

# TSINTZINIAN CHRONICLE

Volume 5

Number 1 October 1999

## The Last Convention of the Millennium

By Kaleroy Zervos [cadillac@epm.net.co](mailto:cadillac@epm.net.co)

For those of you who attended, the following will allow you to remember it all over again. For those of you who didn't (and shame on you!) Here's a little bit of what you missed!

**The Clubhouse...** For hosting our annual conventions since 1921, the old clubhouse has been holding up like a true Tsintzinian. Aches and pains here and there, namely a leaky roof and some sewer troubles, but always improving. This year, thanks to Lee Costianis, the driveway was blacktopped and the grounds re-landscaped. Roger and Christine Volk, our forever positive caretakers, have been doing a fantastic job all year maintaining the clubhouse, advertising and booking the social hall for local events and making sure everything runs smoothly the weekend of the convention. Bill Manos was in charge of the kitchen Friday and Saturday night. He kept Demo, Bill Vlahos, and Lee Costianis on their toes preparing each night's meals. The Saturday midnight spread was excellent!

**The Afternoon Activities...** This year's annual before dinner baseball game included all ages. Pete Lambros was seen pitching several innings. Pete and Wendy Sfikas captained the winning team with a score of 8-5. A rematch has been scheduled for next year's convention! Unfortunately, Molly World, was rained out for several of the younger kids, but many of the young adults were spotted at various restaurants in Bemus Point. There was much talk of organizing boating activities for next year. Keep your fingers crossed! Saturday afternoon there was also a screening of the film "Do You Wanna Dance" by Greek



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## From the Editor

Dear Tsintzinians,

For the past four years, the *Chronicle* has brought to you the news and sites of the Tsintzina Society. We have tried to deliver news about Jamestown, the convention, traditions, and the wonderful people that make up this wonderful group. We are very fortunate to be a part of a rich tradition in which we can celebrate our history and our heritage with our families. Truly, this Society enjoys a family reunion each year.

This past convention was a successful reminder of how this convention brings together as many as five

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Proud to be  
Tsintzinian!!!

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American actor/filmmaker Bob Krantz. Set in Greek town, Chicago, it's the story of a *xenos* thrown into a Greek-American community and his experiences struggling to be accepted. The film was written, directed, produced and financed by Greek Americans and has been shown in New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago and now Jamestown. It has also been reviewed in Greek America magazine and videos are available for those who missed it through Ellinas Productions for \$19.95. You can contact them at (310)-859-1295.



**The Children's Talent Show...** Saturday night we got to preview the next generation of Hollywood's Tsintzinians with the annual talent show. Organized and hosted by Annette Mavrophilos it showcased entertainers from across the country. Up and coming author and dancer, Kathryn Slezak, daughter of Kathleen Costianis and granddaughter of Nick Costianis, read a short story she'd written about Tsintzina and performed a segment of the workout video "The Grind."

Alyssa Nickles of California, Vasilea Mavrophilos of Maryland, and Alex, Blake and Alexa Gregory of Penn State, performed an instrumental version of the song "Tequila" complete with exciting dancing of Christina Mavrophilos of Maryland. Alex Decker, son of Paula (Vlahos) Decker, carried on Greek musical tradition with a classical violin piece. Matoula Stavropoulos of Boston followed in the path of Homer by reading a poem she'd written. Lauren Parthemos of New York and Amy Villagooney of North Carolina both sang separately and look like they're planning on giving Anna Vissi a run for her money!



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[http://156.63.251.180/  
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If you can think of  
anything to add to it please  
let us know.

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generations of families. Children and adults of all ages came to Jamestown to enjoy the company of close and distant relatives.

This year's convention also brought about some changes. Dr. John Gregory has handed over the reins of the board to Dr. Skevos Zervos. Pauline Costianes takes over the vice presidency, John Zacharias remains as treasurer, Dr. John Vournakis stays as membership chairman, and Duane Ferencz heads the secretarial position. New board members include Cassandra Chrones Moore and Eugene Geracimos. The board also made some important decisions. A plan to make the Tsintzina Society financially solvent for years to come was unveiled. More details will be presented in the next paper. It was also agreed that the *Chronicle* should be sent to members who have paid their dues within the past three years. Dues money presently sustains this Society and the cost of the *Chronicle* continues to increase. We hope that people will pay their dues and continue to receive the *Chronicle*. This *Chronicle* represents the last one that will be sent to all people associated with our Society. The next *Chronicle* will be sent to all

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# **Tsintzina Society Board Members & Alternates 1998-1999**

**Dr. Skevos M. Zervos**  
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eskevos@aol.com

**Pauline Costianes**  
Vice President  
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**Peter Lambros**  
President Emeritus

**Peter G. Laskaris**  
laskaris@gte.net

**Cassandra Chrones Moore**  
ccmassoc@aol.com

## **WHEN I WENT TO JAMESTOWN**

By Kathryn Slezak  
(Based on a somewhat true story from 1998)

One morning I woke up. I got ready because I knew we were going to Jamestown, NY. We went to the car. We drove and drove and drove and drove. We drove until we were at a gas station. Then we went to the bathroom. As soon as we got back in the car, we ate. We ate fruit roll-ups, fruit and crackers. We drank water. It was in a water bottle. After we ate, we tried to take a nap. After some of us slept for an hour or two, we all woke up.

We finally saw that we were there. We all got out of the car. I raced to my cousins because I missed them. We played for a while. All the kids watched Grease. After the movie was over, we watched the movie again. Finally, it was time for the talent show.

All the kids did their talent and got five dollars. Afterwards, we went to the hotel and got dressed. We put body glitter on and our nail polish was already on. My mom did our hair. We went back to the house club thing. Then, my family and I went to eat dinner and dessert. After we were done eating, everybody danced. But some people went outside, like my sister, my brother, my cousins and also me. We did hula-hoops. I played with our cousins and my brother. Some people played ping-pong. Then we went inside. The trip was very, very great.

(Kathryn is the daughter of Kathleen Costianes of Lansing, MI, and granddaughter of Nicholas Costianes, Albion, MI. The story was recited during the talent show this year)

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**Highlights...** John and Yiannoula Chacona Flores were recognized for their long-time dedication to the society, volunteering their time and numerous monetary donations. They've always been first to help out with anything the society needed, including donating \$5000 for repairs to the clubhouse. A framed photo is now hanging in the



clubhouse in their honor. Irene (Chelekis) Parthemos, Youngstown, Ohio, took the lead for the young at heart. Darrin Geracimos, son of Gene Geracimos, took a moment Saturday night to thank the board and society for his scholarship that he is using toward his education at Duke University.

Sandra Gazetos, daughter of Tom and Tena Gazetos of Toronto was wed to Faoud Sheikh on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> of last year. Faoud won the nickname "Foti" on Saturday night with his talented Greek dancing. Sandra's younger brother, Spyros, was unable to attend this year's convention because of his busy schedule but many of his friends will be interested to know that his mediterranean musical group, PAVLO, has recorded a CD and currently have a video on Much Music in Canada. *BRAVO!*

And finally, John Gregory announced his resignation from the board after two years of service to the society. He is replaced by Dr. Skevos M. Zervos.

Mark your calendars for next year's convention...and be a part of Tsintzina as we continue celebrating our history and heritage into our second millennium in America!

## Our Dearly Departed

John E. Limberakis from Perth Ambay, New York died July 28<sup>th</sup>, 1999

Demos Nestopoulos died June 27<sup>th</sup> in Ithaca New York.

Mrs. Leon {Olga Chacona} Zaharis passed away September 9,1999 in Ithaca New York.

Marcus James Nickles passed away recently. He was from Packersburg but had since moved to Baltimore Md.



## Under the Weather

Pete Lambros has been under the weather, we wish him the best.

Aphrodite Costianes fell in her apartment a while ago. She required surgery for a hip fracture. She's now in Rehab and coming along slowly. We all wish you well.

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members who have paid their dues in the past 3 years. The board believes that financial solvency will allow the Tsintzina Society to continue for many generations to come.

We owe our children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren the same heritage and tradition that our ancestors left to us. Be a part of this Society and allow our rich traditions to continue.

## Calling All Tsintzinians...

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## Lambros Hits Hole-in-One at OCC

George Lambros was one of two golfers to record aces at the Oneonta Country Club this past summer. Lambros had his second hole-in-one on the par-3 10th hole as his 125-yard tee shot was witnessed by Tom McMahon and Dr. Howard Joseph.



## Ria Runs Marathon

Ria Zervos has volunteered to run a 26.2 mile marathon this coming December in Hawaii, in honor of a 6 year old boy. She will be participating in this marathon through the support of "Team In Training", a volunteer activity of the Leukemia Society of America. Ria is the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Skevos Zervos and granddaughter of Loy Georgetson.



## Letter to the Editor:

To the *Tsintzinian Chronicle*, I so enjoy the *Chronicle*. Are you planning a trip to Greece in 2000? I would love to be included as I am leery to travel alone. I would like to see my father's birthplace. Also I do not speak Greek, unfortunately. Thank you and my best, Yianoula Huey, Winter Park, Florida {E-mail [nanie01@aol.com](mailto:nanie01@aol.com)}

Dear Yianoula, I hope that who ever is planning the trip will get a hold of you. Have fun if you go.

# LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

## News that went on at the convention:

1. Roger Volk was unable to get more brown chairs, he will continue to look for them.
2. Sharon Stratakos resigned as Treasurer due to moving to California; {all will miss her}.
3. When dues are paid to Tsintzina Society, automatic membership to Ladies Auxiliary.
4. Ceiling in children's' room is in need of repair, the money that Stella Sikas donated as well as Alex Jr. and Dawn Gregory from State College, will be used for the children's' room. The children's' room needs to be finished, the ceiling, the carpet, screens.
5. We hope to start a scholarship fund of \$500.
6. It was decided to have a board of directors to run the Auxiliary. They are as follows, Annette Mavrophilipos , Elvira Franzis, Maria Chacona, Aleka Costianis, Demetra Anargyron, Maria Schirmer, Toulia Vlahos, Kathleen Costianes, and, Helen Laskaris {Chronicle Liaison}.

Thanks to all who made cookies and helped at the coffee table. Many visited it often. We hope to see more of you at next year's convention. A good time is had by all who come.

## Here is the result of the \$ 50.00 RAFFLE

*Thanks to all who help suport the Club House by buying a ticket..*

\$1,000.00	Richard Snebold	Wexford, Pa.
\$500.00	Pat Bielinski and Kevin Wolf	Erie, Pa
\$300.00	Nancy Dusckas	Erie, Pa
\$200.00	Robin Andris	Potomac, Md.

NICK VOURAS  
JOHN VOURAS

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## If it weren't for Jamestown

George Nickles from Ithaca brought an old photograph to Jamestown to give to Nancy Nickles Gregory. It was a picture of 5 men in their foustanella: Nancy's father James, her brothers Marcus and Agamemnon and grandfather Ioannis Nikolaides. The photo was in bad condition - large sepia with battered corners.

Nancy took one look and said that she remembered when it was taken. Then she pointed at old Ioannis and said, "He wasn't there". Several of us were present and we all looked at Aunt Nancy like she was losing it!

She commented that Ioannis had never left Greece and the picture was made in Cambridge, Ohio. The photographer had taken Ioannis' likeness from another photograph and stuck it in to create the photo of the three generations.

I looked closely at Ioannis and declared, "You are right! And I have the original photograph!"

I pulled out my copy of Ioannis and Yiannoula sitting in front of a stonewall in Tsintzina. It was the exact same Ioannis, except that the photographer had removed Yiannoula's hand from his arm and added tsarouhia (their feet were not showing in the original photograph).

This could be a genealogist's nightmare! (Obviously photos were being altered well before the computer!) And we would have never known if it were not for Jamestown!

Kathryn Doyle



## Happy Bithday

Happy 98th birthday Sophia Nicholakis. She celebrated her birthday at the home of her daughter and son-in-law, Angie and George Laskaris on Sept.28th.



## Thank You Patty

A big thank you goes out to Patty Poulos who has keep the Chronicle informed of all the happenings in the Ithaca area. Without Patty and others like her we would have nothing to print. **THANKS!**

## Images of the Convention





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## More Images of the Convention...



## THROUGH THE CENTURIES

*"...Nowhere else the Greeks' distinctive character has been more completely expressed than in the choral dance. When the Oriental peoples arrive at an art form of the choral dance, they extract the ultimate from its ecstatic nature: the individual mind and will of the dancer are extinguished, everything personal is wiped out, and he moves in strict conformity like a puppet controlled by the strings of an invisible master. But when the Greek sculptors carved in marble the lineaments of a choral dance, the observer admires the joyous rhythm which binds together, into a harmony more than personal, movements that arise from an inner compulsion and accord with the law of the dancer's own body."*

C. Sachs

Dance has played an important role in the life of Greeks all through their history. In the ancient Greek societies, dance was held in high regard. In fact, in his writings, Plato expresses his belief in the virtue of dancing, by saying that a man who can not dance is uneducated and unrefined. In the Byzantine times, despite the church guidelines, people were dancing in personal or public feasts. During the Turkish occupation, they continued to dance and they also created and passed down to us new dances praising the heroism of the fighters and their desire for independence and freedom, such as the dance of Zaloggos.



Today, Greece is probably one of the very few places in Europe and the New World where traditional dance is still alive, intertwined with our daily life. In some other countries, mostly Eastern European, traditional dance has kept only those folkloric elements which had some

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## More Images of the Convention...



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## 2000 Tsintzina Society Membership Form

Last Name:  First:  Middle:

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Spouse:   Please Check if Ladies Auxiliary Member

Father's Full Name:

Mother's Maiden Name:

Phone:  E-MAIL:

Family Decedents Of:  
(Please Check All That Apply)  Tsintzina  Zoupena  Goritsa  Other

### Type of Membership (Please Check One)

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\$55.00 after April 30th

Individual \$25.00  
\$35.00 after April 30th

Student \$20.00  
\$30.00 after April 30th

Amount Enclosed:



### Continued from page 7

entertaining value, became accentuated with elements of ballet, and has turned to a theatrical spectacle. In other countries, particularly in Western Europe, folk dance is preserved as a museum piece, only.

In Greece, today, traditional dances are still passed from generation to generation because people enjoy doing them and include them in their celebrations. There are some dances that are considered panhellenic, such as Kalamatianos and Tsamikos, and are known among all Greek communities in Greece and abroad. In addition, each region has preserved its own dances which are done in local feasts. Some of these not widely known local dances are at risk to become forgotten, but fortunately, there are systematic efforts of local organizations to encourage older people to pass their talent and knowledge to the youngsters.

Internet Article: <http://www.firstnethou.com/annam/dancehis.html/>

The next Chronicle will be out in February. If you have any information, news, or other interesting thoughts, please send to the Chronicle by the end of January.

*Have a wonderful  
holiday and good  
health to all  
your family.*



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