only recognizes Christmas and Easter, and even these in only a very secularized and commercialized form. If we are surrounded by any coherent culture, then it is a bland consumer culture, and not something that allows us to connect organically with God at all, let alone His full glorious revelation in Orthodoxy. We are in a spiritual wasteland, but most of the time we don't notice it — it sometimes takes an outsider to remind us of what's right in front of our faces.

The spiritual poverty surrounding us means that if we are passive, if we just "go with the flow" of American society and live our lives on a sort of "autopilot", we will inevitably drift into the emptiness that surrounds us. There are no cultural guardrails which will guide us back to the Church like those that exist in Greece, Romania, Lebanon or any other country with deep Orthodox roots. We are more responsible for our own spiritual well-being in the United States than anywhere else, and we need to take that responsibility seriously.

This does not mean, however, that our situation is hopeless. In fact, I believe we have a very exciting opportunity in front of us. In America we do not have a pre-constructed Orthodox culture handed to us; instead, we are responsible for building it ourselves. All we need to do to develop this process is to be intentional about our Orthodox faith. We need to go to Orthodox churches, take pilgrimages to monasteries and shrines, take time off of work and school to celebrate great feasts, participate in Orthodox summer camps and schools, say our prayers with

our families, and put icons around our homes. The more effort we put into our spiritual lives, the more we are building American Orthodoxy.

As conversions to Orthodoxy gain momentum across the country, we have the opportunity to build churches, institutions, and especially families, the raw material out of which an American Orthodox culture will emerge. This culture will bear heavy influence from Greek, Russian, and Arabic culture, but it will also be something unique and new, something that American Orthodox Christians feel naturally and effortlessly a part of. We must exert intentional effort now, so that our children and grandchildren will have a Church they feel organically connected to, and in this country, we will see and experience the spiritual richness of places like Greece, Romania, and Lebanon.

God bless you all!

Fr. Theodore Lyketsos

A poster for a Pentecost Celebration Potluck. The background is red with a torn paper effect. In the center is a black plate filled with various Mediterranean or Middle Eastern dishes, including pita bread, olives, hummus, and meatballs. To the left of the plate is a bowl of white dip with olives. The text "PENTECOST CELEBRATION" is written in large, bold, black letters across the top. Below the plate, the text "'INTERNATIONAL' POTLUCK JUNE 8TH" is written in large, bold, black letters. At the bottom, there is a QR code and a sign-up link. A small circular logo for the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church is in the top right corner.

**PENTECOST
CELEBRATION**

**"INTERNATIONAL" POTLUCK
JUNE 8TH**

*Bring a dish from the culture or country of your
heritage in honor of the feast of Pentecost!
Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/m5f4eh68>*

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
Kannock, VA • 1970 • 1975



Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church

30 Huntington Boulevard, N.E.

Roanoke, Virginia 24012

PHONE: (540) 362-3601

FAX: (540) 362-3638

www.holytrinityroanoke.com

Priest: Fr. Theodore Lyketsos

Church Administrator: Diane Simmons

E-MAIL: frtheohtra@gmail.com

E-MAIL: htrinityroa@verizon.net

2025-2026 PARISH COUNCIL

Matt Mandros	President
Frances Simopoulos	Vice President
Carol Royal	Secretary
Maria Apostolou	Assistant Secretary
Van Kakouras	Treasurer
Angela Flegas	Assistant Treasurer

Board Members

Voula Dallas	Dr. Maria Hatzios
Beth Gianakouros	Juan Martinez
Mike Greenwood	Nada Melki

ORGANIZATIONS

Philoptochos President – Danna Owen

Religious Education – Carol Royal

Youth Director – Mike Greenwood

Greek School – Georgia Liagki, Tom Contos

Chanters – Dr. Paul Dallas, Fred Gianakouros,
& Demos Tsiakos

Dance Troupe – Dina Martinez

Bookstore – Voula Dallas

Megdova President – Dr. Paul Dallas

Webmaster – Chris Tomasello

COMMITTEES

Archives – Dr. Maria Hatzios, Caitlin
DeMarco

Finance – Mike Greenwood, Jack White, Greg
Apostolou

Grounds, Planning, & Projects – Juan
Martinez, Dr. Charles Tarasidis, Dr.
Paul Dallas, Terry Tomaras, Jack
White, Pete Simopoulos, Chris Flegas

Roanoke Greek Festival – Pete Simopoulos

Stewardship – Nada Melki

Ushering & Welcome – Maria Apostolou,
Naji Karim, Irene Karageorge

The deadline for notices to be placed in the bulletin is the 15th of each month. Please email them to htrinityroa@verizon.net on or before this date. Thank you.

SERVICE SCHEDULE

JUNE 2025		
Apostles Fast: June 16-28		
Sun. 6/1/2025	Fathers of the 1st Council	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>Acts of the Apostles 20:16-18,28-36</i>	Gospel: John 17:1-13
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Nada Melki, Maria Hatzios, Naji Karim	
Sat. 6/7/2025	Saturday of Souls (followed by memorial) Vespers	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy 5:00 PM
Sun. 6/8/2025	Holy Pentecost (followed by Kneeling Vespers) Fast Free Week Begins	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11</i>	Gospel: John 7:37-52; 8:12
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Van Kakouras, Frances & Pete Simopoulos	
Mon. 6/9/2025	Monday of the Holy Spirit	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy
Sat. 6/14/2025	Apodosis of Holy Pentecost Vespers	5:00 PM
Sun. 6/15/2025	Sunday of all Saints	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>Hebrews 11:33-40; 12:1-2</i>	Gospel: Matthew 10:32-33;37-38; 19:27-30
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Matt Mandros, Maria Apostolou, Jon Mandros	
Sat. 6/21/2025	Vespers	5:00 PM
Sun. 6/22/2025	2nd Sunday of Matthew	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>Romans 2:10-16</i>	Gospel: Matthew 4:18-23
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Carol Royal, Angela Flegas, Irene Karageorge	
Sat. 6/28/2025	Vespers	5:00 PM
Sun. 6/29/2025	SS. Peter & Paul the Holy Apostles	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>St. Paul's 2nd Letter to the Corinthians 11:21-33; 12:1-9</i>	Gospel: Matthew 16:13-19
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Juan Martinez, Beth Gianakouros, Lampros Panogeorgos	
Mon. 6/30/2025	Synaxis of the Holy Apostles	8:00 AM Orthros 9:00 AM Liturgy
JULY 2025		
Sat. 7/5/2025	Vespers	5:00 PM
Sun. 7/6/2025	4th Sunday of Matthew	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>St. Paul's Letter to the Romans 6:18-23</i>	Gospel: Matthew 8:5-13
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Voula Dallas, Jon Mandros, Larry Owen	
Sat. 7/12/2025	No Vespers (Father is away at camp)	
Sun. 7/13/2025	Fathers of the 4th Ecumenical Council	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
<i>Epistle:</i>	<i>St. Paul's Letter to Titus 3:8-15</i>	Gospel: Matthew 5:14-19
<i>Usher(s):</i>	Frances Simopoulos, Naji Karim, Pete Simopoulos	
Sat. 7/19/2025	No Vespers (Father is away)	

Sun. 7/20/2025	6th Sunday of Matthew	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	<i>James 5:10-20</i>	Gospel: Matthew 9:1-8
Usher(s):	Mike Greenwood, Van Kakouras, Matt Mandros	
Sat. 7/26/2025	No Vespers (Father is away)	
Sun. 7/27/2025	7th Sunday of Matthew	9:00 AM Orthros 10:00 AM Liturgy
Epistle:	<i>St. Paul's 2nd Letter to Timothy 2:1-10</i>	Gospel: Matthew 9:27-35
Usher(s):	Maria Apostolou, Angela Flegas, Nada Melki	

USHERS ARE REQUIRED TO ARRIVE FIFTEEN MINUTES PRIOR TO BEGINNING OF LITURGY! THE USHER LEADER IS TO ARRIVE FOR THE BEGINNING OF ORTHROS. IF YOU ARE NOT ABLE TO USHER AS SCHEDULED, PLEASE CONTACT ANOTHER USHER FROM YOUR LIST TO REPLACE YOU.

Weekly Classes & Worship

Path to Eternity with Fr. Theodore is on Sundays after Divine Liturgy in the Conference Room. Everyone is welcome to join, whether they are just curious about Orthodoxy, or they have been part of the Church their whole life! You do not need to have attended a previous class in order to come.

Holy Trinity Roanoke is on YouTube! God willing, we will soon have the capability to broadcast services as well.

Check it out: <https://www.youtube.com/@HolyTrinityRoanoke>



THE ORTHOCHAT EPISODE 70: FR. THEODORE LYKETSOS



The 2025 calendar is posted in the church hall; please show your hospitality by signing up to be a host.

Fellowship Hour Hosts for May 2025

May 4	Nada Melki, Sandu Family, Della Bryant – memorials for Ioana Andrei (mother of Dr. Corina Sandu), & Suttie & Annie Economy (parents of Della Bryant)
May 11	Mother's Day – Parish Council
May 18	Community Luncheon for His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos of New Jersey
May 25	1 year memorial for Amelia Tames

If there is no sponsor, we will designate every 1st Sunday of the month PotLuck Sunday. Any parishioner may bring a dish. Check your Friday email to see if the 1st Sunday is Pot Luck.

If you have questions reach out to Danna Owen at Philoptochosroanoke@gmail.com

Announcements

Welcome To Holy Trinity!

Welcome to all visitors!

Please introduce yourself to Father Theodore at the end of Liturgy.

- from the Ushering and Welcome committee
(Maria Apostolou, Naji Karim & Irene Karageorge)

Community Garden

We have officially planted two beds so far in the garden space out back! Currently there are tomatoes, bell peppers, basil, rosemary, and carrots. We have more tomato seedlings that we will plant once they're big enough! If anyone has any plants they would like to contribute, feel free to add them!

We're hoping that these plants will produce enough that they can be used for coffee hour, The Least of These cooking, etc. We're just excited to see what we can get!



Also, if you have any ideas on how to make watering easier, please let us know!

Thank you!

Caitlin and Grace

Memorials

The memorial on Sunday, May 4th also included Fr. Panagiotis & Presvytera Despina Leventis (2 years, parents of Jeannie Leventis). Fr. Panagiotis (Peter) served at Holy Trinity in the 1970's.

[Presbytera Leventis Obituary \(1933 - 2023\) - Aliquippa, WY - Casper Star-Tribune](#)

Fr. [Peter Leventis Obituary \(1931 - 2023\) - San Diego, WY - Casper Star-Tribune](#)

May their memory be eternal.



Fr. Panagiotis
(Peter) Leventis



Photo provided by Jeanne Leventis



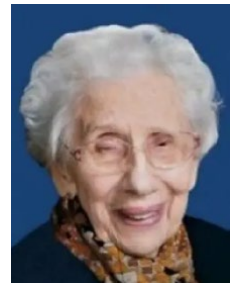
Presvytera Despina
Leventis

Upcoming Memorials



Joanne Stamus (Mother of Melanie Mandros, Stephanie DeMaurice, & Annette Stamus-Stull) – 1 year Memorial, Sunday, June 15th

Sandra Alibertis (Mother of Kostas Alibertis) – 7 year Memorial, Sunday, June 22nd



May their memory be eternal.

Religious Education

The Greek and Sunday schools helped make Metropolitan Apostolos feel welcome during his visit on May 18.

As we wrap up the year, we will hold our celebration on June 1, recognizing our students, especially those graduating from high school.

Praying that we all enjoy a happy, safe summer,
Fred Gianakouros



Additional Graduates

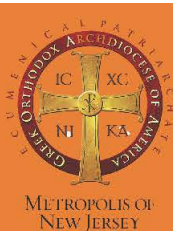
Alena Joyce Totten, granddaughter of Anna Robertson, graduated from Bloomsburg University in Bloomsburg, PA on May 17 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. She will pursue a career in Professional Sales & Marketing.

Greek School

The Greek School would like to thank all the Students and their Families for a wonderful learning journey this year and we are looking forward to another successful year. See you in the Fall!

Happy Summer!

All the best,
The Greek School Teachers



CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD

JOIN OUR STAFF!

**STAFF APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN!**



Maryland
**14-21 JUNE
2025**

Virginia
**5-12 JULY
2025**

New Jersey
**12-20 JULY
2025**

Are You...

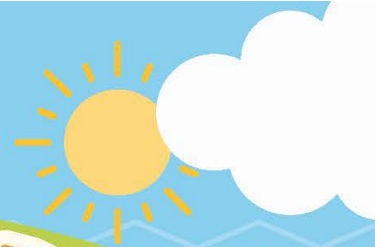
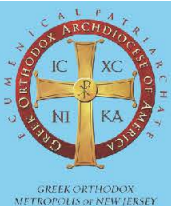
- ✓ Looking to grow your Faith?
- ✓ Hoping to make meaningful relationships?
- ✓ Seeking to boost your resume?

Registration Link: Scan or Click Below



More Information: <https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>





CAMP GOOD SHEPHERD



Maryland

Camp Wo-Me-To
1200 Knopp Rd,
Jarrettsville, MD 21084

June 15 - 21, 2025

Early Bird: \$625
Register by April 30,
2025
\$675 Regular Tuition

Virginia

Camp Piankatank
1586 Stampers Bay Rd
Hartfield, VA 23071

July 6-12, 2025

\$650 Tuition

New Jersey

Camp Linwood MacDonald
1 Flatbrook Rd,
Sandyston, NJ 07826

July 13 - 19, 2025

\$750 Tuition

REGISTER HERE!



<https://www.nj.goarch.org/camp-good-shepherd>



908-301-0500

Parish Council News

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed their time and talents to prepare and host the beautiful luncheon as we welcomed His Eminence Metropolitan Apostolos to our community. Thanks also to those who attended the dinner the night before at the Coach and Four. Your love and dedication truly reflect the spirit of our parish, and I am deeply grateful to be part of such a blessed and vibrant community.

As we look ahead to the summer months, please stay tuned for information about volunteer opportunities for our upcoming *Big Fat Greek Drive-Thru*, scheduled for **September 26, 27, and 28**. Your continued support makes events like this possible and successful.

Traditionally, summer brings a dip in attendance, and I kindly remind you to remain mindful of your stewardship commitments. Your ongoing support ensures that our ministries and mission continue uninterrupted throughout the year.

We are also currently addressing some necessary facilities improvements, particularly concerning the church roof. Due to recent leaks, the Building Committee is in the process of gathering additional estimates for roof replacement. Once we have all the information, a **special General Assembly** will be convened to present the options and determine the best path forward. Please watch for an upcoming announcement and make every effort to participate in this important decision.

With gratitude and love in Christ,

Matthew

Philoptochos News

JUNE-JULY NEWSLETTER

Many thanks to everyone who assisted before, during and after Metropolitan Apostolos' visit. There are 3 people in particular that I want to mention. Vickie Tsiakos and Larry Owen who prepped, cooked and served the food and Frances Simopoulos who handled the pre planning logistics to make sure everything and everyone was on point, on plan and in place! It was a day to be proud of!

Congratulations to the newly elected Philoptochos board of directors. The following board members have been elected to office for the 2025-2027 Term.:

Danna Owen -President



**Greek Orthodox Ladies'
Philoptochos Society
of Holy Trinity Church**

Frances Simopoulos-Vice-President
Maria Flegas-Treasurer
Maria Stamus-Assistant Treasurer
Melanie Mandros-Recording Secretary
Anna Robertson-Corresponding Secretary
Voula Dallas-Board Member
Julie Williams-Board Member

June 8 is Pentecost, the Feast Day of the Holy Trinity. For coffee hour we are asking everyone to bring a dish that represents their heritage. Greeks bring Greek food, Romanians a special Romanian dish, etc. If you identify as American bring an apple cobbler, hot dogs, baked beans, watermelon! The possibilities are endless.
Let's have a fun buffet and expand your palate by trying something new!

Our next Philoptochos meeting will be held on Sunday June 22nd after services.

If you haven't already, please link your Kroger Card to Holy Trinity Philoptochos. It's a great way to donate to a good cause every time you shop!
Pray for Peace

Danna

Roanoke



All of our summer outings will be announced on the Friday bulletin. Please be on the lookout for more information during the summer months.

If you have any questions or suggestions for our Club, please contact me at francesimopoulos@gmail.com or 434.851.6830.

I wish everyone a fun and safe summer!

Frances Simopoulos



A New Way to Celebrate a Cherished Tradition!

For the past 16 years, our community has come together to enjoy and support our 3-day Roanoke Greek Festival. As voted by our community last year, our committee was asked to take a new approach to our fundraiser!

This fall, I am excited to bring you the **BIG FAT GREEK DRIVE-THRU** on **September 26, 27 and 28!** The hours of operation will be Friday and Saturday 10:30 a.m. to 8 p.m. and Sunday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

While the format may be different, our mission remains the same: sharing our culture, food, and community spirit while supporting local nonprofit organizations. I know change can take getting used to, and I ask for your patience and support as our committee navigates this new experience. All of us will have to come together to make it a success!

You can look forward to all your favorite authentic Greek dishes, including: pastichio, moussaka, dolmades, tiropita, spanakopita, Greek salad, gyro, Greek fries, baklava, galaktoboureko, assorted pastries and Greek wines.

Stay tuned for more details on how you can volunteer and participate in the drive-thru. This will be a different approach than you are used to, but as soon as the format is ready, I will let you know. For the time being, please know that there will be volunteers needed for set-up the week of September 22 and our drive-thru will be on September 26, 27 and 28. Tear down will be on Monday, September 29. Also, please see the attached schedule for additional important dates which include baking and food preparation. **I ask that you put these dates on your calendar!**

I am counting on our community to help us promote our drive-thru. You can pick up your billstuffers beginning in June. They will be in the Fellowship Hall. Please distribute these to your family, friends, and businesses that you support! Word of mouth is our best advertisement!

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to reach me at 434.851.6835 or email me at ptsims@gmail.com.

Thank you for your continued support! Have a safe summer!

Pete Simopoulos
Chairman, Roanoke Greek Festival

BIG FAT GREEK DRIVE-THRU Baking and Food Preparation Schedule

Mark your calendars! Below is the July/August/September baking schedule. If you have any questions, please contact Frances Simopoulos at 434.851.6830 or francesimopoulos@gmail.com. Please join us in our preparations.

Food/Pastry Item	Date and Time
Moussaka (peeling and frying of eggplant)	Thursday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m. Friday, July 18 at 9:00 a.m.
Koulourakia	Saturday, August 2 at 9:30 a.m.
Baklava	Saturday, August 30 at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, August 31 after the Divine Liturgy Saturday, September 6 at 9:30 a.m. Sunday, September 7 after the Divine Liturgy
Kourambiethes	Saturday, September 13 at 9:30 a.m.
Packaging of Pastries	Saturday, September 20 at 9:30 a.m.



HOLY TRINITY BOOKSTORE

❧ OPEN EVERY SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH ❧

**WE HAVE BOOKS FOR ALL AGES, ICONS, PRAYER
ROPES, PRAYER BOOKS, CHARCOAL, INCENSE,
CENSORS, AND OTHER ITEMS.**

**PLEASE VISIT US AFTER THE DIVINE LITURGY ON
SUNDAYS. THANK YOU!**

Information

NAME

NAME OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP CODE

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

EMAIL ADDRESS OF SPOUSE (IF MARRIED)

Dependent Children's names and birthdates:

May we include your contact information in the parish directory?

☐ yes ☐ no *If yes, please indicate any information you would like excluded:*

May we add you to our parish email list?

☐ yes ☐ no



treasure

In gratitude for God's blessings, I/We commit to Christ and His Church the following amount:

\$_____ each week

planned giving

☐ "____ I would like to speak with someone about how to remember the church in my will, trust, or estate plan."

We enter our spiritual home not to be entertained, but to be a part of a community of believers. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion. As we pray, worship and serve together, we become His Body. To be truly a member of the Church as Body of Christ requires our presence and our engagement with one another -- in worship, study and service to others. We grow spiritually as a family. We give sacrificially as we acknowledge that all we have comes from God.

time & talent

Individual stewards should indicate areas of interest with a check (✓).

Families should mark "H" for husband, "W" for wife or "C" for children.

EDUCATION

- ☐ Bible Study
- ☐ Adult Religious Education
- ☐ Intro to Orthodoxy
- ☐ Publications
- ☐ Speakers
- ☐ Bookstore
- ☐ Library

LITURGICAL

- ☐ Sanctuary & Altar Care
- ☐ Altar boys / Acolytes
- ☐ Baking Prosphora
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Reader
- ☐ Greeter/Usher

MINISTRIES & PROGRAMS

- ☐ Campus Ministry
- ☐ Welcome Team
- ☐ New Member Events
- ☐ Outreach
- ☐ Stewardship
- ☐ Sunday Fellowship / Coffee
- ☐ Visitation - Hospital
- ☐ Visitation - Shut-ins
- ☐ Feed the Hungry
- ☐ Prison Ministry
- ☐ Grief Bereavement Group
- ☐ Disaster Relief Projects
- ☐ Blood Drives
- ☐ Project Mexico
- ☐ Int'l Orth Christian Charities
- ☐ OCMC Mission Center
- ☐ Seniors Ministry
- ☐ Couples Ministry
- ☐ Singles Ministry
- ☐ Military Ministry

YOUTH

- ☐ Church School Teacher
- ☐ Church School Administration
- ☐ Youth Leader
- ☐ Vacation Church School
- ☐ Camp Counselor

BUILDING & GROUNDS

- ☐ Garden & Landscape
- ☐ Plumbing
- ☐ Electrical
- ☐ Clean-up
- ☐ Interior Repairs
- ☐ Exterior Repairs
- ☐ Roofing
- ☐ Hall Rentals

ADMINISTRATION

- ☐ Fiscal Mgt / Review
- ☐ By-Laws
- ☐ Development / Fundraising
- ☐ Office help
- ☐ Computer / Technical
- ☐ Data Entry

COMMUNICATIONS

- ☐ Web site & E-mail
- ☐ Bulletin & Newsletter
- ☐ Public Relations

Any other talents or information on items listed above:



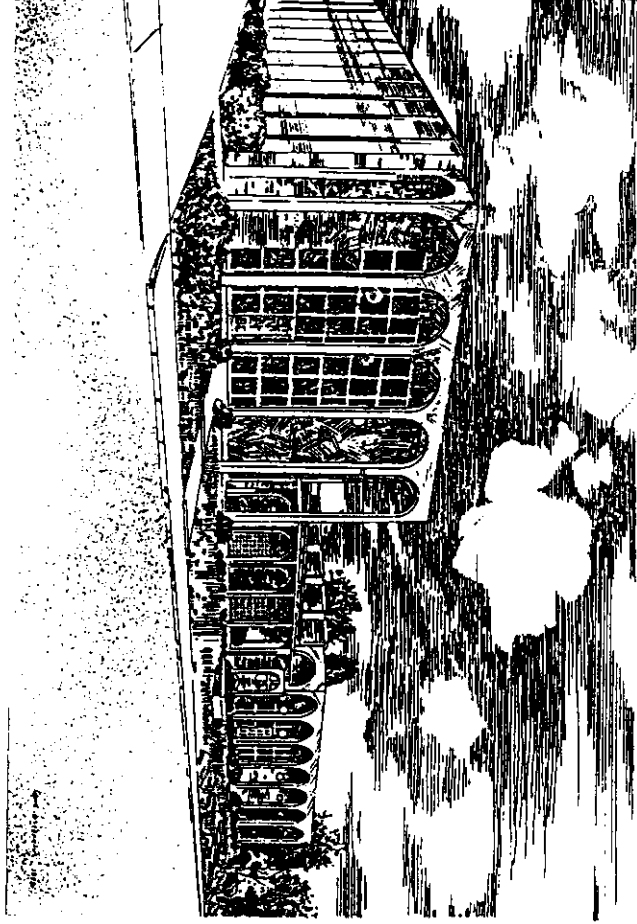
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NEW JERSEY

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