

TSINTZINIAN CHRONICLE

Volume 8

Number 3 November 2002

The President's Message

by John Zacharias

We Have Come Beyond Our Past; We Must Continue to Go Forward

Our Society continues to thrive. The 2002 Convention had all the traditional happenings—the golf matches, the kids' talent show, the Greek food and dance into the early morning hours, the Saturday Night hot dogs, and late afternoon softball games. It also included bingo and other afternoon board games under the front lawn tent, the ladies pastry booth and the Olympic games for the youth—some new activities. Although we are having more and more of our second and third generation members passing away, the aura and mystique of our Society continues way beyond our past and for everyone who attends the convention and for that matter, pays dues, they also “want” to keep the Society going forward.



As an example of this “want” to go forward, at the fall board meeting of the Society held in Beaver Falls this year, I suggested that we hold a fall retreat like we did 7 years ago. The purpose of the retreat is to take the necessary time to plan our “over 100 years of meeting” convention in 2003 and seriously take the time to think about ways to keep the Society thriving. Without exception, every board member agreed to come back to Beaver Falls on November 16, 2002 for a weekend workshop at their own expense. Please expect a Presidential Letter from me in early December highlighting the discussions of our retreat. The retreat is open to any dues paying member and your comments and ideas for consideration should be sent to me directly.

As a summary of the fall board meeting, I report the following: the

Continued on page 2

Raffle Winners

John Papalas
Lincoln Park, MI
\$1,000

Georgia Matsouris Davis
Washingtonville, Ohio
\$500.00

Peter B. Nickles
Rochester, NY
\$300.00

Kathie Karakantas
Ithaca, NY
\$200.00

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2003 convention dates are July 24, 25, 26, and 27. The normal \$20 fall raffle is being replaced this year with a Christmas holiday raffle in which there will be two \$500 winners. Please look for and respond to the raffle solicitation mailer. The Membership Directory is scheduled for publication next summer; please place your commemorative family message in the Directory using the form elsewhere in this issue of the Chronicle. There will also be a Compact Disk at \$20 each available at the 2003 Convention including historic articles and pictures that you can zoom in on family members. Membership dues will remain the same; please complete the form included elsewhere in the Chronicle and return it early. Please note if you are planning to attend the 2003 Convention. As always, I hope to see you at the Convention. It will be a memorable one.

John S. Zacharias

Christmas

The bells joyously ring
in church for us to go they call us
to worship the Divine Infant
to say Christ is born together.

Like today the sun dawned
to enlighten the darkness of the soul
and like a Shepherd the lost flock
to lead onto God's path.

Heavenly Father our God
how great is Your love, how much?
That You sent Your Son here on
Earth
to enlighten us and save us?

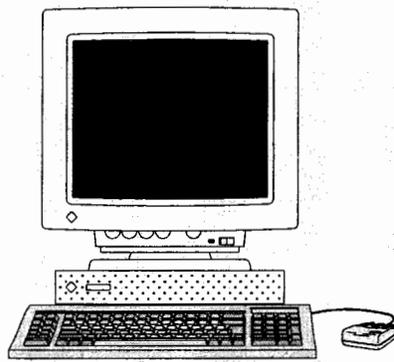
It is a great Feast today
the whole universe celebrates
rejoice our Allholy Virgin
rejoice Blessed Sweet Mother .

With brotherly love in our heart
let us celebrate together and
rejoice
thus together with us, God also
rejoices
and thus we tell Him we thank
You.

Chris L. Costianis
11-9-1998

Commemorative CD

To commemorate this festive year, we have created a CD of all photographs in the Tsintzina hall and all Tsintzinian Chronicles. The photographs were digitized over the past 10 years to preserve our heritage. The CD contains over 60 pictures including group photographs and earlier picnics and reunions. The CD is very easy to use. Just put in the CD and follow the directions. When you click on the name of a picture, the picture pops up in the included imaging program. You can zoom in to see relatives contained in the pictures. You can also print the pictures for your own collection.



The Tsintzinian Chronicles, from the first to the most recent volumes, are also included. These too are easily read by clicking on the volume of the paper you wish to see. You may print the Chronicle or simply read the paper on your computer screen

This CD has been carefully created so that it can be easily viewed on any PC containing Microsoft Windows. It is an Autorun CD.

The cost of the CD is \$20.00 + \$5.00 for shipping and handling. It will be sent to you immediately after receiving your order form. The Tsintzina CD would make a great gift for family members or other members of the Tsintzina Society. The order form is located on page 9 of this Chronicle. All proceeds go to the Tsintzina Society and will be used for the maintenance of the building. Order one today and enjoy revisiting the past.

Please do not hesitate to call, write, fax, or email any of the board members with your ideas, suggestions, or concerns. Through your input, we can meet the very special needs of this Society.

The 2003 Convention— "Celebrating 110 Years of Meeting"

by John S. Zacharias

The 2003 Convention dates are July 24, 25, 26, and 27. For the past couple of years, the Board has been planning to make the 2003 convention a celebration. Recently, Peter Dickson pointed out that the first official gathering was at the Raccoon Road Park in Youngstown Ohio in 1893 so there we go—the 110 th anniversary. We are planning at our fall retreat on November 16-17 to plan activities that will focus on the age group 20 to 45. We believe that there are many of you that have been to Jamestown once as a youngster and we want to make this a convention that your spouse and children will feel comfortable and learn about your heritage. Sort of like "The Fat Greek" Convention. Please talk to your other cousins, put the dates on your 2003 calendar and expect to hear more about it shortly. A formal convention invitation is going to be available this year to remind your cousins. Special invitations are going out to our members and their extended families in Ithaca, Rochester, and Syracuse that we have not seen for a while. The Clubhouse is ready, the kitchen is ready, the cooks are ready, and the caretakers are ready. Please come in 2003.



If I Lived Then

In the cave in Bethlehem
Christ the Son and Word of God
like today was born for us
and the whole world rejoices
everywhere.

In the cave the Divine Infant
on this frozen night
so much calmness the Divine
Infant
the light of the world sent by God.

If I could be the humble manger
to become the mattress in the hay
if I could be the little lamb to warm
the Holy body with my breath.

If I could be one of the Magi
to follow the bright star
to bring gifts gold and myrrh
kneeling to worship.

Glory in the highest with the
Angels
if we could say hymns from on
high
if I could be a nightingale with my
speech
to sweetly chant the Hosanna.

If I lived then, oh if I could
to gaze with one glance of mine
to become light in the thought
an unquenching flame in my heart.



ICONOGRAPHY

Written by the hand of the
servant of God

Joanna Ferencz

Phone: (724) 537-2651

www.comeandseeicons.com/ferencz.htm

Chris L. Costianis
2-8-1994



Tsintzina Directory **Commemorating** **100 Years**

At the end of this Chronicle are forms describing how you can have an advertisement or congratulatory comment included in the 2003 Directory. This Directory will be a fund raiser for the expenses associated with the kitchen re-modeling. The theme of the Directory is a commemoration of the over 100 years that the Tsintzinians have been meeting in Jamestown. The prices of advertisements have been set so that just about every family can acknowledge our commemoration and every business can advertise a little. In this mobile world that we live in, and because of so many things being done over the internet, seeing products and getting services are no longer limited to geographic areas. Through advertisements, we can learn what some of our members are doing and then our members can use the services and products of our members. It could be the beginning of a new benefit of the Tsintzina Society. If you have any questions, direct them to Helen Laskaris, Joanna Ferencz, Pauline Costianes, Tom Costas, or Peter Nickles of Rochester NY.



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First Mercantile Trust Names Laskaris Product Manager for Employee Benefit Programs

First Mercantile Trust Company today announced the appointment of Brian Laskaris as product manager for its employee benefit programs. Laskaris will direct enhancement and quality assurance efforts for the company's employee benefit programs including 401(k) plans across all distribution channels.

Laskaris joined First Mercantile in 1999 as a conversion coordinator. In that position he assisted companies with the transition of their retirement plans to First Mercantile. He had responsibility for all new accounts in the West, Northwest, and Mid-South regions. He also served as chairman of First Mercantile's policy review committee in 2001. Prior to joining First Mercantile, Laskaris was a financial service representative with National Bank of Commerce in Knoxville. He graduated with a B.S. degree in finance from the University of Tennessee.



Scot Lenoir, First Mercantile president, said, "This move is a recognition of Brian's professional development and the growth of our firm. Brian impresses everyone with his enthusiasm and his commitment to client service, and this promotion is a recognition of his efforts," Lenoir explained.

First Mercantile, a wholly-owned subsidiary of National Commerce Financial Corporation (NYSE:NCF), has provided retirement plans and other financial services for more than 30 years to businesses and individuals nationwide. National Commerce Financial Corporation is a sales and marketing organization delivering select financial and consulting services through a national network of banking and non-banking affiliates.

Brian is the son of Alex & Sarah Laskaris and grandson of George A. & Angeline Laskaris of Memphis.

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Come One, Come All, to the "Big Fat Greek" Tsintzinian Convention in 2003!

How interesting it is that it has become a popular national theme recently, to be Greek and share in the traditions and the fun! We who belong to the Tsintzina Society, whether we are ethnically Greek, or just have become "one of the family" over the years, know how wonderful the Greek culture is.

We experience the ambiance, the flavors, the laughter, the music, the fun of reuniting at our Convention with old friends and family year after year. We work very hard at continuing the tradition of the Tsintzina Society and its meaning as it was developed over 100 years ago. We have Yearbooks/Directories dating back to the early 1900's and are in the process of (now that the collection is complete - thanks to the collective efforts of some of the Board Members) restoring the entire collection. We have pictures that have now been restored, framed and rehung in our newly remodeled Club House where we meet annually to PARTY! We now also have a CD that is available to purchase for a nominal fee, and contains all the restored photos plus all the copies of the Chronicle, our newsletter.

We have a dedicated Board of Directors, of which I am proud to be a part, along with my son, Duane George. He and I were inspired by my father, George Costianes, who was not only a past President of the Society, but a very active member who worked hard to make the Society financially solvent many years ago as the membership chairman. My father, his siblings and their father are in photos from the early 1900's on, and he raised my two sisters and me to be proud to be Tsintzinians. I have passed on the tradition to my two children, Stacey and Duane George, and my husband Fr. Nicholas.

The Tsintzina Society and our annual Convention in Jamestown NY every summer at the end of July has been said to be one of the best kept secrets. I say let's tell everyone, let's invite all our friends and family this year. Not only those who have never been here, but those who have not been here in years! Let's celebrate our "Big Fat Greek" Tradition!! Let's make 2003, our 100+ year celebration the best year yet! Come and dance, eat the wonderful food, see the renovations and above all, enjoy the spirit of the Tsintzinian Annual Convention! See you there!

Joanna (Costianes) Ferencz



Honored and Remembered
Tsintzinians

Pete Polites Says Good-bye

I know you will take this hard and I write this note to all of you that have been such an important part of my life. On Wednesday, July 31st at 1:30pm I passed away. God had chosen His time for me. We are never fully prepared for our time but as all of you are aware I made the most out of the time I had on this earth. My life was full of God, family and friends. Now don't be sad, just stay focused on the memories that we all have shared and you are allowed to miss me a little...

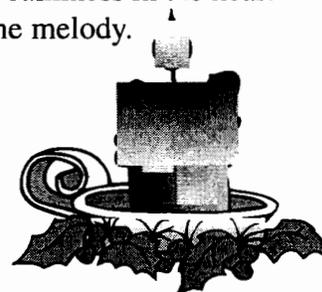
Pete

Another Christmas

In the dark cave
a Babe was born
and the darkness vanished
around Him light poured out

Light in the darkness of the night
and light in our souls
He is the King of the world
He is our deliverer

From on high is heard
the chanting of Angels
Oh! What calmness in the heart
what divine melody.



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Continued from page 5

Magi from the east
go to worship
before the manger, Christ
to leave their gifts.

Let us also become Magi
to go to church
to take gifts to Christ
to those who are hungry.

From the star of the east
let us all be enlightened
to always follow
the straight path of God.

Chris L. Costianis

Good Memories: Jamestown

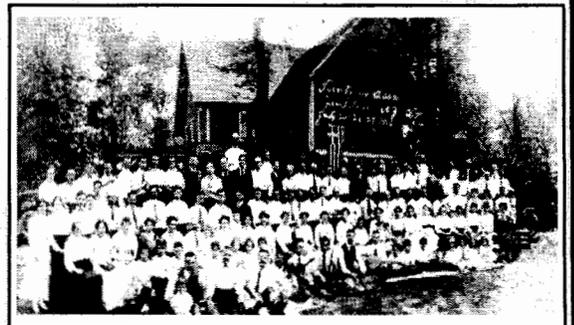
by George Sfikas

Letter to the Youth:

Fall is here. Leaves are changing colors. Heck it's already snowed a couple of times. It is usually around this time; when the year is not quite over, but there isn't a whole lot of it left, that I like to sit and remember all the things that have made this past year worth while. Everybody remembers the birthdays, the anniversaries, and the random celebrations of life. One memory that I am very proud of though, is one that a lot of people don't have. Every year in the month of July, I get to go be a part of something that a lot of people never get the chance to do in their life-time. About one-hundred years ago in the quiet town of Jamestown, New York; a



small group of people struggled and saved to make sure that we would have this opportunity today. The opportunity to take a few days out of the year to go to a place bearing so much history for our families and enjoy life the way they did. Every year a few things change, whether it's the dinner menu or the daily events. A few things always stay the same, like the traditional Greek music and the great fun that everybody shares. I guess the main thing I would like to impress upon everyone with this article is that we are all a part of something that was specifically created for us. The society isn't there so a select 2 or 3 dozen can go every year. It is there so everyone with a link to those few villages in Greece can get away to re-



member and be a part of something special. To a vastly growing amount of the population, a person's genealogy is just the stories passed down about how some long forgotten relative came to the U.S. and started a new life the American way. I am proud to be part of a group that upon setting out to this new world, did not forsake their way of life, but instead integrated their ways with the lifestyles developing around them. Through the years though some of those traditions have been passed over or just plain forgotten. Luckily for us, our parents, grandparents, and even further back for some, found a way to pass on and keep something that they were and still are very proud of. Come back to us. Help us celebrate our centennial as only we can. Don't let fade away what so many have struggled to preserve.

Important Meeting: The Future of our Society

There will be an important meeting on November 16-17 at the Holiday Inn in Beaver Falls, PA for any dues paying member. We want people to express concerns and share feeling about the direction of the Tsintzina Society. The itinerary below represents the work schedule and concerns that will be discussed at the meeting. We welcome all that wish to attend.

If you can't attend but wish to express ideas in these areas, **please email John Zacharias at jzachari@gatewayfinancial.biz or call John at 412-497-1776.** Your input is very valuable and your concerns and ideas will be addressed. The future of our society is our most important concern.

Sat 2:00 P M—Full group

A. Review of where we are;

1. What are we doing well?
2. What is the value of the Tsintzina Society to each of us?
3. What is going on outside our Society?— In Churches and other Societies like ours
4. Summary of above discussion.

SAT—Break out sessions—3:00-6:00 pm

Group 1—Financial—What projects should be done(raffles, directories, etc.) what capital projects should be done?

Group 2—Convention—What activities should be done; what fees to be charged; how many days; who should be invited?

Group 3—Future Goals—How long will we continue if convention attendance declines; what is the future of the Society; what direction do we want to go?

Group 4—Membership—Do we have separate classes; how valuable is the Chronicle; do we have geographic specific activities; do we have a more formalized membership renewal process?

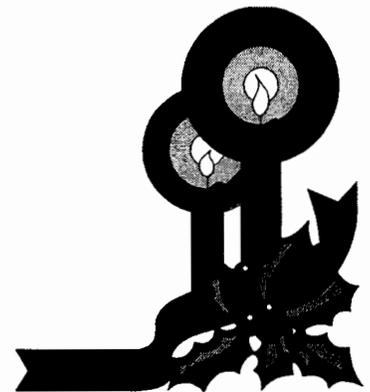
Sunday morning at 10:00 AM: Draft Plans

Please See
Our Website
[http://156.63.251.180/
tsintzina/tsin.htm](http://156.63.251.180/tsintzina/tsin.htm)

A Holiday Wish

This time of year brings out the best of family, love, tradition, and celebration. Holidays give us the opportunity to remember our past, celebrate our present, and hope for the future. Please take the time to remember who we are and where we came from. Celebrate our heritage and take pride in the Greek traditions that give us our soul.

May your family enjoy
the togetherness of
Thanksgiving, the joy
of Christmas, and the
promise of a wonderful
New Year.



Plan for the 2003
Tsintzina Convention!

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Tsintzina Society 2002 Directory

Dear Directory Committee:

Please include me in the Directory commemorating Tsintzinians meeting for over 100 years in July. Attached is my layout.

Company Name or Contact Name:

Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Telephone:

Circle One:	Full Page	Half Page	Quarter Page	Business Card	Contributor
List	\$135.00	\$75.00	\$40.00	\$25.00	\$15.00

Inside covers and outside back cover at \$200.00. *(Please call number below if interested).*

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BEFORE MAY 31, 2002. CHECKS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE THE PROGRAM GOES TO PRINT.

Make checks payable to: Tsintzina Society

Remit to:

**Helen Laskaris
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(740) 387-9271**

1/4 Page ↓

Tsintzina Society Directory Ad Form

Layout or clip your ad in the appropriate space, do not use staples.

Business card ads are limited to 8 lines of type.

Photo ads are available with 1/2 or full page ads only.

Please supply any artwork/logos in ad.

Full page ads - please use other side.

Business Card ↓