

# TSINTZINIAN CHRONICLE

Volume9

Number 1 November 2004

## The President's Message: The Value of Your Membership

by John Zacharias

Recently, I received a brochure from one of the professional societies that I belong to. It was entitled, "Leverage the Value of Your Membership in the Society." As I read it, I realized that our social Tsintzina Society provides very similar benefits.

First of all, as dues paying members(ours are only \$40 annually), you are belonging to one of the oldest ethnic organizations in America.



In some circles, we are considered the only one left in our class. Your support goes for the expenses of keeping up the traditions of a family reunion of the descendants of early immigrants from Tsintzina, Greece. We hope that you will continue to pay your dues and buy raffle tickets so that our own descendants will be able to come back and learn about their early heritage in America. At this family reunion, you are provided with historic related activities and Greek customs of generations ago and today.

Although Greeks have a tendency to be clannish, this reunion is once a year, enjoy it while and when you can(during a couple days) and back to your own life until next year. There is no pressure to conform, there is no one asking you to work for a cause.

There are hard copy features of membership in our Society. Every 5 years, there is a membership directory published so that you do not lose track of a friend or relative that you met one year at the annual reunion. You can get pictures of the each of the reunions and you can follow the course of our Society and your family heritage by getting copies of the articles that have been written about the Tsintzinians who have been coming to America since 1859. Three times a year, the

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## The Tsintzina Society [www.tsintzinasociety.com](http://www.tsintzinasociety.com)

The Tsintzina Society has a new website and a new look. We have taken great pleasure in extending this group to your computers. The site will keep you up to date on all the news and give information and pictures about the Reunion. Please visit it and tell us what you think. Visit

[www.tsintzinasociety.com](http://www.tsintzinasociety.com)

The site will include the following:

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Please See Our Website  
<http://www.tsintzinasociety.com>

Preregistration Form  
is on the site.

# 2004 Reunion Highlights

This year's Reunion was a significant indication that our Society is thriving. It was most rewarding to the officers and board members who put in many hours of planning and serving in various capacities to be greeted by the largest Thursday night crowd ever. With dinner being the only scheduled activity, people started showing up at 1:00 p



m and by dinner, we had 51 people present, mostly adults. On Friday, approximate 100 more people registered and on Saturday, the total count was 167. Due to many deaths the past year, a much smaller crowd was anticipated. Nevertheless, head chef Demo Kontos with his staff was ready and served two wonderful dinners. Although Saturday night dinner

was a little late, quoting Demo, he said good food is better than late food. For comparison, 141 attended in 2000, 169 attended in 2001, 121 attended in 2002(911 impact), and 180 attended in 2003. If we had all of the families who normally attend, especially those who attended 2003 but did not come this year because of deaths, we would have been over 200 this year. With great enthusiasm, the board is planning for 200 next year and as you will read elsewhere in this issue, there will be a very well planned Thursday including live music in the evening.



At this year's Reunion, there was a departure day survey taken. Below are the results. The majority of the respondents were 2nd and 3rd generation people. Items that were rated high were food, band, and clubhouse appearance. Adult and children's activities need improvement, especially in the event

of rain(which it did a lot of this year). The reasons for coming to the Reunion were 1) to see relatives—94%, 2) Greek food and dance—89% 3)by habit—57% 4) family vacation—42%. Under activity suggestions, 1) Greek dancing lessons—78% 2) Greek cooking classes—52% 3) Historical presentation—47%. Plan on coming to next year's Reunion—the dates are July 28, 29, 30, 31.

## Continued from page 1

Tsintzian Chronicle is published and distributed. It highlights the happenings of the Society and often times includes articles of political and historic value. It is in its eighth year of publication and all issues are available in our soon to be reactivated web site. There is also an email daily broadcast hosted by one of our long time members that distributes clean fun jokes, Christian thoughts, and sometimes political satires.

And of course, there are the intangible features of our Society. At any time, you can think about the Tsintzina Society in Jamestown and do your own reminiscing of where you came from. I have alluded to this thought in my previous messages about did you ever think about what it is like to be an orphan and have no idea about your past. You can have a feeling of attachment to your family from long ago as a member of our Society. In the past few years, we have had a handful of people come each year for the first time in sometimes 30 years to see for themselves—like in the movie "A Field of Dreams." When you look in their eyes at the registration desk, they come in amazement that this is still a vibrant place where their grandfather came 80 years ago and had fun and enjoyed the same early year experiences of becoming an American.

I hope I have got your attention. We need you to pay your dues this year; if you skipped the the last couple of years, do not worry about it. We need your support and hopefully you will feel good about it.

**The Tsintzina Website**

<http://www.tsintzinasociety.com>

## Mavrophilipos Graduation

Vasilea Joanna Mavrophilipos graduated at the age of 16 with honors from Indian River High School in Chesapeake, Virginia. She planning a teaching career majoring in art and dance.

She is the daughter of Annette and Dimitrios

Mavrophilipos. She is the granddaughter of Mosca M. Nickles and the late Marcus J. Nickles and Pari and Avgerinos Mavrophilipos.



## Victoria Condorodis In New Position

Victoria Condorodis, daughter of Gene and Jane Geracimos of Richmond, has recently been promoted to the position of Senior Manager for Limited Too in Charlotte, North Carolina. Tori is a 2001 graduate of the University of South Carolina in Columbia where she majored in Fashion Merchandising.

## Special Thank You !

A special thank you to Paul Alikakos of Binghamton, New York for his donation of liquor to the cocktail hour. Another special thank you to Paula (Vlahus) Decker from Ithaca, New York, for her donation of food and supplies for the cocktail hour. Your help is very much appreciated.

**The Tsintzina Website**

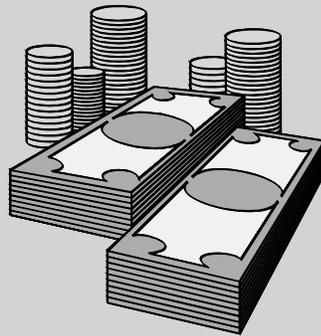
<http://www.tsintzinasociety.com>

## “Inaugural Thursday Night Business Roundtable Activity”

As we move into our second century of Tsintzinian Reunions and Conventions, new activities are being explored by the Board of Trustees especially now that attendance is growing and Thursday night crowd has literally tripled. You'll see new activities in a more relaxed schedule for 2005. One new activity will be a Thursday Night Business Roundtable.

Often times nothing beats the original and we will begin trying out the return back into the convention activities a “Businessman’s Convention” theme, i.e. the sharing of idea around business, commerce and investment related matters. The Tsintzinians were prudent risk takers.

They took the risk to leave Greece, start businesses in a new land, create an organization for themselves, and invest in America. Our founding fathers shared their ideas for success with each other at the summer conventions and this initiative seeks to build on that tradition.



We look to this initiative serves several goals:

- Adds to range of activities on the evermore popular Thursday night
- Appeals to the young and older folks alike, and can build everyone’s knowledge of business and investing, true to the Tsintzinian heritage
- Can potentially generate new source of income and gifting to the Society, through Charter Membership in the Tsintzinian portfolio.

**Continued on page 5**

Educational Training and Tutoring

### **GENE GERACIMOS**

Individual Tutoring and Preparation for PSAT/NMSQT, SAT I,  
SAT II, ACT & College Application & Acceptance Process

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Richmond, VA 23238

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Email: ggeracimos@hotmail.com Fax: (804) 346-8595

## Plans for the 2005 Reunion—July 28, 29, 30 31

Imagine yourself going to a historical site like old Williamsburg VA or a historical landmark in Boston. Some one has gone to a lot of trouble and money to maintain the location and actually reenact the historic activities that the site is remember for. Well, we have that at the Tsintzina Clubhouse(the Greek Club) in Jamestown NY. There are 150 to 200 people who reenact the traditions of good food , music and dance every July and it is open to all people that have a connection to the Greek village of Tsintzina. We ask that you pay a small entrance fee, keep up your dues payments, and that you buy some raffle tickets twice during the year.

In addition to the traditional activities on Friday and Saturday such as the golf tournaments, the bingo and other board games, the reminiscing about the “old days” and how all the cousins are doing today, the Greek dancing until 3:30 a m, and the last vestiges of cigar smoke and Turkish coffee, there are some new activities scheduled for 2005. Thursday is going to be a planned day with an official registration fee of \$15 per person. The activities will include cooking class at 2:00 to prepare koulourakia, Greek dancing lessons at 4:00(also at 4:00 on Sat), Greek spaghetti dinner at 7:00 and Greek dancing to the Aegean Duo from 8:00 to 11:00. In addition, there will be a Greek language class for all ages at 3:00 on Saturday and plans are being made for the first Annual Investment Club meeting where our own financial advisors(we have a lot of them) will give us their hot tips. What is the next IBM, Coke a Cola, Microsoft growth company? In addition, the Jim Gianukos family from Los Angeles, originally Chicago, is planning to do family video documentaries for those interested. The format will be described in future Chronicles. The idea is to then combine all the family documentaries into one Tsintzina documentary.



## DRS. RYAN & EVA GERACIMOS ARE MEDICAL RESIDENTS

Drs. Ryan and Eva Geracimos have entered their second year of medical residency at Christiana Hospital in Newark, Delaware. They are 2003 graduates of Thomas Jefferson University School of Medicine in Philadelphia. Ryan is a 1998 graduate of the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill and Eva is a 1999 graduate of the University of Delaware in Newark. Eva has her residency in Family Medicine while Ryan's residency is in Interventional Radiology.



Eva and Ryan were married in October of 2002 in suburban Baltimore. Ryan is the son of Gene and Jane Geracimos of Richmond, and Eva is the daughter of Ralph and Karen Pierorazio of Joppatowne, Maryland.

They have just recently moved to their new home in Odessa, Delaware. We wish them well.

### REUNION RAFFLE WINNERS

- \$1,000.00 John Cotromanes  
Glenview, IL
- \$ 400.00 Linda Stam  
Newtown, PA
- \$ 200.00 Everett Hoeg  
Fairfax Station,

**Sixteen additional winners  
of \$50.00 each**

Peter Laskaris  
**LASKARIS, JAMES, EBLIN & NORRIS**  
Computer Consultants

703 Summit Road  
Marion, Ohio 43302

Phone: (740)-387-9271  
EMAIL: laskaris@frognet.net



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■ News: News about the Society, the Chronicle and the Ladies Auxiliary, the Youth, and a Bulletin Board to post family news

■ Board: Information about meetings, decisions, and future considerations

■ Reunion: News and photographs about the 2004 & the upcoming 2005 Reunion

■ History: Historical Information pertaining to our Society

■ Contacts: An opportunity for members to voice opinions and give information for use on these pages or in the Chronicle.

**Please visit our site and send us anything you want posted. Remember, this represent our heritage and you.**

**We encourage all of you to come and join your family reunion and celebrate the wonderous heritage given to us by our ancestors! Let your family know what it is to be Tsintzinian!!!**

## Continued from page 3

Our first meeting will be at the clubhouse on the Thursday evening of the convention, July 28, 2005. The exact time will be published in the spring. As part of this inaugural meeting we will have discussions on setting the direction for this activity. Please send any ideas in the meantime to me at [costastz@aol.com](mailto:costastz@aol.com).

Possible discussion topics include:

1. Presentations on the investing environment. Possible presentation topics:

- Investing Climate
- Retirement Investing
- Real Estate Trends
- The next 5 years



2. Possibly selecting stocks for a "Tsintzinian Portfolio" (stock picking contest):

- At some point, actually allocate a small amount of the Tsintzinian assets into a model portfolio.
- Gather charter contributions of equities into the fund to seed it.

Whether you are in the investment business or just want to learn more about investing, please join us Thursday night. And let us know your ideas ahead of time. We'll try to work them into the discussion. See you all in July!!!

Tom Costas



## ICONOGRAPHY

Written by the hand of the  
servant of God

**Joanna Ferencz**

Phone: (724) 537-2651

[www.comeandseeicons.com/ferencz.htm](http://www.comeandseeicons.com/ferencz.htm)

# LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Seasons come and seasons go but its not summer if we don't get to Jamestown. Our lives today are so busy and so complicated its a joy to come to Jamestown to see our family and friends. This year was no exception. Everyone had a wonderful time. We had many families attend for the 1st time as well as coming back from a while ago. "WELCOME AND WELCOME BACK!

The Ladies Auxiliary wishes to thank all the young Tsintzinians who helped serve the dinners and clean up. We also wish to thank them for entertaining us on the dance floor. KAI TOU CRONO, UNTIL NEXT YEAR.

We wish to thank all the Ladies for baking and also helping to sell the delicious pastries and making Greek Coffee.

## TALENT SHOW:

This year's show had some new and upcoming talent. We were entertained with singing, dancing, reciting poems and prayers, with karate exhibitions and above all the comedians. We hope the to have them all back next year with some new material.

The Ladies will expand the Talent show program at the 2005 Convention. Details will follow in the Spring Chronicle.

The holidays are right around the corner and I can smell the Turkey cooking. Get that cookbook out and copy a recipe. Raffle tickets will be mailed out soon. There will be a blue return envelope to mail tickets. Please take this opportunity to send one of your favorite recipes to us. There will be a rough draft of the cookbook at the Convention this summer 2005.

We take this time to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and to thank every Tsintzinians who helps to make our conventions a success and keeps Jamestown alive.

God Bless you all.  
Annette Nickles Mavrophilipos  
[annettemav@aol.com](mailto:annettemav@aol.com)  
757-639-6085



  
Honored and Remembered  
Tsintzinians

## Aphrodite P. Costianes

Aphrodite P. Costianes, 95, of Shepherd of the Valley, formerly of Arbor Manor Apartments in Warren, passed away Wednesday, Aug 25, 2004 at St. Joseph Health Center.

She was born April 11, 1909, in Fairmont, W. Va., the daughter of the late Peter J. Costianes and Katherine Comuntzis Costianes.

She was a member of St. Demetrios Hellenic Orthodox church and the Tsintzina Society of Jamestown, N.Y.

Miss Costianes worked in New York City for many years as an assistant supervisor for the Gateway Restaurant in Grand Central Station before retiring to Warren. Her hobbies were traveling and ceramics.

She is survived by a brother, Nicholas P. (Frances) Costianes of Albion, Mich., and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by five brothers, John P., William P., Michael P., George P. and Lycurgas P. Costianes, and three sisters, Angeline P. Carlos, Pauline P. Momtsios and Anna P. Dudley.

## Anna Rassogianis

Anna Rassogianis passed away in Chicago on June 24, 2003, at the "ever young" age of 96. Born in Goritsa to the parents of Kondilo and Dr. Constantine Gerasimos, she attended high school at eh French Ursaline Academy on the island of

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Naxos. She came to America in 1935, where her husband Constantine and his two brothers, Alex and George, owned a candy store and ice-cream parlor in Berwyn. She is the loving mother of John and Alexander Rassogianis and Pauline (Paul) Franks; cherished grandmother of Christopher Franks and Anna Maria (Garen) Toloken; dear sister of the late Phaedra (Dremetrios) Spiridis, and the later Matoula (Pertos) Petropoulou, and the late Maria (George) Kranios.

### Vasiliki (Bessie) Stratakos



Vasiliki ( B e s s i e ) Stratakos, 88, of 7 Hudson Place, Ithaca, died Friday, April 30, 2004, at the Hospicare Residence. She was born in Sparta,

Greece, daughter of the late Vasili and Amalia Zaralonitis.

She and her late husband, Gus J. Stratakos, operated the former Froz-N-Gold Restaurant where she was fondly known as "Mrs. Gus." Vasiliki was a member of St. Catherine Greek Orthodox and the Ladles Philoptochos Society.

She is survived by her son, John (Sharon); Stratakos of San Jose, CA, her daughter, Amalia. Stratakos Tio of Ithaca; her grandchildren, Charles and Anthony Stratakos and Zoe Vasiliki Tio; her great-grandchildren, Dean and Monica Stratakos; her brother, Panayiotis Zaralonitis of Greece; and several nieces and nephews.

## Tsintzina Society October Trustees Meeting Held in Beaver Falls, PA, Exciting Expansions Planned for 2005 Convention

John Zacharias convened a well-attended, upbeat meeting of the Board of Trustees October 10, 2004 to work on the 2005 Reunion and Convention in Jamestown. Many exciting activities will be added to build on this year's emerging Thursday night momentum and overall reunion increase in attendance. Thank you Tsintzinians for a great 2004 Reunion, we look forward to seeing all in 2005!!



(Front: Left to Right- Duane Ferencz, Chris Costianis, John Zacharias, Barb Zervos

Back: Left to Right- Skevos Zervos, Lee Costianis, Pete Laskaris, Helen Laskaris, Gene Geracimos, Pauline Costianes, DLouisa Kontos, Chrissy Volk, Roger Volk)

### Mavrophilipos Birth

Demetra and Markos Mavrophilipos of Virginia Beach, Virginia are proud to announce the birth of their daughter Antonia Maria on July 8, 2004. She is the grand-

daughter of Maria Calaboyias Worf and Don Worf and Annette and Dimitrios Mavrophilipos. She is the great granddaughter of Mosca M. Nickles and the late Marcus J. Nickles and Pari and Avgerinos Mavrophilipos.

IT'S A  
GIRL

The Tsintzina Website

<http://www.tsintzinasociety.com>

## A Look at the Sacred Herb of the Holidays

No Greek Christmas season would be complete without the supreme herb, Basil.

Although it is rich in associations, basil came late to Greece and it was believed to have been brought back by Alexander the Great.



At Christmas, most Greek houses take a sprig of basil wrapped around a small wooden cross and suspend it over a bowl of water. Oddly enough, in Greek folklore, the days around Christmas are considered to be very dangerous ones. This is the period when the kallinkatzari, a kind of devilish sprite, can torment humans. The cross and basil are used to sprinkle the rooms of the house with holy water to prevent these attacks.

Basil is also associated with St. Basil, or Agios Vassilis, a founder of the Greek Orthodox Church, whose feast day in Greece is January first.

It is the name day for anyone called Vassilios or Vassiliki.

On St. Basil's day, the Vassilopita is baked. This is a cake which conceals a token. The entire cake is carefully divided up - the Saint gets the first piece, then the eldest member of the household, and so on down through the family, sometimes including those who live far away. A piece may even be set aside for the various kinds of livestock the household raises.

St Basil's day is also when all vessels of water in the household are replaced with fresh water. But here the veil of orthodoxy wears a little thin - this is also the day for offerings to the naiads, spirits of local springs, to ensure the continued flow of the waters and to thank them for the previous year.

## Greek Christmas Legends

Greek legends talk of a nasty creature called Kallikantzaroi, that is known for playing troublesome pranks around Christmas time. In order to make it disappear, tradition says that you should burn either an old shoe or salt, and the odor drives it away. Others advice you to create a big fire so that they cannot enter by the chimney and also to put a pigs jawbone on the front door !



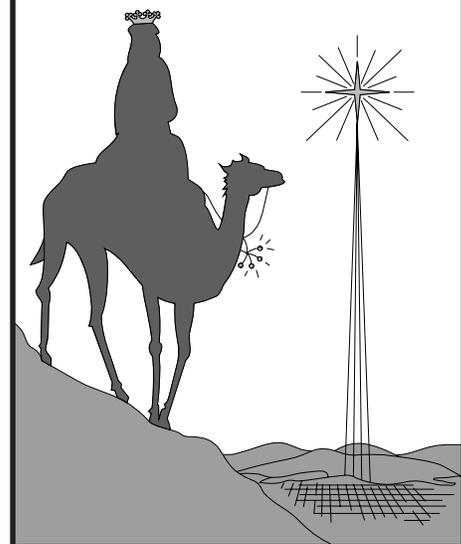
## “Merry Christmas” in Greek

- It's Christmastime in Greece - but what do you say to your Greek friends and hosts?
- Kala Christougena - Merry Christmas
- Chronia Polla - “Happy New Year”, literally “Many happy years”. Sometimes written as Hronia Pollia or similar variations.
- Eftikismenos o kenourisos kronos - Happy New Year (formal)

## The Greek Origin of Xmas

Where did Xmas come from? Some transliterations of Greek spell Christos (or Kristos) as Xristos. The “X” stood in for Christos. While in modern times we regard Xmas as a kind of slang, it was originally considered to be a perfectly respectful abbreviation, especially as it included a form of the cross in the shape of the “X”.

## Have a Joyous Holiday & May Peace be Shared by ALL!



# PICTURES FROM THE 2004 REUNION



**The Youth of the Tsintzina Society**



**Groups & Reunions**



**The Future of Our Society Proudly Enjoying Their Heritage**

**In memory of  
my parents  
Leonida & Polytimi  
Costianis**

**Ο ΔΡΟΜΟΣ ΑΠ ΤΗΝ  
ΞΕΝΗΤΕΙΑ**

Την Κυριακη και τις γιορτες  
μας εντυνε η μαννα  
να παμε για την εκκλησια  
στην δευτερη καμπανα.

Για το σχολειο τα πρωινα  
μ ευχες μας ξεκινουσε  
με ανοιχτη την αγκαλια  
το δειλι καρτερουσε.

Νοστιμο και ζεστο φαι  
ψωμι παχυ καρβελι  
φρεσκα τα συκα απ την  
συκια  
σταφυλια απο τ αμπελι.

Ο δρομος απ την ξενητεια  
στο σπιτι μας με φερνει  
πορτες παραθυρα κλειστα  
κανεις δεν περιμενει.

Χορταριασμενη η αυλη  
γλαστρες χωρις λουλουδια  
και στην ξερη αμυγδαλια  
πουλια δεν λεν τραγουδια.

Ο σκυλος δεν εφανηκε  
να με προιπαντιοη  
με χαρωπα γανγισματα  
να μα καλοσωριση.

Στο μπαλκονακι το ψηλο  
δεν ειναι απλωμενα  
ρουχα για να στεγνωσουνε  
στο συρμα κρεμασμενα.

Με πηρε το παραπονο  
κλαιω πικρα σπαραπονο  
και μεσα στ αναφυλιτο  
ΜΑΝΟΥΛΑ ΜΟΥ φωναζω.

**PICTURES FROM THE 2004 REUNION**



**In Memory of  
Vasiliki Stratakos  
Ithaca, NY  
You will always live in our  
hearts.**

**Chris, Aleki, & Leonidas  
Costianis**

**In Memory of Nika  
Papageorge- Georgetson  
We will miss you but will  
never forget you.**

**Chris, Aleki, & Leonidas  
Costianis**

Make Checks payable To: **Tsintzina Society** c/o Gene Geracimos  
10102 Dawndeer Lane  
Richmond, VA 23238

## 2005 Tsintzina Society Membership Form

Last Name:  First:  Middle:

Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

Spouse:   Please Check if ladies Auxiliary Member

Father's Full Name:  Mother's Full Name:

Phone:  E-MAIL:

**PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES AND HELP OUR SOCIETY!**

Family: \$40.00

Individual: \$30.00

Student: \$20.00

I am planning on attending the 2005 Convention.

Amount Enclosed:



## Commemorative CD ORDER FORM

Make Checks Payable to: **Tsintzina Society**  
Send to: **Peter Laskaris 703 Summit Road Marion, Ohio 43302**

Last Name:  First:  Middle:

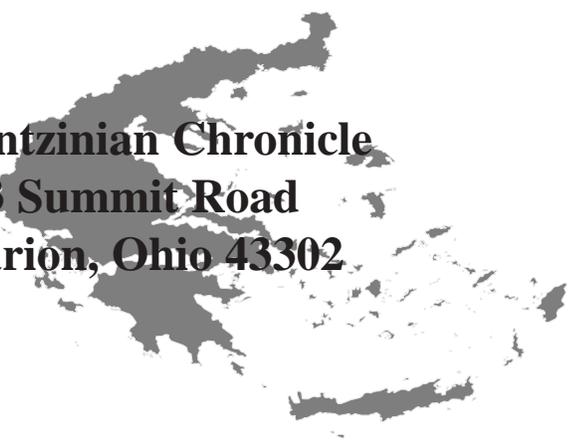
Address:

City:  State:  Zip:

**\$20.00 X**  **Quantity =**  **Subtotal + \$5.00 =**  **TOTAL**

Special Delivery Instructions:

Please include this order form and a check for the total. Thank you for supporting our Society!



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