

St. George Society Newsletter Winter /Spring 2014

ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS WILL BE HELD MARCH 22; ALL DUES PAYING MEMBERS ARE URGED TO ATTEND AND HELP THE SOCIETY!

Join us on Saturday, March 22nd 10am at the AHEPA HALL, 68 Cedar Street, Worcester and vote for a new slate of candidates to operate the St. George Society in the coming year. St. George Society is looking for new people, new ideas and new energy to move the Society forward in the 21st Century.

ST. GEORGE SOCIETY NEEDS YOUR HELP TO EXPAND ITS GOALS AND ACTIVITIES

The St. George Society supports activities, institutions and individuals in the village of Tsamantas as well as activities, accomplishments and education projects of descendants of the original Greek immigrants from the village Tsamantas in America. The Society has contributed funds for the Folklore Museum, the rehabilitation of a statue dedicated to military veterans and the renovation of the main church in the village. In the United States, St. George has sponsored educational events, the 100 Years in America celebration, funded academic books on the village, contributed to St. Spyridon Cathedral and subsidized college scholarships for descendants of the original Greek immigrants from the village of Tsamantas. St. George's goal is to educate descendants of the original Greek immigrants about the village of Tsamantas and also influence the American community about the importance of this village in Greek and American life. St. George Society's purpose is to help us all find our roots in the global village.

ATTEND OUR MEETINGS, RUN FOR OFFICE AND KINDLY SUBMIT DUES

The St. George Society meets four times per year at the AHEPA HALL in Worcester, MA. All are welcome to the meetings. Contact us via the website (100yearsinamerica.org) or at the email address (see below) of our officers for more details. Membership fee of \$20 is due June 15. Please contact any member of the Board of Directors for additional information about the St. George Society.

Nick Gatzios, President: nick199@verizon.net

Nick Athanasiou, Vice President: nick199@verizon.net

Ted Raptis, Vice President: raptisted@yahoo.com

Teena Lenis, Secretary: teena.lenis@gmail.com

James Bazoukas, Treasurer: jbazoukas@aol.com

DEADLINE FOR THE ST. GEORGE SOCIETY SCHOLARSHIPS IS MAY 15TH

The requirements are as follows:

--The student must be a direct ancestor of a current member of the society that has paid dues for the past three years.

--Direct descendants are defined as parents, grandparents, and great grandparents.

--The potential applicants are pursuing an undergraduate degree at an accredited college in the United States.

--Recipients may only receive the scholarship once.

--Applications can be found on the website (www.100yearsinamerica.org) or by contacting the Secretary, Teena Lenis at teena.lenis@gmail.com.

The winners of the St. George Society scholarships in 21013 are as follows:

Alexis Kentros	Birmingham, Alabama	\$1000
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Jacob Zapataka	Wethersfield, Connecticut	\$1000
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PRESIDENT GATZIOS CALLS FOR NEW GOALS IN 2014

President Gatzios suggested a contribution in honor of St Spyridon Cathedral's 100-year anniversary be part of new goals for the Society. Treasurer Bazoukas agreed and said that the Society could help fund the proposed dinner dance in the fall in honor of the centennial celebration of St. Spyridon Cathedral. He also suggested contributions for the renovation of the Tonna room at the church. He will discuss these suggestions with the governing board of the Church.

Vice President Raptis mentioned working jointly with the Pan Epirotic Society to fund a project for the Cathedral's centennial. Vice President Raptis also said we need to find a way to reach out to younger people. Soterios Zoulas agreed and stated that the Society's website is outdated, and we have no presence on social media both of which could attract a younger audience. He suggested developing a new website and creating Twitter and Facebook accounts for the St. George Society.

THE HOLY CROSS PRESS WILL PUBLISH THE ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF THE NITSOS' BOOK ON TSAMANTAS IN JUNE.

The Holy Cross Press of Hellenic College in Brookline, MA, headed by Anton Vrame, has agreed to publish Nitsos book.

This book will be the first English translation of Nitsos' work. The ethnographic study was written in 1920 and first published in 1926 and published again in 1992 in Greek. The book is a valuable academic study of a Greek village. Two generations of leaders of the St. George Hellenic Benefit Society of Tsamantas over 20 years have tried to have the Nitsos book translated into English and published. For some of our members, it is a life long ambition to read this book in English and share that experience with their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. That goal is at hand, said Soterios Zoulas who is coordinating the negotiations with Holy Cross press and has taken the lead in publishing the book. The tentative name of the book is **Tales, Rituals and Songs: Exploring the Unknown Popular Culture of a Greek Mountain Village.**

Professor Panayiotis League of Hellenic College translated the Nitsos book into English.

ST. GEORGE AWARDS THE BELLOS BOOK PRIZE TO GREEK-BORN, BRITISH ACADEMIC DIMITRIOS KONSTADAKOPOULOS.

The St. George Society has awarded the Bellos book prize to a Greek-born British academic Dimitrios Konstadakopoulos. The prize is accompanied by \$1250 cash award.

His new publication, 'From Pax Ottomanica to Pax Europaea: The Growth and Decline of a Greek Village's Micro-Economy published by Peter Lang International will be of great interest to Greek Americans, especially those with connections to the Epirote village of Tsamantas in northwest Greece, from where many individuals crossed the Atlantic in the early twentieth century to start a new life – in Worcester, Massachusetts and elsewhere.

”This is that rare thing: an academic book that is thoroughly accessible to the lay reader, said Nick Gatzios, president of the St. George Society. He said that the captivating story of Tsamantas, and the part it has played in local, regional and world history – out of all proportion to its size – is enriched by first-hand accounts of life in this remote community: the result of numerous interviews with those who have lived in Tsamantas, or whose families originate from there.

Dimitrios explains that his life-long interest in the village derives from the fact that his mother was born there, and his childhood was colored by the stories that she and her parents told him.

From Pax Ottomanica to Pax Europaea: The Growth and Decline of a Greek Village's Micro-Economy is available on Amazon.com . The author's royalties from the present edition will be donated to the community of Tsamantas for the preservation of its cultural heritage.

GREEKS ABANDON THEIR CHILDREN, ACCORDING TO A WASHINGTON POST ARTICLE

I read with great anguish the following article on Greeks abandoning their children because of the economic catastrophe that has battered the country for more than five years. (Here is the link: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/she-the-people/wp/2014/02/14/greece-grapples-with-soaring-numbers-of-abandoned-children-and-babies>)

It is long past the time for us as Greek Americans to raise money to help the children and to raise the conscious of all Americans of this Modern Greek tragedy. It is hard for me to believe that Greeks would give up their children. I was raised by a mother and father who treated me and my siblings like gold. I need your help. I will work with the Church and all Greek-American organizations to do something for these children. If you are interesting in joining me to save the children, contact me at, soterios.zoulas@gmail.com.

Soterios Zoulas, editor and member of St. George Society