

TSINTZINIAN CHRONICLE



Volume 16

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The President's Message:

GREETINGS fellow Tsintzinians- members, family and friends- Yia sas, kai haras sas! !!!!

Some of you were present in July 2008 and although we did not have record breaking numbers- our party was a success because of the GEORGE LASKARIS family reunion— and they showed up in record numbers and brought with them old, new and missing relatives. They made our party.

I sincerely hope that other branches of our Tsintzinian family can hold several mini-family reunions this year. The United States, Greece and the world are all in a state of flux presently but being a SURVIVOR is part of our rich heritage. Our predecessors have always survived a crisis. I don't intend to get political, but I am sure that our new President will not mind if I borrow his phrase YES WE CAN. OF COURSE WE CAN—you don't need a passport to come to Jamestown. Fill up your cars and vans. We have discounts at many hotels-Best Western offering the same "Laskaris" rates as last summer. Our relatives gathered in Celeron during world wars, the depression and other crises.



The most important thing each of us can do at this time is to ENJOY each other's company. The festivities start on Thursday and end with Sunday brunch. We never run out of food or music. We expect to see our repeaters, old faces, new ones and some temporarily missing "family" members.

I also want to personally thank those of you who have prepaid your 2009 dues and gave a little extra. We very much appreciate your financial support.

All roads lead to Jamestown and the Buffalo airport is not that far away. The Board wishes all of you good health, a great Easter and please give me the pleasure of greeting you in person this summer. Me agape,

Peter Brasidas Nickles- President
son of Brasidas (Bill) Nickles and Nella Nickles nee Kanaras

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SEND US YOUR NEWS

For Publication in the Chronicle

- 1 EMAIL: laskaris@roadrunner.com
- 2 TSINTZINA WEBSITE:
<http://www.tsintzinasociety.com>
- 3 WRITE TO: Pete Laskaris, 703
Summit Road, Marion, Ohio 43302

WE LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM YOU!

2008 Winter Raffle Winners

\$400 Kathleen Costianes...(\$200 to The Society) Seminole, FL

\$300 Jane Geracimos ...(\$300 to The Society) Midlothian, VA

\$200 Matoula Avdul
Fort Wayne, IN

\$100 Eoanna Skidas...(\$100 back to The Society) Clearwater, FL

See the
tsintzinasociety.com
website and see full size
pictures from the 2008
CONVENTION!!!

Blast From My Past

Stephanie Schlick

I finally listened to the exhortations of Peter Nickles and the rantings of Pauline Costianes. I returned to Jamestown. I was hesitant about going. In my mind, I was the only person who had changed in the 30-some years since I last attended the convention. The people of my generation were fixed in my memory—all young, beautiful, and proud of their Greek heritage.

I am now middle-aged, married, and fat. I am a member of the generation who still remembers when a girl danced in line next to a boy more than once, their yia yias would discuss their grandchildren's merits and, being Greeks, their character flaws.



Times change. I married a non-Greek who braves the dance floor, learning as he goes, a man who embraces Greek culture. In other words, he is happy to assimilate, and I am grateful.

Tsintzina Society has changed, but only a little. We are still an exclusive society. Three, four, or five generations off the boat, we trace our lineage to three small villages in Greece. I am proud to be a society member. It gives my WASP friends with lineages stretching back to antiquity from all over the world something to envy. I am also proud that we embrace other great cultures who have mixed with our own.

What did my husband and I find when we ventured back to my own hectare of the Peloponnesus in New York? A place full of Tsintzinians who held out their arms to us, welcoming us back like long-lost relatives to the πατρίδα. We saw pictures of my grandmother as a young woman taken during the first years after her immigration. We saw pictures of my aunts and uncles as children. We met new people and reconnected with old friends and relatives. Familiarity, time, and distance ceased to matter.

What mattered was that we had returned. The years between my last visit and this one melted away. As I spoke to the old ones who return to Jamestown year after year, I experienced clearly the community who draws them back. As I watched the young ones proudly celebrating their heritage, I saw our society's future. In my heart, I sensed a vital present that deserves to be honored, nurtured, and supported even in these tough times.

What did we do at Jamestown? We did what every Tsintzinian does, or should do, once a year. We ate for the starving children in the village who would love to have that fill-in-the-blank. We stayed up until the wee hours chatting with family and friends. We relied on the energy of celebrating heritage as a substitute for sleep. And we danced. We whirled, embraced by Tsintzinians who are our family because they are my people.



Honored and Remembered
Tsintzinians

George M. Nickles

George M. Nickles, age 85, of Richmond, KY and formerly of Columbus, OH, died Friday, October 10, 2008. Born November 12, 1922 in Trenton, NJ to Michael and Athamandia (Laskaris) Nickles. U.S. Army Veteran of WWII. Retired Aeronautical Engineer from Defense Supply Center Columbus. Preceded in death by wife of 52 years, Aleki (Comuntzis) Nickles, brother Peter and sister Jean. Survived by children, Mondo Nickles, Michael (Terri) Nickles, James (Margaret) Nickles, and George (Cindy) Nickles II.

Loy C. Chacona

Loy C. Chacona, **nee Cummings**, beloved wife of the late Leo A. Chacona; loving mother of Christine Alexander and Sandra C. (the late John P.)

Karahalios; devoted daughter of the late Alexander and Matina Cummings; cherished grandmother of Christina Sheflott, Lea (Ronald Sobol) Sheflott, Loy (Stuart Russell) Sheflott, Angela

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2009 Tsintzina Reunion

July 23 – 26

Thursday – Sunday
(Plan Ahead)

Major Fires Dance to Within a Mile of Tsintzina

By Tom Costas

As you may recall, major forest fires ravages Greece, and especially the Peloponnesus in 2007. On my recent trip there, I saw first hand the enormous devastation.

Zupena had fire right up to the edge of town, but miraculously, no homes were lost. The road from Zupena to Tsintzina revealed the tremendous scope of fire damage to the forests. At some points, as far as the eye could see, 360° around the vast vistas of the surrounding mountains, only the charred remains of burned and consumed trees could be seen.



The destruction and ruin of the fire damage on these mountainsides was nearly unbelievable.



The fires miraculously stopped 1-2km (1 mile) from Tsintzina. However, from every vantage point within town, you can see fire damage on the far mountaintops.

The government has taken steps to control soil erosion by laying larger fire scorched trees horizontal on the hillsides. It will take generations for these forests to make any real recovery.

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Renovated Gym to be Dedicated Lambros Arena

On February 21, 2009, Hartwick College will honor one of its own. The newly renovated gymnasium in Binder Physical Education Center will be christened Lambros Arena in honor of a man who has left an indelible mark on the facility, the College, and his native Oneonta: Nick Lambros '59.

The arena will be dedicated at halftime of the men's varsity basketball game against Stevens Institute of Technology. The women's team will tip off against Stevens at 2 p.m., to be followed by the men's game at 4 p.m. After the action on the court, the Wick Athletic Association will host a donor reception, tribute dinner, and roast in Lambros' honor. Those who have contributed at least \$50 to the fundraising effort for Lambros Arena will be invited to attend what will no doubt be a raucous event.

Called perhaps the best all-around athlete the area has ever produced, Oneonta native Lambros led the Hartwick men's basketball team to 353 wins in his storied 21-year career as head coach. This impressive run included seven 20-win seasons, seven NCAA appearances--reaching the Final Four in 1988--and seven berths in the ECAC Post Season Tournament.



Lambros also coached golf, tennis, and baseball at Hartwick. He was inducted into the New York State Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004, and was the first inductee into the Hartwick College Athletic Hall of Fame in 1995. Before making his mark at Hartwick, Lambros was a successful junior varsity and varsity basketball coach at his other alma mater, Oneonta High School.



The National Association of Basketball Coaches and other organizations, including the Basketball Coaches Association of New York, named him Coach of the Year.

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(Douglas Shellow) Adinamis and Alexis Adinamis; proud great-grandmother of eight; dear sister of Lucretia (the late George) Carvelas, Freida (the late Edward) Elias and the late John and Minnie Cummings; sister-in-law of the late James, George, Chris Chacona and Pota (the late Peter) D. Gianukos. Memorial donations to Tsintzina Society c/o John Zacharias, 955 Lakemont Dr., Pittsburgh, PA 15243 would be appreciated.

Alexander G. Gregory

GREGORY, ALEXANDER G., 82, passed away August 9, 2008, at his home in Altantis, FL. Alexander was born November 11, 1925 in State College, PA. He is survived by is wife Lilian, his



loving children George P. of Weston, FL, Natasha A. Lowell of Coral Gables, FL and Alex Jr. of State College, PA. He has eight beautiful grandchildren. Alexander served in World War II in the 23rd Armored Engineer Battalion. A graduate of Rollins College, Winter Park, FL, he went on to become chairman and founder of the 1st Polio Clinic in the State of Pennsylvania, while chairing for the Centre County March of Dimes of PA. He then developed 22 Holiday Inns across the east coast and co-developed Toftrees Golf Club and Resort, the first planned community in the state of Pennsylvania.

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George and Mary Lambros Celebrate 60th Anniversary

January 16, 1949, Oneonta, NY

“St. James Episcopal Church was the setting for the wedding of Mary Carayiani, Stamford, Connecticut, to George H. Lambros, Oneonta, NY, on January 16, 1949. The new Mrs. Lambros is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stavros and Ioanna Carayianis of Athens Greece. George is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lambros, 12 Roosevelt Avenue, Oneonta, NY. Following the double ring ceremony, a large reception was held at the Windsor Hotel. The newlyweds spent their honeymoon in Florida and then returned to make their home at 185 West Street, Oneonta, NY”.

Please join George H. and Mary Lambros’s daughters JoAnn

Pavlostathis, Kathy Curran, Georgia Lambros, Donna Foti, their husbands Spyros P, Tyrone C. and Vince F., as well as their grandchildren Alexandra and G e o r g i a Pavlostathis, John, Tom and Christopher Curran, Joanna and George Foti in congratulating George and Mary on their 60th wedding anniversary.



Picture when George and Mary met in Jamestown, 1947

versary.

George was the owner of the Diana restaurant, located across from Bresees Department Store for over 72 years. Shortly after WW I George’s father Harry, who had emigrated from Greece, opened a Billiard parlor, which soon became Diana’s Sweets.

In 1927 the confectionary became the Diana Restaurant, known for the next 60 years for its good food as well as being the prime Main Street gathering spot for prominent local businessmen, workers, shoppers, professors and students until George retired. Until his death, a day never passed without Ed Moore, the Oneonta Star and town historian having lunch at Diana’s listening attentively to the always animated and often humorous conversations of local “movers and shakers” gathered around the back corner tables. Few will forget Diana’s

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Georgia L. Goussetis

Georgia L. Goussetis, of Westerville, Oh., on January 12, 2009. Preceded in death by husband of 56 years Andreas C. Goussetis, parents Alexander and Nikonia Laskaris of Wilmington, Del. and sister Martina Burlotos of Cherry Hill, N.J. Survived by sons, Harry (Amy) Goussetis of Westerville, OH and Rev. Alexander (Lisa) Goussetis of Lancaster, Pa.; grandchildren, Elizabeth, Katherine, Julia, Nicholas and Sophia; brother, George (Angie) Laskaris of Memphis, Tenn.; and numerous nephews and nieces. Born in Wilmington, Del. on October 20, 1928, she was a devoted daughter, wife, mother and grandmother.

Andreas C. Goussetis

Andreas C. Goussetis, of Westerville on December 12, 2008. Preceded in death by parents Charalambos and Maria Goussetis, brothers Nicholas and George, and sister Anna, all of Greece. Survived by wife of 56 years, Georgia Laskaris Goussetis; brother, Stavros Mouzakis of Andros, Greece; sister-in-law, Katerina Goussetis of Aegina, Greece; sons, Harry (Amy) Goussetis of Westerville, OH and Rev. Alexander (Lisa) Goussetis of Lancaster, PA; and grandchildren, Elizabeth, Katherine, Julia, Nicholas, and Sophia; and six nephews and nieces.

2009 Tsintzina Reunion

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(Plan Ahead)



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famous Lasagna, Greek baked chicken and potatoes or the “La Monica Burger” named after Frank “Dizzer” LaMonica, owner of LaMonica Beverages.

Mary Lambros came to the United States shortly after World War II. She lived and worked in Stamford, CT with relatives where her father had been a prominent businessman in the early 1900’s. Because of a visit to Oneonta to see her Uncle Gus Chronis (owner of Laskaris Restaurant, current site of the Corfu) and his wife Antonia Laskaris (Co-owner of the JoAnn Dress Shop, current site the the Oneonta historical society), George met Mary and was instantly smitten. They married a year later. Once their children were all in school in the 1960’s, Mary joined George at Diana’s and because of her graciousness and warmth became a favorite of loyal customers.

Three generations of the Lambros family worked there. George and his sister Helen Stam, Wife of Sam Stam, began working for their Dad in the early 1940’s and worked together until George sold the business in 1991. Their siblings Angie Bertuzzi, well known real estate agent and wife of Post Master Sam Bertuzzi and younger brother Oneonta High and Hartwick College coach, Nick Lambros also worked as youngsters at Diana’s.

We wish them many more years of happiness surrounded by friends and family!

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Tsintzinians: This Year, Invite your Relatives and Close Family Friends, Koumbari to the Convention

During the General Assembly meeting at the Convention in 2008, the Tsintzinian Membership approved the major change to attendance policy to permit officially the attendance of “guests” at the 2009 convention. Guests are generally defined as close family and family friends and Koumbari of Tsintzinian Society members.

The cost for each guest to attend will be \$35 for each day attended. Ticket provides full access to the dinner-dance, all daily activities and our facility. (Membership eligibility remains as defined by the by-laws. Accordingly, e.g., guests may not vote in the general assembly, nominate or be nominated for/serve as a trustee.)

So, invite your guest friends and relatives this year to join us in Jamestown. Let’s make it a great reunion in 2009!!

This is what Jamestown and the Tsintzina Reunion is all about!! (Our Youth)





George and Angie Laskaris Celebrate 60th Anniversary



George Laskaris, son of Alex and Niconia Laskaris of Wilmington, Delaware, and Angeline Nicholakis, daughter of Peter and Sophia Nickolakis of Cambridge, Ohio, were married in a winter ceremony in Cambridge, Ohio on January 9, 1949. They met at the Tsintzina Convention where both attended for many years before and after the marriage.

The family of George and Angie, Alex and Sarah with sons Brian and wife Melissa and Stephen along with Pete and Helen with sons Athan and Nick, wish them many more years of health and love as the foundation and guidance of the Laskaris family.

D'Louisa Kontos marries Justin Ford



D'Louisa Kontos and Justin Ford were married on November 29, 2008. We celebrate their marriage and wish them a joyous and loving future.

News & Events

Pavlostathis Studies in Spain

Georgia Pavlostathis, daughter of Dr. Spyros and JoAnn (Lambros) Pavlostathis is currently studying at the University of Alcala in Spain. She attends Agnes Scott College in Decatur, GA, where she is a dual major in Political Science and Spanish.

New Lambros Grandchild

Nick and Sharon Lambros, Oneonta, NY are the proud grandparents of their first grandchild, a baby girl named Jaelyn Nicole, 7 lbs. 4 oz.. She was born to daughter Maria and Rob Waness of Pompano Beach, FL on January 10th. Maria's husband is a pilot for Jet Blue. As you can imagine "Papou Nick and Yiayia Sharon" are on cloud nine.



Laskaris Sons

Athan Laskaris graduated from the University of Tennessee in August of 2008. He is presently working as a personal finance manager for JPMorgan Chase Bank in Chicago, Illinois. Athan lives five blocks from Wrigley Field and is enjoying the good life of big city living.

Nick Laskaris is completing his sophomore year at Indiana University. He is majoring in business finance and is working as an instructor for the Indiana University Tennis Center. He is looking forward to the 2009 Tsintzina Reunion.



Jamestown Movies

Hi Everyone,

I tried an experiment - putting my Jamestown home movies on Youtube. Since I didn't dance much, I took videos of the dancing.

They are searchable typing "Jamestown 2008" or "Jamestown Greek" etc — here are the direct links:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odpnAxpLFms>

Part I — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay8Av87YuDA&fmt=18>

Part II — <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odpnAxpLFms&fmt=18>

Part III - <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8mY9QgFcWms&fmt=18>



You can see I added an **&fmt=18** to each link - that brings up the high quality version automatically. With Youtube, video quality is never great, even in HQ mode, but good enough to see everyone. The audio was surprisingly clear for a tiny CyberShot DSC-T70 hybrid still/video camera. You can click the little icon at bottom right of the video window to make it fullscreen.

Hope you enjoy, and again let me know if these being public poses a problem to anyone.

Nick Stam

Tsintzina – The place to be seen

By Tom Costas

During my visit to Tsintzina in November, I learned that Tsintzina is turning into quite the weekend getaway for upwardly mobile Athenians and others. According to people in the know, celebrities and Greek yuppies have discovered our little town and during peak summer weekends, entertainment news crews descend to capture images of the who's who spending the weekend. To accommodate this surging interest, there is a big new hotel under construction just on the edge of town, at the main entry road intersection.



Large New Hotel Under Construction
Just Outside Tsintzina

Activity was still evident even in November. To park near the plateia, I had to compete with hotel guest Maserati's and Range Rovers for parking spaces. There was plenty of construction activity, homes being improved and the stone road through town was being rebuilt and cobbled down by the basketball court. Rest assured, the town is lovelier than ever.

If You have Property in Greece – Better Register it

By Tom Costas

If you own property anywhere in Greece, you need to register the property with the Greek Land registry. That means, if you have farms, fields, houses, or family properties, you need to take action.

Greece has been slowly creating up-to-date digital registries of properties which have long been unregistered. Deadlines for most of the large municipalities have expired.

While the deadline for Zupena and Tsintzina property has not been set (as of 12/08), they will be shortly. The municipality of Sparta deadline was this past autumn.

The process ranges from complicated and frustrating to unmanageable and nearly impossible. Still, you have to get started. You have to 1) establish ownership (there are various methods), 2) accept inheritance (if necessary), 3) pay any taxes (usually 0 or low amounts) 4) survey the property, 5) register the property, 6) get a tax ID, and 7) file an E-9.

If helpful, we can have a seminar at the convention this summer. Let us know if this is of interest.

Make Checks payable To: Tsintzina Society **c/o Gene Geracimos**
619 Kerri Cove Court, #202
Midlothian, VA 23113

2009 Tsintzina Society Membership Form

| | | |
|------------|-----------------------|---------|
| Last Name: | First: | Middle: |
| Address: | | |
| City: | State: | Zip: |
| Spouse: | Father's Name: | |
| Phone: | Mother's Maiden Name: | |

PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AND HELP OUR SOCIETY!

Benefactor: \$100.00 Family: \$40.00 Individual: \$30.00 Student: \$20.00

I am planning on attending the 2009 Convention.

Amount Enclosed: —

The new benefactor dues category gives Tsintzinians an opportunity to give more freely to help the organization with financial concerns. All benefactors will be duly recognized for their extra contributions.



Let the 2009 Tsintzina Reunion be the time for your family to reunite and celebrate the closeness and heritage of family!!





Tsintzinian Chronicle
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