

THE TSINTZINIAN

Monthly Newsletter

December 2019

The Tsintzinian Historical Society of America

2020 BOARD of DIRECTORS

- **PRESIDENT:** Duane Ferencz
deify_7@yahoo.com
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** John Schlick
Tsintzinasociety@yahoo.com
- **TREASURER:** Peter Sfikas
psfikas@aol.com
- **SECRETARY:** Pauline Costianes
paulncost@yahoo.com

BOARD MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP: Margaret Manos
mjmanos@aol.com

REUNION CHAIRMAN DIRECTOR:
George Sfikas

MEMBERS:

Nick Koumontzis
Linda O'Connor
Kathleen Costianes
Kathryn Slezak
Socrates Zacharias
P. J. Karousis

The President's Message:

My Dear Tsintzinians,

I hope you all are doing well! I have a short message in this edition as I've covered most of the hot topics in last month's first Newsletter. I'm pleased to report on the Board's enthusiasm and energy as we head into 2020! In the following months you will be reading about upcoming projects that other groups within the Board are focusing on. Again, our goal is to expand upon the communication about our projects and hurdles so you may clearly understand them and hopefully be able to contribute somehow. Whether it be new ideas and perspectives or hands-on knowledge and experience, your input matters. Recently, you were mailed the Christmas Raffle and I can't wait to see the live drawing in a couple weeks! This money is a very important this time of year when several thousands of dollars of bills come in and we take from Peter (our Endowment Fund) to give to Paul (our checking account) so please buy what you can. But now, now it's time to focus on family. I hope you all had a Happy Thanksgiving. And looking forward, I wish you all a very, merry Christmas!



Christ is born! Glorify Him!

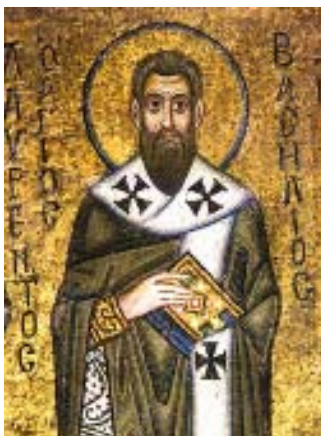
How to celebrate Christmas

<https://www.xpatathens.com/living-in-athens/survival-guide/greek-traditions/item/1274-how-to-celebrate-a-greek-christmas>

Step 1: Take the children to see Santa Claus, who can often be found outside shopping areas giving treats to children.

Step 2: Expect neighborhood children to sing "kalanda" (Christmas carols) on Christmas Eve and offer their good wishes to you. Have dried figs, walnuts, almonds and - most important - coins on hand to offer the youngsters who come to your house.

Step 3: Prepare a holiday feast for Christmas Eve. Serve traditional foods and wine with baklava for dessert.



Saint Basil The Great

Continued to Page 2

Continued from Page 1

Step 4: Bake loaves of "Christopsomo" (Christ bread), a sweet bread formed into shapes of your choice. You can also decorate the loaves with symbols that reflect your family's trade. Serve the bread with dried figs.

Step 5: Display a wooden bowl with a piece of dangling wire holding a sprig of fresh basil wrapped around a wooden cross; this is the Greek symbol for Christmas. Keep fresh water in the bowl to keep the basil alive.



Step 6: Immerse the basil and cross in holy water once a day and sprinkle drops in every room of your house to keep the sprites, or "killantzarin," away. These sprites are known to slide down the chimney between Christmas and Epiphany (January 6) and play mischievous pranks on your family.

Step 7: Remind your children to hang their socks over the fireplace, where small gifts will appear.

Step 8: Serve vasilopita, or Christmas cake, on December 31. Bake a florin (gold coin) into the cake. Whoever finds the coin in his or her piece of cake will have good luck in the coming year.

Step 9: Exchange gifts on January 1, which is St. Basil's Day. Also perform a renewal ceremony on this day by replacing all the water in your jugs with St. Basil holy water.

Room Reservations For 2020 Reunion

Last summer we explored the new Harbor Hotel in Celeron and loved what we saw and experienced. It has an indoor and outdoor pool, lots of seating outside to enjoy the lake and the food was excellent but the best part is it is a very short walk from the clubhouse. There is a block of rooms reserved for the society. Here is the information.



Blocked Rooms for July 24, 25 and 26

Name of Block: Tsintzina Society

Price: 189/night

Ten of rooms are 2 queen beds with balcony or patio and two rooms are king with pull out sofa and a patio or balcony.

CALL TODAY.....(716) 489-2800

<https://www.thechautauquaharborhotel.com>

Note: Rooms will be released 30 days prior and there is a 72 hour cancellation policy

Our 2019 Dues-Paying Members

Benefactors

Damian G. Allis, Robyn & Leon Andris, Nicholas G. Apostolou, Kathryn C. Brown, James G. Burlotos, Pauline Costianes, Eliot A. Costianis, Tasos Costianis, Constance J. Dusckas, Joanna C. Ferencz, Mosca M. Flint, James P. Gianukos, Debra A. Hoeg, Alex G. Laskaris, Peter G. Macheras, Mary & Eldon Mack, Margaret J. Manos, Paulette & Bill Manos, George P. Parthemos, Laurin Parthemos, Anna Parthemos-Meecham, Peter Sfikas, Nick S. Stam, Themetria Svolos, Michael C. Tillotson, Steven J. Yianoukos, Joan Zacharias, Socrates Zacharias, Barbara Zervos, Kaleroy Zervos

Single or Family Dues

Peter James Benekos, Amber Boyce, Stephan G. Cannellos, Canella G. Colivas, Aubrey & Joe Cook, Kathleen N. Costianes, Stephanie Costianes, Eleni Degelsmith, Katherine M. DeVengencie, Constance J. Dusckas, Nancy E. Dusckas, Alexandra C. Ellsworth, Duane G. Ferencz, D'Louisa K. Ford, Pauline R. Franks, Angeliki & John Georgiou, Louise E. Gibb, Elizabeth Goussetis, Magda P. Hatzis, Katina & Ted Houvouras, Jacob Johanssen, Thalia N. Johanssen, Jodi Kalantgis, Katherine & Paul T. Karakantas, Stephanie Kline, Demis Kontos, Nikolaos Koumoutzis, Nicholas H. Lambros,

Continued to Page 3

**2020 Tsintzinian
Convention
July 23, 24, 25, 26
Celoron, New York**

Continued from Page 2

Sfeya Lascaris, Nick Lascaris, Peter G. Lascaris, James G. Macheras, Peter N. Manos, Susan H. Manos, Karen D. Martin, Penny P. Meskos, Ike Nestopoulos, Ellen R. Nickles, G. Bruce Nickles, Katelyn Mellen, Linda O. Mellen, Elin & James Pantis, Alexander Rassogianis, Anna P. Ross, Stephanie & John Schlick, Mary Anne N. Scott, Vicci Sfikas, Laura & Tom Sfikas, Alexandra Slezak, Kathryn N. Slezak, Anne Stathes, Sarah & Ben Tillotson, Leberi A. Vlahos, Lisa C. Weber, Kay Zaharis, Mark S. Zaharis

Gifts to the Endowment

Robyn & Leon Andris, Nicholas G. Apostolou, Katherine M. DeVengencie, Duane G. Ferencz, Mosca M. Flint, Pauline R. Franks, Debra A. Hoeg, Thalia N. Johanssen, Stephanie Kline, Nikolaos Koumoutzis, Nicholas H. Lambros, Peter G. Macheras, Susan H. Manos, George P. Parthemos, Stephanie & John Schlick, Kathryn N. Slezak, Nick S. Stam, Anna V. Stathes, Socrates Zacharias, Kay Zaharis, Kaleroy Zervos

Corrections to this list? Please contact Margaret at mjmanos@aol.com.

Christmas Raffle Tickets

Call Peter Sfikas to buy raffle tickets and support our Society. \$20 for 1 or \$50 for three. The 3 paying prizes are \$500, \$300, & \$100. If you need tickets please call Peter at 330-883-7727. We will be doing the drawing on Facebook Live at 8pm Sunday, December 30th. Thanks for your support.

It's Time... To Pay Our 2020 Dues

Every Tsintzinian is a member of the Tsintzina Society based on their ancestry. Dues make it official and help cover the costs of maintaining our historic clubhouse year 'round. Consider giving the gift of dues to your children and grandchildren, parents and grandparents this year. Here are the rates:

Individual Adults: \$40
 Couples and Families, including all children under age 21: \$60
 Benefactors: \$100

Please consider adding a little extra for the Endowment Fund.

Dues may be paid by credit or debit card via PayPal under TsintzinaSociety@yahoo.com. You do not need to have a PayPal account in order to pay there. You may also mail your checks, made out to the Tsintzina Society, in care of:

Margaret Manos
 238 E. 95th Street, Apt. 5-B
 New York, NY 10128

Next summer marks the 127th anniversary of the founding of the Tsintzina Society. Our dues help assure that this society will survive another 127 years.

How to celebrate Christmas

<https://www.xpatathens.com/living-in-athens/survival-guide/greek-traditions/item/1274-how-to-celebrate-a-greek-christmas>

Christmas is an important cultural and religious event in Greece, second only to Easter and the Lenten season. Food plays a major role of the holiday season, as gifts, feasts, and symbols. Baked goods are especially important and

every region added its own special twist to the traditional recipes. The Greek Christmas celebration lasts for thirteen days, from Christmas Eve until Epiphany, January 6, the day that the Magi arrived in Bethlehem, bringing gifts to the Christ child. Most of the predominantly Greek Orthodox residents fast during the four weeks of advent, so elaborate



preparations are made for the Christmas feast. Greek culture has succumbed less than most cultures to the commercialism of the holidays. They decorate simply, often without a tree. Although, as an exception, Athens boasts the largest Christmas tree in Europe and its lighting is an annual tradition. On the islands, traditional fisherman communities, families still decorate a small ship instead of a tree, symbolizing their ties to the sea. Greeks, traditionally, give simple gifts, just one or two, usually on Epiphany, instead of on Christmas, symbolizing the gifts of the Magi.