

THE TSINTZINIAN

Heritage Society of America

October 2018

The Tsintzinian Historical Society of America

2019 BOARD of DIRECTORS

- **PRESIDENT:** Duane Ferencz
deify_7@yahoo.com
- **VICE PRESIDENT:** John Schlick
Tshintzinasociety@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:
Stephanie Schlick
Kathleen Costianes
Kathryn Slezak
Socrates Zacharias
P. J. Karousis

Contents:

Your Inheritance	2
Doing Nothing	3
Not in Attendance	4
Remembered	4,5,6
Manos Family	5
Wedding Traditions	6,7,10
DNA Testing	7,8,9
Proud to be Greek	8,9,10
Motels and Hotels	10
Dues Form	11

The President's Message:

Hello my fellow Tsintzians,

I hope this Chronicle finds you well! Wow, what a reunion we had this summer! As they say, "the only thing that stays constant is change" and we had quite a few of them this year. In case you haven't heard or weren't there this year or were having too much fun to realize... WE HAVE AIR CONDITIONING NOW! What an achievement and joy! The new air conditioner works so well that some people actually said they were cold. Can you imagine, cold in July... while dancing... in Jamestown? True story.



We also moved the dancing to begin after dinner. I think with another adjustment and a stricter setting on the start to dinner we will have a smooth and satisfying transition for the evenings. And speaking of dinner, we were happy to welcome back Chrissy and Roger as our caterers. We had a couple hiccups in the kitchen but those have been addressed and an improved system has been ironed out. All things considered, our greek cuisine was devoured!

Another area of interest are the renovations to the bathrooms and bar, I heard many compliments to each. The bar has some more plans in the works, so stay tuned. These renovations not only stand to add to our capital improvements but, more importantly, to our rental opportunities. Our goal is to have 24-30 events and these renovations help to increase our chances and now we can ask for a little more of a rental fee as well! We are in discussions to have a real marketing campaign in the Jamestown area - something we have sorely been missing.

And speaking of finances... as our Treasurer, Peter Sfikas, reported at the reunion, we are pretty good shape. However, I will caution all of you that in no way are we where we want to be. As your President, I ask of you 2 things: pay your dues every year and come to your reunion. By doing so, we can ensure the passing of our wonderful heritage to our future generations.

I implore you to come and visit this summer! Again, I will leave you with this timeless quote from George Gerasimos, who had the idea of our annual convention/reunion -

"Dear young Tsintzinian children: it is your duty to respect this patriotic monument. Follow the path which your love has opened for you. Work, that this achievement may become greater and better. We are sure that you will do better, yet if not, at least try to keep it as good and beautiful as today. That will be our sweetest relief after we depart from this world, the relief that our work was done to not perish."

I look forward to seeing all of you this JULY 25th through JULY 28th!

Your Inheritance

In today's world, we often find that we are living in excess – just look at your cupboards, closets and monthly or weekly calendar; it feels like we're on a speeding train with no brakes and no way to get off. Yet, with an insatiable appetite, we are always looking for "bigger", "better", "different", "more". Where is our sense of gratitude if we don't stop long enough to gaze at what has been laid out before us? The Native Americans, in their wisdom, made all decisions as if they mattered seven generations into the future. In the play *Handing Down the Names* by Steven Dietz, the story tells of 200 years of German ancestors, beginning with those who left Germany to become farmers along the Volga River in Russia and eventually immigrated to America. It demonstrates the strength of a people and their love and hope for future generations. As Dietz states, "My ancestors picked sugar beets for generations so that now, in 1995, I can pick words; tell stories."



Our Tsintzinian ancestors sacrificed so much for us! They endured hardships beyond comprehension with only one thought; that of the upcoming generations. They gave their lives to create better times for the future. **Do you realize the incredible love that our lives stand on?** Remembering our ancestors is a way to realize what brought us into being - the influences in our lives and the influence we will have on our children and future generations. **We are current caretakers in this lineage of past and future lives.** Our direction should be pointed toward those who will come after us with great respect and awe for those who came before us.



Hopefully, the gravity of what I've shared here will touch your soul. Being Tsintzinian is your birthright and it comes with privilege AND responsibility: The responsibility to pay your yearly dues in order to maintain the property purchased by our ancestors 100 years ago and the privilege to enjoy a huge familial reunion once a year in a beautiful, safe and familiar setting – the place you once came as a child with your family. I often hear: 1) "well, it's not what it used to be" or 2) "I don't know anybody there" or 3) "I don't speak or dance Greek" or 4) "I already planned my vacation". Okay, so... 1) everything in life changes. 2) In addition to seeing folks I know, I meet new people every year because I attend every year. 3) We speak English and Greek and dance lessons are held each day. 4) This is always the last full weekend in July – every year. Let's be real: *If you really want to do something, you'll find a way; otherwise, you'll find an excuse.* Paying your yearly dues is paying respect to your Mom & Dad, Aunts & Uncles, Yiayia & Papou. Participating at Jamestown is paying it forward to your children, nieces & nephews, and grandchildren. I invite you to open your hearts and minds and re-think your personal Tsintzinian Heritage contributions, whatever it may be. You are missed and without you, we are incomplete. Come be a part of the rich heritage our loved ones left for us and pay it forward to future generations.

Announcements

Tavelaris - Slezak Engagement

Evangelos Tavelaris of Rochester NY and Kathryn Nicole Slezak of Orlando, FL would like to announce their engagement. They met many years ago at the Jamestown Reunion and maintained a friendship since that time. Evan is the son of Steve & Maria Tavelaris and Kathryn is the daughter of Terry Slezak and Kathleen Costianes. A wedding date has not been set.



Greek Physical Characteristics

Greek Skin

Greek skin is normally olive colored or light brown. Some Greeks have fairer complexions with pink or peachy tones, but this is not as common as olive skin tones. Greek skin is normally very smooth and radiant, giving the face a healthy glow. According to dermatologist and skin expert Macrene Alexiades, "Greek women are blessed with Mediterranean skin, which is light in color but has enough melanin to shield and absorb harmful UV rays." It is unusual for Greeks, even the fairer-complexioned, to sun burn as easily as Europeans of Anglo ancestry.



Ceremony

Once again at this years convention we had an honored and remembered ceremony. It is beautiful to see all the candles lining the driveway of our clubhouse.

Honored :

Ernie Memphis
John Zacharis
Paul Grant

Remembered :

George Costianes
Vaia Costianes
Pauline Momtsias
John Vournakis
M. John Manos
Vee Soutouras
Pota Vournakis
Nick Vournakis
Michael Costianes
Angie Grant Costianes
Nick Costianes
Fran Costianes
Tasos Koumoutzis
Peter B. Nickels
Laskaris Family
George Laskaris
Angie Laskaris
Ann Zacharis
Socrates Zacharis
Aophia Zacharis
Georgia Goussetis
Andreas Goussetis
Matina Burlotos
Sophia Nicholakis
Peter Nicholakis
Angeline Laskaris Costas
Fr. John Seraphin
Helen Laskaris Gregory
Amanda Marinos

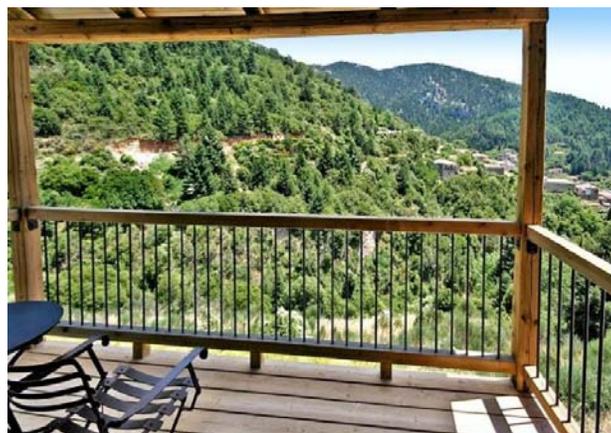
**2019 Tsintzinian
Convention
July 25, 26, 27, 28
Celoron, New York**

In the Mountainous Village of Tsintzina, Doing Nothing is Really Something!

<https://www.thenationalherald.com/36447/village-tsintzina-nothing-really-something/>

I experienced Greece in an entirely new way when I went to a mountain village because I was told there was absolutely nothing to do there but walk in the woods during the day and sit at a taverna at night. To get there I had to start from Sparti and convince a taxi driver to transport me up the 1,900 meter, precarious road.

Many taxis were parked in front of my hotel but I could not get a driver. A young female drove up, wearing jeans and boots and walked with a sense of purpose through the phalanx of men, asking, "Are you the woman who wants to go to Tsintzina?" When I said yes, she motioned to her cab, made some sort of signal to the men, and off we went.



"I'm guessing you know Tsintzina," I said and she answered she did indeed, adding her mother was born in nearby Zoupena. "I am going there tomorrow night—I'm always there on Saturday night." "What will you do?" I asked, and she said, "Nothing."

We arrived at a summer village populated by residents from Zoupena and Goritsa who come to Tsintzina to escape the summer heat. There are no stores or shops, just summer homes, a few tavernas and kafenia, and one hotel. I checked in, arranging for Helen to pick me up the next morning. I walked through the woods and the village, saw very few people, but felt extraordinarily peaceful.

That night I sat alone at a taverna in the village's center, nibbling on mezedes and sipping wine. Soon I heard the sound of laughter and happy voices and saw men of all ages arriving to sit at the tables. And then we heard footsteps and the promenade began. The females came in pairs – mothers and daughters, sisters and cousins, and dear friends – dressed beautifully in Sunday finery. Everyone was so happy in an innocent, mysterious kind of way. The women strolled, shyly avoiding the eyes of the men, but knowing they were watched. The men concentrated on their small coffee cups, lifting their eyes now and then. A similar stroll I saw in an Italian village was called "la passeggiata."

In the middle of the procession was Helen, walking arm in arm with an older woman who I guessed (correctly) was her mother. Jeans discarded, she wore a garment of sheer chiffon that brushed her sandaled feet. Helen looked at me and waved, then continued with her slow walk through the village. I wanted to join to promenade, thinking how exquisite it is to do absolutely nothing.

To those loving friends and family members (tagged and not tagged) who were NOT in attendance this year, 2018:

WE MISS YOU GUYS. :)

Just because we show up and have fun doesn't mean we don't feel your absence... We do!

We are a band of family that somehow through the decades have held a tradition unique to most Americans — we have a cultural holding, a family investment, and an experience to be shared with all.

It's been an honor for me to celebrate 2018 as my 28th year in Jamestown, and I hope this tradition continues for many generations to come as an event to look forward to for others the way it has been for me.

That being said—

Perhaps take a moment to consider what this society means to you, and more importantly, what it meant to our forefathers to emigrate from Greece & come to this country and start a dream they believed in;

From a business convention to a more relaxed & inclusive reunion, from near bankruptcy to INSTALLING AIR CONDITIONING (yes, you read that right... many thanks to Peter Karousis), we've darn near seen it all.

I implore you on an individual level:

Don't let this become simply another weekend in the year to be passed by. There are always other opportunities to travel elsewhere, schedule weddings, et cetera. This is ONE weekend per year, and easily enough to remember, always the LAST full weekend in July.

Give or take, we've got 360 days to plan ahead, save money, figure out rides, budget for our membership dues, et cetera.

If it means anything to you, your heritage, or your family that came before you... we would love to see your faces again.

We WANT to see you next year! On the dance floor. At the bingo table. Eating copious amounts of feta at dinner... You get it.

Thanks to everyone who did come & put in the effort and time to make this work, it was lovely to enjoy the weekend with you all.

Everyone have a safe year, and I hope to see you next July.



**Seraphim Poulos
(John Poulos)**

The Very Reverend Seraphim Poulos (John Poulos) fell asleep in the Lord on Friday, July 27, 2018. Father Seraphim was the son of Peter and Patty Caroombas Poulos. He was born in Groton, N.Y. on May 26, 1950 and at the age of 2, his family moved to Ithaca, N.Y. Father Seraphim graduated from Ithaca High School in 1969 and pursued his studies in theology at a number of seminaries and universities which culminated in a Doctor of Ministry Degree from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.



Father Seraphim is survived by his two sisters, Katherine (John) Poulos VanMarkwyk and Stella (Toula) Poulos Chronis; an aunt, nieces, nephews, cousins, godchildren and a multitude of loyal parishioners from the many parishes he served while in the priesthood.

Nicholas Peter Manos

Nicholas Peter "Nick" Manos, son of the late Peter and Ourania (Alexis) Manos, went into the arms of our Lord, at the age of 96, on August 22, 2018, in Erie, after a lengthy illness.

Continued to Page 5

HISTORY MOMENT:

Did you know "the AHEPA was founded in Atlanta, Georgia, the heart of the South and KKK country, as an organization to protect Greeks in the south from the KKK. There are many stories of crosses being burned on the lawns of Greek homes. In the 1950's, one of my fraternity brothers, on a driving trip to Florida on spring break, stopped his car on a beach somewhere along the way to admire the ocean. He found and brought back to me, an old driftwood sign that read "No Greeks or Niggers Allowed". That tells you all you have to know about how the KKK felt about and treated the Greeks in the south." - Jim Gianukos



Honored & Remembered (Cont.)

Continued from Page 4

Nick was a lifelong Erie resident until 2011, when he moved to Eden Prairie, Minn. to be close to his son and family.



Nick was married to the former Pauline Karicas from 1955 to 1967, and they had one son. He was a lifelong member of the Tsintzina Society,

proudly celebrating his heritage in the annual reunion events in Jamestown, N.Y. every July.

In his later years, he relished his role as “Pappou” of his three grandchildren. He was able to travel to Greece, first visiting Tsintzina in 1997, followed by a lengthy vacation with family through the Greek Isles in 2007. One of his life’s dreams was to see and climb to the top of the Acropolis in Athens, which he was able to do in 2007 at age 85. Supported by his son and grandson, he was “going to do it or die trying.” Nick had a full life and was of sound mind until the end. He was a lifelong Cleveland sports fan, dealing with the ups and downs of the Indians, Browns and Cavaliers.

Nick was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Sophia and his brother Dean.

He will be remembered by those who knew him best—his family and closest friends. He is survived by his son Peter (Kass Wuenschel), grandson Nic (Breann Dotson), grandson David, granddaughter Melissa, and great-granddaughter Aubrey.

Continued to Page 6

The Manos Family

The Manos family of Erie have a deep history in the Tsintzina Society. Peter Manos I (born Panayoti Voulomanos), arrived in Erie in his 20’s, in the early 1900’s. He was a founding member of the society and served as membership director for many years, attending summer conventions in Celeron for as long as anyone can remember and then some. This was always THE event of the summer for him, and he attended NO MATTER WHAT. This was not always easy as he became a husband, father of three, in the 1920’s, and a businessman. The humble fruit cart that grew into the AK lunch counter, Yankee Doodle bar, and eventually, The Embers supper club in Erie were 7 day-a-week endeavors. Many years YiaYia (Ourania Alexis Manos) would stay behind to run the business in his absence. She would pack him (and eventually the three children (Nick, Sophie, and Dean) some lunch and send them on their big adventure from Erie to western New York, saying “Have your good times!” in her Greek English.



Many attendees, during and even before the Depression, did not own cars and just getting to Celeron was quite the feat. Nick Manos (now 96) remembers piling into two cars owned by the Chacona family. Mr. George Chacona and his oldest son Herc, the 4 Manos’s, and 15 Chaconas made their way. Of course when they arrived lodging was pretty sparse, too. Nick says that they would stay in the rooms upstairs at the clubhouse (which today are the caretakers’ quarters). Many hot summer nights were spent giggling with their family and friends after the dads would send everybody upstairs to ‘bed’, and the real party began downstairs. He recalled “No one has ever gotten much sleep in Jamestown, young or old”.



Nick remembers long summers playing baseball with his Tsintzinian family and many great times. He said he always looked forward to heading to the lakefront by foot, just a few blocks from the clubhouse to the amusement park. From the top of the cage-like ancient Ferris wheel, they defied death to see across beautiful Chautauqua Lake. As he grew up, he continued the family tradition, making as many summer treks as a restaurant owner can manage. He attended many christenings and weddings in Celeron including the 1947 wedding of his dear friends Jim and Joan (Chronis) Chacona at the clubhouse. He took great pleasure of introducing his wife Polly and their son Peter II to Celeron, and eventually Peter’s family, too. He recalls he and Polly spending some weekends in the 50’s hauling the bar from their Yankee Doodle bar and installing it in the back room, along with floor tiling and other improvement projects performed with fellow Tsintzinians. In his late 50’s, he would always manage to leave the restaurant for Saturday nights in Celeron, meeting up with son Peter who came from college to join him. In his 70’s (post-retirement), he and cousins Louie, Taki and Frixo Alexis would SOMEHOW make

Continued to Page 6

Continued from Page 5

it out on Saturday mornings for the golf tournament, after maybe a few hours of sleep on Friday nights. Well into their 90's, Nick and Dean would save up a month's worth of energy and "use it all up" over the weekend.

The tradition has continued for the Manos family as the next generation has made the trek, first from Idaho, and now Minnesota, to attend when possible. Peter has introduced his wife, Kass (Wuenschel) Manos and their children Nic, David, and Melissa to this family tradition. Nic recalls hot summer nights outside catching frogs, and discovering lightning bugs (something absent in Idaho) with new "cousins". David recalls many great times and especially, "hearing Uncle Dean's stories and being allowed to say up super late". Melissa's memories involve getting dressed up and learning to Greek dance.

Nick said the structure of the weekends ran very much the same as today. Daytime sporting activities, lots of talk of the "old days", followed by family dinners, music and dancing. Always, much dancing. He said it is important to him that the Society lives on and is passed through the generations. As he puts it, "It's where we learn about our roots, and develop connections to both the present and the past. So many American immigrant families lack that cohesiveness." He wants to instill to his grandchildren and now great-grandchildren, what it means to be not just Greek, but Tsintzinian, and what it meant to his father to be a Tsintzinian Greek-American.



Find out the meaning behind these unique Greek wedding traditions.

Stefana crowns

The tradition of placing a delicate, white crown on top of the bride and groom's head was said to originate in the 11th century and is still one of the most important Greek wedding traditions. Greek wedding ceremonies feature an elaborate ritual with the crowns. First, the priest places a crown on both the bride and groom's head. Then, the *Koumbaros*, or wedding sponsor, intertwines the crowns three times to symbolize the couple's union. Finally, the crowns are tied together with a ribbon.

Greek wedding witness pins, or *martyrika*



Once a Greek wedding ceremony is complete, the *Koumbaros* will often hand out a tiny lapel pin with a small ribbon to the wedding guests. The Greek wedding traditions colors are white, blue or pink and many also have a small cross in the center. These are meant to symbolize the sacrament the wedding guests have just witnessed.

Continued to Page 7

Honored & Remembered (Cont.)

Continued from Page 5

John Zacharias

Age 72 of Mt. Lebanon, a loving husband, father and grandfather, passed away on Monday, October 1, 2018. Beloved husband of 43 years of Joan (Poulos) Zacharias, loving father of Alexia M. Zacharias, Lee Ann (Luke) Moffett and Socrates (Sarah) Zacharias; cherished PaPou of Jack and Mia Moffett; beloved brother of Samuel S. (Anne)



Zacharias; also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.

John was a very gentle man

who was dedicated to service in his community. He was a past member of the Mt. Lebanon school board, former president of Holy Cross Greek Orthodox Church and a board member of the Cancer Caring Center. John was also an active member of the Pittsburgh Life Underwriters and committed leader of the Tsintzina Society. John was employed for over 30 years with Gateway Financial Group. He received his bachelor of science degree from Allegheny College where he was a life long supporter of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity and received his MBA from George Washington University.

**Greek wedding traditions
Cont.**

Continued from Page 6

**Yuvetsi, Tiropita and
Baklava**

Food is one of the most important Greek wedding traditions! While Greek Americans have a rich and diverse selection of homeland foods to choose from, certain dishes seem to always show up on a traditional Greek wedding menu. Yuvetsi is lamb or beef stew with orzo; tiropita is a cheese pastry and baklava is, of course, the pastry sweetened with honey and nuts.

**Greek wedding dollar
dance**

Once the wedding reception is in full swing, a traditional Greek wedding dollar dance will probably ensue. One of the many customs Greek Americans brought from Greece, this is a playful dance between the newlywed couple that is rewarded by guests tossing dollar bills onto the dance floor or pinning them onto the couple's attire. It's totally optional for guests and isn't a substitute for wedding gifts, but rather a fun, symbolic way to congratulate the couple on their new marriage.

**Jordan almonds, or
bombonieria**

For many Greek wedding guests, the tradition of handing out candy-coated almonds as a wedding favor is one of the many memorable aspects of a Greek wedding. This enduring wedding tradition is called *bombonieria* and has been associated with Eastern

Continued to Page 10

**Greeks investigating their roots through
DNA testing | Special Report |
ekathimerini.com**

It all started quite accidentally during a house move in 1994. As she was opening various boxes, Yiota Tourli, then a teenager, came across an envelope that aroused her curiosity. Inside she found evidence that she had been adopted. The papers showed that she had been born in Las Vegas and was given to a Greek migrant couple in the United States as an infant. She made no attempt to locate her biological parents then, but the questions kept mounting as the years went by, and she started wanting to know more about where she came from.

Becoming a mother herself was the trigger. "I needed to know what my son could face in the future. I had no medical history," she says.

Her adoptive parents told her they found her in a basket on their doorstep with a note saying that her biological parents had been killed in a car crash. She tried to corroborate this story with the help of Anna Laoudis, a Greek-American woman she met online. Their research using newspapers from that time yielded no evidence of such an incident.

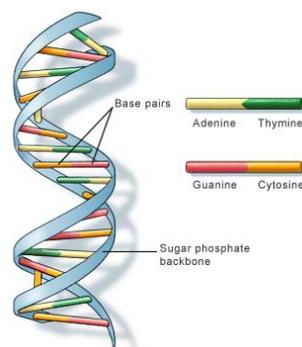
Tourli then went to the American authorities and found out that both her mother and her father came from large families. She went back to the internet, communicating with American societies for large families and placing ads on websites for adopted children. She got nothing back. Then, in 2016, she played her last card and sent a saliva sample to a DNA laboratory. A month later she got some unexpected news: The name of one of her biological grandmothers.

She was 83 years old, with a keen interest in investigating her genealogy. She had drawn up her family tree going back several generations and happened to have sent a DNA sample to the same lab for analysis. "It was pure luck," Tourli tells Kathimerini from her Athens apartment. "You feel whole when you learn the truth and find out who you are."

Emerging market

Tourli's story is by no means unique. In the past few years, an increasing number of people all around the world have been reaching out to private companies that build DNA banks (also drawing data from existing databases such as the 1000 Genomes Projects) in the hope of learning more about their forebears or locating unknown relatives. The first such companies appeared in the early 2000s and most are based in the United States, though there are a few in the United Kingdom, Iceland, Canada and the United Arab Emirates.

In 2007, the firm 23andMe charged US\$999 for a standard DNA test; competition has now pushed that price down to US\$99 (or less if there's a special



Continued to Page 8

Continued from Page 7

offer). The 2012 entry into the market of Ancestry.com was a key development and it is estimated that half of the 12 million people worldwide who have submitted genetic material to such firms so far have used the Utah-based company.

The trend has also spread through the Greek diaspora as second- and third-generation immigrants are turning to such companies in order to put together the puzzle of their personal histories.

Elias Vlanton, a retired history teacher in Washington DC, knew quite a lot about his family history but wanted to learn more. He did two DNA tests at different companies and convinced his sister and his mother – the latter just two weeks before she died at the hospital – to do the same. While on holiday on the Greek island of Kythera earlier this summer, he also collected saliva samples from several cousins.

‘DNA cousins’

Vlanton says that he has already communicated with more than 80 distant cousins with whom he shares some genetic markers. “All of them have discovered they had ancestors at villages and towns close to where my ancestors lived,” he tells Kathimerini.

He talks passionately about his discoveries and lists the 40 “DNA cousins” he found on Kythera. There are

another 30 he has traced partially through his great-grandparents, who lived in Smyrna. “My goal is to contact more fourth and fifth cousins in order to find the ancestors we have in common,” he says.

Many Greeks who were adopted – legally and illegally – after the Greek civil war and grew up in the US are conducting similar investigations into their backgrounds, of which they know very little.

Nicole Gulledge is a second-generation Greek American who has helped quite a few people like this. She’s among several genealogy volunteers who have created Facebook groups and help in searches free of charge. They interpret the findings of the DNA labs and go through records of births, deaths and marriages, as well as state documents. Gulledge says that some people don’t want to be found because they’re scared that their “new” relative may ask for money. “But what these people are looking for is their roots, to know where they belong,” she says.

There are certain ethical issues, however. Debbie Kennett, an honorary research associate at the Department of Genetics, Evolution and Environment at University College London, explains that DNA databanks could undermine the anonymity of sperm donors or reveal well-kept family secrets.

Learning truths

When Ellen Whitehouse started drawing up her family tree, she thought everything she knew was the truth. She knew quite a lot about her mother’s side



Why Greeks should be proud for being Greek

Because we buy whole lambs and not in pieces

Because nights in Greece finish in the morning

Because we take our coffee slowly, while smoking and not in “shots”

Because flirting is our national hobby

Because we are world champions in physical love which is our national sport

Because we are not puritans

Because we never visit others empty handed

Because to Greeks, family is still something valuable

Because we do not share the cost of petrol with those we take in our cars

Because we always make it, albeit in the last moment

Because for the sake of a woman we would wage war for 10 years (Trojan war)

Because we love and hate with passion

Because the word “filotimo” (a synonym of honor, helping someone because it is a shame not to) doesn’t exist in any other language

Continued to Page 9

Continued to Page 9

Why Greeks should be proud for being Greek

Continued from Page 8

Because whenever foreigners cannot find a word, they steal one of ours

Because we spend our bad and low times with our friends and family, not with therapists and counselors

Because [Socrates](#), Pluto and Aristotle were Greek and we still quote from them

Because we invented theatre

Because we gave birth to Democracy

Because we discovered logic

Because we jump started science

Because we are proud of our culture, not of our wars

Because when others were discovering meat, we already had cholesterol

Because when we were building the [Parthenon](#), the others were still sleeping under trees

Because when others created wars, we created games to stop wars

Because we have a distinction between Eros (falling in love) & Agapi (innocent love), while we feel both passionately

Continued to Page 10

Continued from Page 8

of the family, who belonged to the Cherokee tribe. There were gaps, however, when it came to her father’s past. There was no record of his birth, just a baptism certificate with the date of birth as 1929. It also listed his parents as being Rosa Panno (a Sicilian who had emigrated to the US in 1909) and Domenico Guttillo, also a Sicilian, who had been killed in 1921 in a Mafia-related incident in Chicago.

The numbers didn’t add up: How could the father have died eight years before the son was born? Whitehouse traveled to Sicily to look for answers but returned empty-handed. Her father, Joseph Guttillo, died in 2006, believing he was Sicilian. “It hurts my heart that my father never knew his real birth parents,” Whitehouse says. A DNA test she did last year revealed close cousins in the southern Peloponnese town of Kalamata. The Greek man she believes was her biological grandfather appears to have lived in Chicago in 1929.

“Unraveling the mystery continues each and every day. Learning of my Greek ancestry has given me the impetus to continue searching for the truth, to find long lost family,” she says. “I definitely need to travel to Greece for research. The DNA test results have opened up a whole new world to us and it is my responsibility to explore this new world and solve the mystery of my father’s true heritage and ethnicity.”

Kennett says that the tests are quite reliable when tracing first or second cousins, and should be backed by additional research and paper trails when going further along the branches of the family tree.

The pitfalls

Some companies promise “ethnicity estimates,” which claim to indicate your likely ancestral roots among dozens of ethnicities. “This is the least reliable part of the test,” says Kennett.

Tests she has carried out on herself at three different companies have diverged quite significantly. “The use of the term ‘ethnicity’ is quite misleading, as this has nothing to do with DNA,” says the expert, explaining that the different results that emerge in this category also arise from the different databases used by each company.

Many people send DNA profiles to different companies in order to maximize their chances of a match. Others upload their genetic data on a database called GEDmatch, which is the one used by American authorities last April to track down a serial killer who had eluded arrest for 40 years.

Before tracing her biological grandmother and later her mother, Yiota Tourli had submitted a DNA sample to a smaller company, but without success. Now she keeps in touch with her biological relatives and can’t wait to meet them in person. “It is the adventure of a lifetime. I have learned a lot of truths,” she says.



Greek wedding traditions Cont.

Continued from Page 7

Orthodox weddings for more than three millennia. The salty-sweet combination symbolizes life’s ups and downs and the hope that there will be more sweet than bitter. Couples typically give an odd number of almonds in each favor to note the indivisible power of their marriage with five being the most traditional number. Each almond symbolizes their hopes for their life: health, happiness, fertility, wealth and a long life.

Hotels and Motels in Jamestown

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR RESERVATIONS!

Best Western Downtown	(716)-484-8400
Comfort Inn	(716) 664-5920
Red Roof Inn	(716) 665-3670
Holiday Inn	(888) HOLIDAY
Hampton Inn & Suites	(716) 484-7829
America’s Best Motel	(716) 488-1904



This year’s Reunion will mark the 126th Anniversary of the Tsintzinian Reunion. Celebrate this milestone with us by attending the 2019 Renion!!!

Come to the Tsintzina Society Reunion

July 25 – July 28

Dues are an important part of maintaing our clubhouse and our Society. Please pay your dues.



You can pay your dues, donate money, or pay your registration fee for the Reunion using Paypal on our website at <http://www.tsintzinasociety.com>.

Why Greeks should be proud for being Greek

Continued from Page 9

Because Eros was a Greek God

Because “Greeks do not fight as heroes, heroes fight like Greeks” (Winston Churchill, 1941)

Because we tossed our ancient alphabet to the Romans and our Medieval alphabet to the Slavs

Because we get angry quickly but forget all about it even quicker

Because we are not ashamed to cry

Because we dance when we are sad and party when we are happy

Because we work to live and we do not live to work

Because although we know danger well, we dare

Because when you shout “brother” in the streets everyone turns around

Because we always talk about getting in a diet after we had our meal

Because a woman with a big behind is just as sexy as the woman with the small one

Because we speak loudly and laugh even louder

Something to learn by heart because it comes from the heart...

THE TSINTZINIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA



Dear Tsintzinians,

Every year we ask you to pay dues. Your contributions keep our society going year-round, not just one weekend a year. We ask you to pay dues every year even if you do not attend the annual reunion. Why? Because without your dues money, we cannot keep the club in operation.

A few families routinely donate more than their share to help the society build up and maintain its reserves. We are endlessly grateful for their generosity, but we know it is unfair to ask them to be stewards for the whole society. It is up to each one of us to contribute the money the society needs to remain viable. This year we are asking all of you to contribute a little more than dues.

We need a new roof and still have not raised the necessary funds. We have been patching the leaks, but the roof is old and worn out. A new roof will cost a minimum of \$40,000. We do not want to completely deplete our endowment fund; therefore, any extra funds you contribute beyond your dues will go directly into the endowment fund. We thank you in advance for this support.

Our yearly operating expenses are \$22K per year. We use your dues payments to:

- maintain the clubhouse and rounds
- pay the bills (electricity, gas, and phone), especially the winter heating bills of about \$250 per month
- pay the property taxes

Our young people are stepping up to pay their dues early this year because they want to support the heritage their elders have given them. Please join them in supporting our society. Σας ευχαριστούμε!

Tsintzinian Heritage Society Membership 2019 (Please print.)

Make checks payable to Tsintzinian Heritage Society	c/o Margaret Manos 238 E. 95 th Street Apt. 5B New York, NY 10128	<input type="radio"/> Benefactor \$100 <input type="radio"/> Family \$60 <input type="radio"/> Single \$40
Email:		
Contribution to the Endowment Fund <input type="radio"/> \$1000 <input type="radio"/> \$500 <input type="radio"/> \$250 <input type="radio"/> \$100 <input type="radio"/> Other _____		
Please pay your dues and help your society.		
Last name:	First:	Middle:
Address:		
City:	State:	Zip:
Spouse:	Father's name:	
Phone:	Mother's maiden name:	
We are attending the 2018 Reunion. (Y/N)		Amount Enclosed \$
Your dues and donations are payable via PayPal at www.tsintzinasociety.com . You can also use your credit card at PayPal. Please consider adding a little extra to offset our		

SAVE THE DATES FOR REUNION 2019 *** 25 TO 28 JULY**
******* Preregister and prepay at our website. Reserve early.**



**Tsintzinian Chronicle
2318 Summersweet Drive
Alva, Florida 33920**

Please Forward