

TSINTZINIAN CHRONICLE

Volume 1

Number 5 December 1996

Happy Holidays Tsintzinians

The 1996 Convention: A Great Success

By Dr. John Gregory



Thanks to all of our members that attended the 1996 National Convention in Celeron, NY, the weekend was a complete success. The unofficial count was 419 persons of which 78 were children. What an exciting weekend!

We expected about 32 people to show up for Thursday night's small Bar-B-Q dinner of steaks on the grill or softlaki on the coals. Instead 123 people showed up. If it were not for Alex Gregory, Jr. and crew showing up with the food truck, we would not have made it. We were expecting about 90 to 115 people to show up for Friday (typical in past) but the count came to 230 people. More Tsintzinians came to the party on Saturday increasing the total to 419 people.

Who said that Tsintzinians do not eat breakfast! The first major breakfast buffet brought 119 to an early Friday morning start and 210 attended on Saturday.

The weather was perfect for all three days and the grounds were packed all day long. The events got off to a great start, with the final pouring of the asphalt on the new basketball court. The new swings went up at the last second on Thursday prior to the convention. The well pump that was missing for 38 years was repaired by a Tsintzinian member's donation, and the water flowed once again. The Kentrikon, located in the Pooles Hall not only served the best breakfast in town, but the greatest

mezza, and grilled chicken pita sandwich ever.

The art display on Saturday morning was another great success. Four great artists of Tsintzinian descendants proudly displayed their talents. The only complaint was that the 4 hours of display time for viewing the art was far too short.

We were honored by three mayors from Jamestown, Celeron, and Goritsa.

The weather was so good that the presentation by Peter Dickson on Tsintzinian history was temporarily canceled due to no one wanted to come inside. The grounds were packed as the traditional baseball game continued, and

a new sport came to the grounds, basketball. The field and court stayed active throughout the day and into the evening. The swings that were donated never remained idle. Children of all ages made maximum use of them while the parents had a chance to relax and meet with their family members. The first ecological tree planting took place. All the families involved had pictures taken of this historic event.

If you were unable to make this convention, it's OK, because next year it will be bigger and better. Thank you TSINTZINIANS for all your support, and may GOD grant you the best of health so that we can see you at the 1997 Tsintzinian Convention.

From the President:

Dear Tzintzinians,

Without question your 100th anniversary convention this past truly was the most memorable and enjoyable that I can recall, the largest attendance at over 400. Most surprising were the 140 who came on Thursday.

Dr. John and Donna Gregory were gratified to have the cooperation of the board and members, in this years' record setting gathering and related activities. They all promised an expanded and exciting series of news-



letters and they delivered the chronicle full of pertinent information. They promised a playground and basketball court, delivered. Promised was a more exciting, entertaining and danceable orchestra (they finally quit playing at 4:30 in the morning).

More choices of food, beverages, breakfast, snacks, Greek coffee, liquors, and pastries were readily available at all hours of the day. The clubhouse was busy all the time. The Gregory boys and family

Continued on page 2

Continued from page 1

from Toftrees, at State College, Pa. made this all possible, and they entirely were responsible for this enhancement.

Also the Ladies Organization working with Stella Ziska, Patty Poulos and Sharon Stratakos are and always have been major players in the success of our organization. We are counting on their continual support.

Regarding finance, our treasurer, John Zacharias can supply the necessary financial report to anyone on request. He invites you to call or write him. Interestingly enough, John's father "Zack" was our beloved treasure for nearly twenty-five years. We are very fortunate to have the present John as our treasurer.

Until now I have had not the reason to discuss our money matters. With this being my last year in office, I feel obligated to thank all of our people for their generosity when needed for any purpose. Also this year

with our record attendance, dues collection, gate revenue, bar receipts and wine raffle, we met our convention costs comfortably. Noolie and John Floras donated the liquor and this helped.

To maintain our property is the other side of the coin. Taxes, utilities, repairs, snow plow and tractor this year costs about \$8,000, this we had to borrow from our development fund. The mailing of the chronicle to over 800 members is a major enterprise for John, and Donna Gregory and Peter and Helen Laskaris. Most of us are aware of the role Dr. Zervos with his 50,00 lottery and 20.00 drawing contributed to our financial good standing.

About ten years ago, George Costianes and George Chelekis originated the Jack Mitchell Development Fund. Starting from zero capital we are now approaching our target figure of \$125,000. According to our treasurer, we are about \$25,000 short of our goal. All of this donated by you members —
—CONGRATULATIONS.

Finally, what does reaching our

goal signify;

Our meeting place will be secure far into the future.

Our building and property will be secured far into the future. Cost of attending the convention will be kept at a reasonable expense for all.

We must not risk any deterioration in our unique past. Most of us are descendants of poor peasant farmers from the environs of Sparta. Your property here us the connection and let us never allow this bit of land to be in danger——this is your land.

Should you like financial figures or statements, feel free to write or call our treasurer.

**John Zacharias
955 Lakemont Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15243**

Sincerely,

Pete Lambros

Coney Island Sauce Expert & Ex-Golf Pro Team UP

We cannot understate that the free hot dogs on Saturday night was a great success. Bob Olsen's son stated that never before did they serve more than a box to a box and a half of hot dogs (100 hot-dogs to a box) at a convention until the night of the 1996 convention.. A total of 4 1/2 boxes (450 hot dogs) were consumed in a matter of 42 minutes. Members were upset that they were unable to have seconds or that they waited in line only to find out that there were no more hot-dogs to be had. The chairman himself was only granted a bit size of the hot-dog from another member. After the convention the Tsintzinian Chronicle sent out a special investigation news team to find the reason for this great hot-dog success. The following is our re-



port:

The great geniuses behind the Saturday night hot-dog resurrection was Anargeros & Panagiota Vlahos, of Ithaca, NY. The inventor of the special secret coney island sauce, Anargeros, owner and operator of the Busy Bee Restaurant, brought with him to the convention, 8 gallons of the special Coney Island Sauce. (Anargeros has also offered to bring the same special sauce next year.) With special care and preparation of the this sauce and the special all meat Greek (kosher) hot dogs that Alex Gregory, Jr. brought with him from the Toftrees kitchens, everyone enjoyed the special meal. There is no question that this special ritual will be a repeated

next year.

NEWS-BREAK..

For the first time since the Tsintzinian golf class open Nick Lambros lost his position in first place. This set him in such a great depressed mode that Nick stated to me (in person) that since his golfing days are now over, he would volunteer to take over the Saturday night free hot-dog concession stand, with great efficiency. He guarantees a coney island hot-dog to all and the continuation of the great Vlahos coney island sauce. Thanks' Nicko for your assistance and we are looking forward to next year's coney island served with greater expediency.



WERE MOVING

Were excited about the new move.. The Tsintzinian Chronicle as of the first of year (1997) will be published from Melbourne, Florida. Thank goodness that we won't have to go to the Post Office in the snow and ice to get the stamps, mail the Chronicle and travel to Office Depot to get the 890 copies duplicated.

We still will try to publish 4 new Chronicle's a year.. We certainly will need your help for articles and information.. Please send information to the following address. In our next issue will also publish the new fax number.

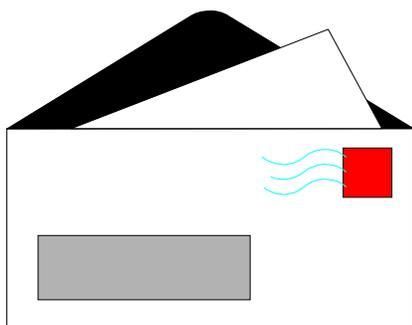
Tsintzinian Chronicle

P. O. Box 361408

Melbourne, Florida 32936-1408

Last Chance for Canadian Mailings

Throughout the past year the Tsintzinian Chronicle has been mailing the Chronicle to our Canadian Tsintzinians. This postage has a major added expense due to heavy restrictions in mailing newspapers to Canada. You are required to enclose the content in paper or plastic envelopes, adding additional weight and cost to the extra postage. Throughout the entire past year the board members have requested the Tsintzinian Chronicle be sent to inform our Tsintzinians of the great activities, of the regeneration of the Tsintzinian Society, and of information about the July Convention. As of now only 2 Canadian families have contributed to our membership, and only two families came to the 1996 Convention. Membership partly contributes to the cost of this Chronicle. As of 1997 the Board has taken action only to send the Tsintzinian Chronicle overseas to those parties that are truly interested and financially support the membership by paying our yearly membership dues. Keeping our heritage active is part of



what this Tsintzinian Society is all about.. You are truly a part of this historical society. We ask our overseas and across the boarder descendants to take part in our unique Society by actively participating in membership and also writing to the Tsintzinian Chronicle and spreading some light about Canadian Tsintzinian interests. We look forward to your response.

Artist's on Display

Tsintzinian descendants showed their professional talents at our July convention. Seven artist's gave us the honor of viewing their various mediums in the first Tsintzinian Gallery display. Photography, pottery, abstract acrylic paintings, Icons, sculptures, oils on photography and watercolors graced the walls and the tables of our convention hall. Several artist's were on hand to discuss their works and answer questions

from the many observers in the room. We here at the Chronicle couldn't

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be more pleased with the outcome from our artist's and guests. The only request was to have the show on two days rather than just the one on Saturday. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of the artist's for sharing with us all the many talents they have . Ken Beittel, Joan Beittel, Nick Coustienes, Presbyters Joanne Costianes Ferenz, Dino Seferlis, George Pappas, and Karen Voumakis. We know that there are other talented professional artists within the membership. We are again planning next year's Tsintzinian Artist Gallery Display, if you would like to participate please contact Donna McKay-Gregory at the

Tsintzinian Chronicle
O. Box 361408
Melbourne, Fl.
32936-1408

Photos of your work and a biography will be needed also. Any Authors of published books are also invited to show and share their talents as well.

TSINTZINIAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 1996 & 1997: ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND GOALS

Message to Members from J. Vournakis, Membership Secretary

Now that the end of 1996 is near, we can look back and feel very good about how well our beloved Tsintzinian Society has progressed during the past twelve months. Especially noteworthy has been the significant growth in paid membership. It has been a record setting year for recent times with the total paid members surpassing 300 Tsintzinians. Many of the members sent their 1996 annual dues to the Society well in advance of the Annual Convention, providing important working capital used to meet expenses related to many improvements in the clubhouse and grounds in Jamestown. The Convention was a success well beyond our expectations. Many new enhancements were added to make the experience richer from both a personal and cultural perspective. The number of members and families attending the convention were greatly increased over the 1995 convention, and may have set a record for the past three decades.

However, did you know that the 300 dues paying members last year actually represents only about 30% of the registered Tsintzinians who should have paid their dues? Therefore, you can see that we still have a great deal of room for improvement. We need to continue to increase the number of paid members if our Society is to have the financial resources to continue its work.

The Society has embarked on several new and well-received activities in 1996, such as the establishment of the Tsintzinian Chronicle, the collection and archival storage (via digitizing) of the valuable photographic record of our heri-

tage as Tsintzinians in the United States, and the continued support of efforts to develop an understanding and written record of our history. If these efforts are to go forward, we need the continued and increased financial support of our membership.

I call on you, therefore, to send in your membership dues to the Society today by sending in the coupon that you will find on the last page of this issue of the *Chronicle* newsletter along with your check. Note that dues are \$25 for individual members, and \$35 for family memberships until April 31, 1997. The amounts will increase to \$35 and \$55, respectively, after April 31st.

I wish to emphasize, in closing, that by paying your dues early you will make it possible for us to be able to provide four issues of the *Tsintzinian Chronicle* during 1997, to continue our efforts to improve our Jamestown facilities, and to continue the afore-mentioned projects. It is important that we continue to build our understanding of what it means to be a Tsintzinian so that we and our children better understand the sacrifices of our Tsintzinian fore bearers; those parents, grandparents, great grandparents, uncles, koumbari and loved ones who came before, who had the courage, intelligence, humor and camaraderie to survive and provide for us, and in doing so to be the earliest and most significant founders of the Greek-American heritage in America. I personally thank you in advance for your support.



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In Search of...

In 1946 the veterans of the war had their group photograph taken at the convention that year. We are in search of that photo for our records. Unfortunately we were unaware that a group shot was taken that year

because this year, 1996 was the 50th year anniversary, and it would have been nice to have another group photo taken. We will do our best to have one taken at the 1997 convention. If you still have your uniform and fit into it would be nice to bring and wear it in the photo.



When the coffee is hot
and the talk is good
and the feeling is easy
and the laughter is light
and the memories are
many, but the time is
too short... you know
you're with a friend.

**Join us for the 1997
convention!**

History Corner

Two Echoes from the Tsintzinian Past

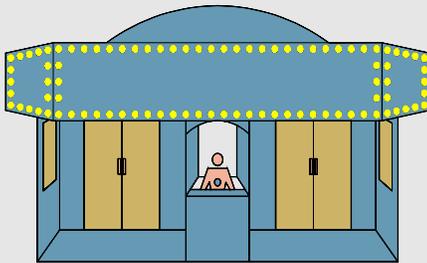
By Peter Dickson

Plans to transform the front room of the Jamestown clubhouse into a Tsintzinian museum should encourage people to dig deeper to find more historical gems from the past. One remarkable treasure was preserved for many years by the late Peter Pappas from Ithaca who gave this writer 29 issues of a monthly Tsintzinian newspaper published in this country from January 1925 to mid 1931. And then again from about 1937 to 1948. These issues are chock full of stories and news about all the families and special articles on the history of Tsintzina. Efforts are being made to preserve the fragile originals, make digitized copies, and bound xerox sets for society members. We need people to come forward and tell us if they have more issues which may have numbered more than 100. Please contact Peter Dickson at the address/phone below.



The other amazing echo from the past is mind-boggling. The last issue (July, No. 4) of the Tsintzinian Chronicle contained an article about a family originally from Chios with the last name, Zizinia, which had migrated from Tsintzina in the 1600s. After the Turkish massacre on Chios in 1823, the

Zizinia family fled to Marseilles and Constantinople. In the 1840s, a Stefanos Zizinia became a wealthy merchant in Alexandria (Egypt) and he and his relatives lived in their own separate neighborhood called "Zizinia, on the western edge of the old downtown district. One incredible indication of their wealth is a fabulous 1905 color



postcard showing their own theater or opera house called the "Zinina Theatre" built in the late 1860s by Stefanos Zisinia who a decade earlier had served as President of the city's Greek community. The theater which was the first of its kind in Alexandria, was a substantial building in the European style with excellent acoustics for the Greek and European plays performed there. Peter Dickson who recently discovered the postcard card will make color enlargements of the theater for those who contact him at 3515 North Pershing Drive, Arlington, Virginia 22201. Phone/FAX: (703) 243-6641.

John & Donna Get Married

18Years of bachelor hood and 10 Years of bachelorette hood ended as Dr. John Spero Gregory took the hand of Miss Donna Marie McKay, Saturday, September 14, 1996 at 6:09 in the

evening at St. Constantine & Helen Greek Orthodox Church Annapolis, Maryland.



Donations

We would like to thank the following members who have sent in donations for memorial funds and other reasons; Mrs. Helen Simos sent in a Donation In Memory of her late husband Mr. Jerry N. Simos, Mr. Alex G. Gregory sent in a Donation in memory of his parents Mr. George Gregory and his mother Catherina Gregory, and Ms. Connie Vouras, of Wilmington, DE sent in a donation, because she could not make the convention. She stated the it was a great and proud society to be with, and she felt great about it. Thank You Connie and we hope to see you at the 1997, 140th year Convention.

No one ever injured their eyesight by looking on the bright side of things.

Iconography

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JOANNE

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RD 1 BOX 241-1
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Group Photograph from Tsintzinan Society Convention, Jamestown N. Y. July 1996.

Letters To The Editor:

Tsintzinzn Chronicle
312 N. Glen Ave.
Annapolis, MD 21401

Please note, we are receiving 2 copies of the Chronicle. I have taped the address labels be low so you can eliminate one copy.

We just love the Chronicle. It's one of the more interesting and fun periodicals we receive. Thanks so much for putting in all the time and effort for us. It's such a well-done newsletter. Keep up the outstanding work.

*Sincerely,
Peter and Patty Nickles*

Order Form:

For Black and White 8x10 Cost: \$10.00 plus \$1.00 Shipping (20% will be donated by the artist to the society)

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Send to : **Karen Vournakis Studio**
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1997 Tsintzina Society Membership Form

Last Name:	First:	Profession:	Home Phone:
Address:	City:	State:	Fax:
Birthday:	Zip:	Office Phone:	
Spouse:	Birthday:	@E-Mail:	

Please List Your Children's Full Names And Birthdays

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

This information will also be used to update Society member information.

Type of Membership (Please Check One)

- Individual \$25.00
- Family \$35.00
- Student \$15.00

Please Check if Ladies Auxilary Member

Amount Enclosed: ▶ _____

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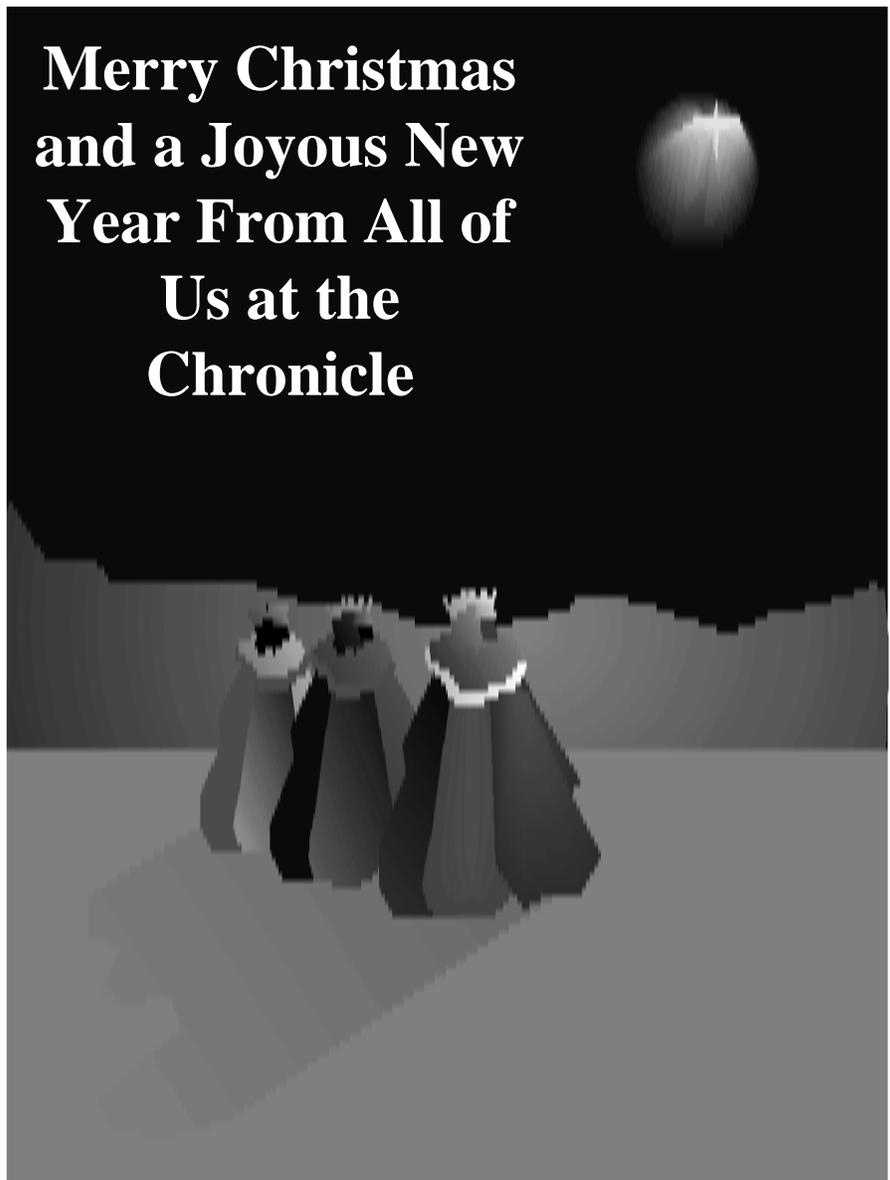
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Policies:

The Chronicle has the legal right to reject advertising for any reason. We will not change your ad without first contacting you. If it is unacceptable, we will notify you and ask you to rewrite it. Placement of ads within each issue is random.

The Chronicle staff realizes that without your support and encouragement, this publication couldn't be possible. We thank the many contributors of articles for their help in making this paper informative and inspirational to the many Tsintzinians in our Society. The great success of the 1996 Tsintzina Convention can be attributed to your williness and support to keep this Society alive and a part of our proud heritage. We wish all contributors and readers a very Merry Christmas and a New Year that brings you health and joy.



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