

THE TSINTZINIAN

Historical Society of America

December 2011

The Tsintzinian Historical Society of America

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The President's Message:

Dear Tsintzinians...

We have a new name, "The Tsintzinian Heritage Society of America". Thanks for all your support on this endeavor. **All monies you send are now tax deductible** which has been a goal of the Board for many years. Since the humble beginnings of our Tsintzinian forefathers at our OLD facilities we have come a long way!!! For more than 100 years our Society



has been meeting and carrying on the traditions of our forefathers. Things change ... People change... but one thing we are thankful for is the unchanging nature of coming to Jamestown. The annual convention allows us to share our culture and friendship with our families. Is the sheer magnitude of the undertaking sometimes overwhelming? You bet. Yet, we have kept and stuck with this labor of love for many years. Thanks to all who have supported the Society throughout the years.

The board has had to deal with many changes this year, and has worked together to make Jamestown a WONDERFUL place to share memories. While the Board is working to maintain and expand our customs, the Society needs your help now. We are very low on funds. The board has improved the property and clubhouse the past few months.... The clubhouse looks well kept and the apartment looks AMAZING.... The renters are very pleased with the living spaces and we are very pleased to have them there, but it has been a very long and expensive journey getting to the final results. I would like to extend a special thank you to the Tsintzinians.....-Who are paying dues -Keeping their forefathers dreams alive -Working hard on the board, -Raising their children to appreciate their Tsintzinian roots .

This clubhouse is yours and a core group of members are working hard to keep it going. Thank you! Thank you!! Thank you!!! But, we need ALL Tsintzinians to pay their dues. We have bills to pay monthly and your dues is the source of income the Board needs to pay these bills. The convention pays for itself but we need your help to pay for the operational expenses the other 360 days a year. PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES NOW !!! Also if you feel so moved, please find a place in your heart to pay a little more to keep your Society alive.

"You can go anywhere and Greek Dance:

Only in Jamestown one dances with History."

Fellow Tsintzinian News

Long-time member **Nancy Costas (Laskaris) Breckenridge**, Fredericksburg, VA, became a first-time grandmother on Oct 12, 2011. Nancy's oldest daughter Stephanie gave birth to a son, Brandon Paul Persico. Nancy's other two children Zackary, 22 and Taryn, 26, attend the convention on a regular basis. Nancy's Mom was long-time member and daughter of one of the founding members, the late Angeline James Laskaris, Lewistown, Pa and Zoupena, Greece. Her aunt is another longtime member, Helen Laskaris Gregory, Wilmington, Del.

Raquel Burlotos got accepted to University in Madrid for a semester in the spring. She leaves us Jan 14 till May. She just applied for a student Visa..and will be getting it shortly. Villanova made all the arrangements for her and will be earning her credits abroad.

George Burlotos just hit 88 years old Nov 9, 2011. He is still actively working and on TV.



Nick Manos (Erie, Pa) has moved to Minnesota to live with son, Peter and family. His new contact information is: 18510 Magenta Bay Eden Prairie, MN 55347 (952)949-0653; mzorba1@comcast.net. Brother Dean (Ann Arbor, MI) will be joining the family over the Christmas holiday.

Alexandra Slezak, daughter of Kathleen Costianes, Seminole, Florida and granddaughter of Nick & Fran Costianes, Albion, Michigan recently auditioned in Nashville, Tennessee for the Glee Project. She performed 3 additional songs for the judges who demonstrated an interest in her talents. Alexandra is currently attending University of Florida in Tampa with a major in Music Theatre.

Jeremy Slezak, son of Kathleen Costianes, is currently stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan, serving with the United States Army. He is accepting mail at the following address: SPC Jeremy Slezak, FSC 7th En bN, FOB Shank, APO AE 09364

Check the Radio City Rockettes site, **Jacey Lambros** is the face of the great dance group. 8th year as a Rockette. If you are in NYE she is on the tour busses, kool. Proud Father Nick!

Dr. and Mrs. Skevos (Barbara Georgetson) Zervos proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Ria and her fiance, Raul Jimenez. They are planning an April wedding in the Bahamas and will reside in San Jose, Costa Rica, where Raul is an engineer and Ria continues to work in the fitness industry.

Prof. Spyros Pavlostathis

United States of America
Georgia Institute of Technology
- School of Civil &
Environmental Engineering

These links are for my husband, Prof. Spyros Pavlostathis who has been named as inaugural fellow for 2 international organizations.



Check out these Gatech news releases

<http://www.ce.gatech.edu/media/news/4971>

<http://www.ce.gatech.edu/media/news/3021>

Thanks

JoAnn Lambros Pavlostathis

SEND US YOUR NEWS

- 1 **EMAIL:**
laskaris@roadrunner.com
- 2 **TSINTZINA WEBSITE:**
www.tsintzinasociety.com
- 3 **WRITE TO:**
Pete Laskaris, 703
Summit Road, Marion, OH
43302

**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO HEARING FROM YOU!**

2012 Tsintzina Reunion

July 26 – July 29

Thursday – Sunday

(Plan Ahead)

News Continued:

Brian and Melissa Laskaris wish to announce the birth of their daughter, Catherine Morris Laskaris. She was born September 23 of this year. The proud grandparents are Alex and Sarah Laskaris and the great grandparents are George and Angie Laskaris.

Mr. Richard & Mrs. Niki (Soutouras) Forrest became the proud grandparents of Sofia Quinn Forrest on November 6, 2011. Sofia is the new Tsintzinian born to their son Brian and his wife Chandra of Toledo, Ohio.

Dr. Michael & Mrs. Eugenia (Soutouras) Cunningham became the proud grandparents of triplets on November 12, 2011. Brandon, Dawson, and Alexis are the newest Tsintzinians born to their daughter Andrea and her husband Eric Talbot of Sandusky, Ohio.

We can make Christmas in Afghanistan happier for **Jeremy Slezak**, a faithful son of Tsintzina.

Address:

SPC Jeremy Slezak
FSC 7th En bN
FOB Shank
APO AE 09364

Tsintzinian Santa's could send: phone cards; Gillette razors; wet wipes (work for a bath when he's out on mission); AA batteries; music; letters; blessings; anything else we think might be helpful.

Dean Manos Challenge for \$10,000 Update

Pauline Costianes
Jim Karfes
Anna Stathes
John Vournakis
Sam/John Zacharias
Peter Machaeras
John/Stephanie Schlick
Dean Manos
Dean Poolos

Please honor, thank and bless the above named members who have pledged to be part of the Dean Manos Challenge that was introduced at the July Reunion. We need one more \$1000 contributor to reach our goal. Dean Manos said he would put in \$1000 if nine other members would put in a \$1000. We have been told that in order for us to get grant money to accomplish our goals of converting the entire club house into a education center/museum, we need solid monetary commitments from our membership and leadership.

We need to have at least \$10,000 in our Endowment Fund. Pledges count and multiple names count. We raised \$34000 15 years ago from 34 families individually organizing themselves so that no one person had to put in all the money. That was for the Dino Serferlis water well sculpture replica. The Society needs the help of the wealthy members for this Challenge. There are no paid employees who can call on the wealthy to make a commitment. There is commitment to keep up the traditions and social activities that take the time of volunteer board members. There are memories in every family about the activities and hard work that was necessary to make it in America.



My father who was a graduate electrical engineer had trouble finding a job because he was Greek. Our Society helped him through the hard times by giving him self- respect as he was a board member /

officer of the Society for almost 40 years. He was an only child so for many years, the Society was his family. His father operated several restaurants with cousins since he had no siblings and my father benefited from those business situations. The Society means a lot to my family as I am sure it does in your family or you would not be on the mailing list. Help keep the spirit and legacy going. If you cannot help out with the Dean Manos Challenge, please support the Christos Tsakonas 100 for \$100 fund raising activity.

Make checks payable to the Tsintzinian Heritage Society and mail them to John Zacharias, Suite 750, 444 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

“Meet Your Cousins”

Name: Pauline Costianes, married to Louis Aronica

Family History: Daughter of Nicholas and Frances Costianes, granddaughter of Petros Costianes and Katherine Coumuntzis. Sisters Kathleen Costianes, Christine Costianes.

Work: I work at the University of Michigan Medical Center, doing Utilization Review, obtaining authorization for patient’s stays so the hospital can get paid! Lou is retired from Ford Motor Company after 32 years, and now works as a consultant for MSX an automotive consultant company.

Hobbies: My mom said when I was delivered and they said it was a girl, I was going to know how to cook, sew and play piano. Well, the first two, fine, the third - fuhgeddaboutit!!

I have been singing in Orthodox Church acapella choirs since 1970, a choir director since 1980, currently directing at St. Thomas Orthodox Church in Farmington Hills, MI.

I’ve been involved in Oriental Dancing since 1975 and am Co-Director of Troupe Ta’amullat of Ann Arbor, a Near and Middle Eastern dance group.

I’ve been active in the Tsintzina Society, serving on the Board as Secretary for several years. And as an adjunct, started working on the Costianes genealogy in 1970.

Lou likes to do yard work, but needs a hobby when he retires or there’s gonna be trouble!!!



Honor Christos Chakona

Do you have Chaconas/ Tsakonias in your family tree. If yes, we would like you to honor Christos by donating to our new fund raising program.

We started at the July reunion this group to accumulate a working capital account of \$10,000 between July 2011 and 2012. Our project is to renovate the board room into an education center/museum that will display the history of our Society. So far we have 38 people who have joined You do not have to be a descendant to join.



Our goal is to get 12 more members by the end of the year and 50 more next year. Feel free to make your end of year donations with us since we are a tax exempt Society now.

Please issue your check payable to the Tsintzinian Heritage Society and mail it to c/o John Zacharias, Suite 750, 444 Liberty Ave, Pittsburgh PA 15222..

Kourabiethes Cookies - a Flurry of Sugar



Kourabiethes (also *kourambiedes*, say: koo-rahb-YEH-thes) are sugared shortbread cookies that melt in the mouth! Often made with toasted almonds, they can also be made with other nuts (walnuts, hazelnuts). They can be made in circular shapes, crescents, made by hand, or rolled out and cut, but the one thing all versions have in common is that they

are rolled in, dusted with, or buried under a flurry of confectioner’s sugar.



Our society was founded in 1893.

We are the oldest Greek society in America.



Honored and Remembered
Tsintzinians

Dr. Marcus Stephanides

Dr. Marcus Stephanides
February 17, 1929 -August 26,
2011

Marcus D. Stephanides, a
career orthopaedist who lovingly
served the Salisbury area, died
peacefully of natural causes at
his home in Salisbury sur-



rounded by
family
members.

Marcus
was a
graduate
of Bucknell
University
in 1951

where he was a member of the
varsity basketball team, and he
received his medical degree
from Temple University Medical
School in 1955.

Dr. Stephanides is survived
by his wife, Jean Miller
Stephanides, his two daughters
Diane Grier of Salisbury, her
husband Lex, Andrea Craig of
Spring Lake, NJ, her husband
Chip, and his two sons; Michael
of Asheville, NC, his wife Jan,
and Gregory of Wall, NJ, and his
wife Jackie. He has five grand-
daughters; Stephanie Grier,
Marcia Grier Miller, her husband
Steve, Julie Grier, Miller
Stephanides and Jordan Craig;
three grandsons; Derek
Craig, Marcus and Tal.

He is also survived by sis-
ters Olympia Tillman of Franklin,
TN and Helen Cummings of
Franklin, PA.; and many nieces
and nephews.

GREEK CHRISTMAS POEM

T'was the night before Hristouyenna, and all through the spiti
I could smell fasolatha and pasticho through my miti.
Pandofles were hung on the fireplace quite low
Hoping Ayios Vasilis would bring some pototo.

Patera in his krevati was snorting pretty hard,
tired from stealing the tree from our malaka neighbor's yard
Mama was in the basement cooking like a Nikokera,
adding just enough lemon to her fresh made horta.

When the thorivo came from outside the porta,
Baba yelled from his room "ela mesa reh malaka".
The knocking on the door – such a rude loud barrage.
I yelled through the window, "it's a Greek house reh malaka,
come in through the garage".

Then, standing in the garage right next to my car
was my drunk Thio Mitso, coming home for the bar.
"Ande kimisou methismene" I told him with mght,
you'll ruin my chance of seeing Ayio Vasili tonight.

About two hours later, I heard a noise down the stair.
I jumped from myt krevati to see who was there.
Standing by the tree, eating leftover fakais
was Ayios Vasilis, reeking of tsiporo no less

He was dressed in red, and as big as an ox,
wearing pandofles along with black sox.
Smelling like a katsiki with a touch of Old Spice,
He had been drinking for days and smelled not very nice.

He was putting presents out under the tree;
they were wraped like skata, it was quite plain to see
vrakia and 6 kaltses from Myer for me,
and 12 for my brother, cause he's only three

This Santa is paraxenos, nothing like the fable,
before leaving, he stole my tsigara from the table.
I yelled, "Eh AyVasili, ti kanies ekie?
He turned and he threw his pandofla at me.
The look in his eyes was nothing but fright.
He said "fiye apo tho, reh malaka" and dashed out of site
and he called to his reindeer and called them by name
Ello Mitso, Sotiri kai Nektario,
Yianni kai Taki, Thanasi kai Yiorgo
Ande grigora na pao yia katourisma
and yelled as he went KALA HRYSTOUYENNA



60th Wedding Anniverary Celebrated

Nicholas P. Costianes and Frances B. Face were married in Lansing, MI, August 26, 1951. They reside in Albion where they remain busy with their hobbies and serving on various committees. The couple have three daughters, Pauline Costianes-Aronica of Canton, MI; Christine Costianes of Indianapolis, IN; and Kathleen Costianes of Seminole, FL. They have seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Mr. Costianes worked in advertising sales for over fifty years, serving customers of The Albion Recorder, The Marshall Chronicle, The Homer Index, The Mason Shopping Guide, the Morning Star and The Salesman. Currently he sits on the Board of Sessions at the First Presbyterian Church of Albion and is the editor of the Albion Elks Lodge #1798 monthly newsletter.



Mrs. Costianes has always been a homemaker. She served four terms (12 years) on the Albion City Council, was a Camp Fire leader and was the Camp Fire Day Camp director for many years. Cooking, dancing and golf are her main hobbies and volunteerism has always been a priority in both their lives.

They celebrated their 60th Anniversary July 29, 2011 in Jamestown, NY with their three daughters, two granddaughters and a host of friends and relatives at the annual Tsintzinian Heritage Society of America convention. www.tsintzinasociety.com

Tsintzinian History Lessons

THE FIRST GREEK immigrants to reach the Mahoning Valley arrived in the 1880s, arriving in greater numbers between 1910 and 1920. The first Greek immigrants are being believed to have been George and James Chelekis, who arrived in 1888.

GREEK IMMIGRATION in the Mahoning Valley followed the same general pattern that prevailed at the national level. George and James Chelekis [born in Zoupena] arrived in 1888, but Greek immigration did not reach significant numbers until after 1890. The largest number of Greek immigrants arrived from 1894 until 1924, when the United States government placed strict limits on immigration. About 2,000 people came to the area from Greece during that period. They were the victims of the same prejudice and hostility that greeted other Southern European immigrants, especially during the Klu Klux Klan resurgence of the 1920s. Like many immigrants, they came to this area to work in the mills. This resulted in a concentration of Greek immigrants in Campbell. Greek immigrants would also arrive in the Valley between 1950 and 1960 and between 1975 and 1980. The first Greek Orthodox service was held in a rented hall at the YMCA in 1916. This group formed St. John the Forerunner Greek Orthodox Church.

Benefactors 2011

We thank all these Tsintzinians for their generous support. You can now make your tax-deductible contribution to the Tsintzinian Heritage Society.

Dr. Damian G. Allis
 Mr. & Mrs. Leon W. Andris
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas G. Apostolou
 Dr. & Mrs. Richard Avdul
 Mrs. Angeline Seferlis Booras
 Mr. & Mrs. Alexander G. Burlotos
 Mr. James G. Burlotos
 Mr. & Mrs. John G. Conomikes
 Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas P. Costianes
 Ms. Stephanie Costianes
 Ms. Pauline Costianes-Aronica
 Ms. Eugenia S. Cunningham
 Ms. Constance J. Dusckas
 Ms. Niki E. Forrest
 Drs. Ryan & Eva Geracimos
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 Mr. Sam S. Zacharias

Greek Christmas

St. Nicholas is important in Greece as the patron saint of sailors. According to Greek tradition, his clothes are drenched with brine, his beard drips with seawater, and his face is covered with perspiration because he has been working hard against the waves to reach sinking ships and rescue them from the angry sea. Greek ships never leave port without some sort of St. Nicholas icon on board.



On Christmas Eve small boys to the beating of drums and the tinkling of triangles usually sing carols. They go from house to house and are given dried figs, almonds, walnuts and lots of sweets or sometimes small gifts.

After 40 days of fasting, the Christmas feast is looked forward to with great anticipation by adults and children alike. Pigs are slaughtered and on almost every table are loaves of **christopsomo** or "**Christ Bread**". This bread is made in large sweet loaves of various shapes and the crusts are engraved and decorated in some way that reflects the family's profession.

Christmas trees are not commonly used in Greece. In almost every home the main symbol of the season is a shallow wooden bowl with a piece of wire is suspended across the rim; from that hangs a sprig of

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Michael A. Nickles Directs Just Peck

Michael A. Nickles, son of Achilles and Olga Nickles of Saco, Maine, directed the teen coming-of-age comedy **JUST PECK**. Available on DVD and Video-on-Demand, **JUST PECK** stars Marcia Cross (Desperate Housewives), Adam Arkin, Camryn Manheim, Brie Larson, and Keir Gilchrist. His next film, **PLAYBACK**, starring Christian Slater will be released in February. Read the review below.

Michael Peck (Keir Gilchrist) is a typical fifteen year old boy living in Middle America. In the social hierarchy of American High school this sophomore knows his place; the murky bottom. Peck is beset on all sides by those that constantly reinforce his lowly social standing. His fellow student dismisses Peck as a socially backward nerd while the facility treats him as if he was an idiot, always pushing him down. Even at home he fails to receive the proper credit for being capable of independent thought and activity. They have fenced the boy in with near draconian restrictions. His parents formally schedule time with their son diligently making appointments in their Day Planners as if it was a business meeting with their accountant. They even draw up contractual documents to outline Peck's responsibilities and participation in the extracurricular selection chosen for him. Peck is hemmed in on all sides by the definitions of others extinguishing any ember of confidence he might muster. He is not permitted to chart his own course through high school; he is trapped by the parameters instituted by others. As expected, Peck is no stranger to the school yard bullies, particularly Frank (Andrew McFarlane) who would make Peck's life completely intolerable except for the intervention of Peck's only true friend, Geiger (Kyle Kaplan). Peck finds a glimmer of light in this bleak existence in the



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Peter Laskaris

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Continued from page 7

beautifully personage of Emily (Brie Larson), the object of his prepubescent affections. Emily is de facto out of his league so the fact that she is a senior is practically a moot point. Even under the best of circumstances a sophomore is beneath the notice of an upper classman. In typical fashion the best parental motivations manifest in furthering Peck's status as a social pariah; the force him to enlist in the school's science club; the hub of geek activities.. Peck attempts to make the best of things and actually attempts to embrace his inner nerd and sets out to craft the best possible science projects. If his plan comes to fruition properly he can gain respect, get his parents off his case and even win the affections of the fair Emily. A side benefit of the plan adds icing to the cake by permitting him to extract some much desired revenge on his tormentors.

The most endearing aspect of this production is the tightly written script provided by Marc Arneson. This is his very first opus for this screen writer and with that said it is a remarkable start to what is certain to be a notable career. It is refreshing to see a high school based comedy that does use an overly broad brush. In this case exceptional care was given to crafting characters that have dimension which translates to believability. I look forward to watching his career flourish. The unfolding of the story is well set within the script but under the direction of Michael A. Nickles initially seems to be uneven. The pacing waxes and wanes more than usual and definitely more than those obnoxious 'R' rated flicks. Do not take this as a pejorative comment, it most certainly not. While still on a learning curve and experimenting with his stylistic trademark he is on the right track. The uneven nature of the pacing is true to the subject. If it was more polished it would not properly convey the personality of Peck, an uncertain teenager who is just beginning to define his life on his own terms. This film is well worth viewing with the entire family.

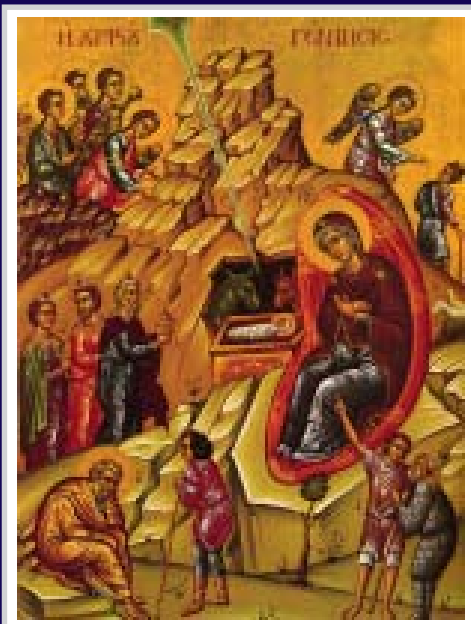
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basil wrapped around a wooden cross. A small amount of water is kept in the bowl to keep the basil alive and fresh. Once a day, a family member, usually the mother, dips the cross and basil into some holy water and uses it to sprinkle water in each room of the house. This ritual is believed to keep the **Killantzaroï** away from the house.

At Christmas very few presents are given to each other. Instead, small gifts are given to hospitals and orphanages.

On Christmas Eve, groups of people gather around the holiday table. Figs, dried on rooftops are served with the spicy golden **Chrisopsomo** bread.

As people are they greet one another by saying **Hronia polla** or many happy years.



Kala Christouyenna!

(Merry Christmas!)



From the
Tsintzinian Historical Society of
America Board
to all members and friends,

We wish you the
Best of Holidays
and a Happy New Year.

May this year bring you the
joy and happiness that
you all deserve.

THE TSINTZINIAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA



TSINTZINIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY

c/o Stephanie Soutouras Schlick
2400 41st Street, NW, #504
Washington, DC 20007
202-337-6709
tsintzinasociety@yahoo.com

Membership



Dear Tsintzinian:

Give the gift that not only lasts a lifetime and is tax-deductible as well. That, my fellow Tsintzinians, is a win-win gift.

If you have siblings, children, or grandchildren older than age 21 and eligible to be members in their own right, please consider purchasing membership for them. If you have a Grecophile friend who envies your heritage, buy them a single membership for \$30 and bring them into our Tsintzinian family.

- You can pay by check.
- You can register and pay online with PayPal through TsintzinaSociety.com.
- You can pay by credit-card.

Please fill out this membership form and send it to me with your check.

Καλά Χριστούγεννα

Stephie Soutouras Schlick

p.s. We also accept end-of-the-year donations from Santa and other Tsintzinians. Please retain a copy of this form for your records.

TSINTZINIAN HERITAGE SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP 2012 (Please print.)

c/o Stephanie Soutouras Schlick
2400 41st St NW, Washington, DC, 20007

Last Name: _____ First: _____ Maiden: _____

Address: _____ Apt/Ste: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zipcode: _____

Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-Mail: _____ Check Yes/No to receive Chronicle by email: Yes ___ No ___

Father's Last Name: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____

Mother's Maiden Name: _____ First: _____ Middle: _____

Membership Fees per Year (check one): Individual (Age 21+)= \$30 ___ Family = \$50 ___ **Benefactor = \$100** ___

Method of Payment (check one): Check ___ Money Order ___ Visa ___ MC ___

Credit Card Number: _____

Expiration Date: _____ Name as it Appears on Card: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

(For Society Use Only)

Date Form Received _____ Date Membership Processed _____



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703 Summit Road
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Please Forward