



Greetings fellow Aeoliani. I hope the New Year has brought all that you expected. It has been awhile since we have communicated, so here is the latest news about the Society.

## **WE RESERVED THE MARRIOT HOTEL, IN NEWTON TO CONTINUE THE MOTHER/DAUGHTER BRUNCH ON SEPT 7<sup>TH</sup> AT 11:00 AM**

The last brunch was a huge success and we would love to see as many mothers and daughters as possible again this year. Call Cathy Umina (978-371-1840 [cathy@filicudi.org](mailto:cathy@filicudi.org)) or Roseanne Giardina (781-899-1523 [roseanne.giardina@verizon.net](mailto:roseanne.giardina@verizon.net)) to reserve a spot. The cost is \$28.00 each.

### **In this newsletter**

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It has been a while since you have heard from the Filicudi Society. I would like to fill you in on the past year and update you on the wishes of the Filicudi board. We met near the end of 2013, voted on some changes to the structure of the society and discussed some ideas for functions that we can hold in 2014.

The biggest change we made was the decision to open membership to descendents of all of the Aeolian Islands. This includes full voting rights and the ability to hold office. Our feeling was that Filicudi is a small part of the larger family represented by the Aeolian Islands. Most families that are members of the society have family members that come from other islands. In recent years we have found a strong interest in descendents of the other islands to join our small family in the Filicudi Associates. Over a year ago we decided to change the name of the society from the Filicudi Associates to the Filicudi St. Stephen Society. Following the merging of these two societies it only makes sense to include our entire fellow Aeoliani. If you have any family or friends from other islands I would ask you to please let them know of this change and invite them to the general meeting in September.

### **The Annual Dinner Dance**

There was a lot of disappointment expressed by members of the decision not to hold the annual dinner dance in 2013. This was a very difficult decision for the board to make. The dinner dance of 2012, although a wonderful time was had by all, had low attendance. It was not possible to host another function with the limited number that attended. Our discussions at the meeting centered around hosting functions of a smaller size that would have a broader interest to current members. We would like to hold another meeting soon, with all interested Aeoliani to discuss the future of the organization. It is our sincere hope we can attract enough existing members and members from other islands who

would like to join, that we can come up with some activities that will generate enough interest to continue the close knit camaraderie that our ancestors started over 100 years ago.

### **What is the Filicudi Saint Stephen Society?**

One hundred and three years ago a group of our ancestors got together to discuss the possibility of setting up a mutual aid society. These first pioneers left their home country and traveled a long journey across the Atlantic Ocean to go to a new world that they knew nothing about where they couldn't speak the language. They were not greeted with open arms or promised a great deal of help. They decided that in order to succeed in this new land they needed to help each other. This society was to be social, so that families could get together, discuss their needs and socialize. It was also to help families in need. If anyone was having problems finding jobs or making ends meet, everyone would get together and help them out. The members would gather around the family who had lost a loved one and support them in the grievance as well as assist them with the funeral cost. The society grew over the years because they made it easier for others to follow, for now they didn't have to go it alone, they had a group of familiar friends to help them through the process. As times change in America and the societies function became more of a social organization than a necessity for survival, the society continued as a place for people with a similar background to get together and also allow the younger members to share stories with the first ancestors who arrived here.

### **Continuing the Tradition**

The more recent members have a desire to continue the traditions of our ancestors. The main functions of the current society to provide a meeting place for those who would like to continue the traditions and listen to the stories that have been passed down. The members have also provided a scholarship for the children of descendants to help them go on to college. We would like to carry on the traditions of the ancestors who worked so hard to carve out a place for us in America. We want your help. We need help to get the word out, to let the younger members know of our existence and desires so that they can share in the long history of those first pioneers who left their home country to come to America to make a better life for them.

There is a meeting scheduled for September 21, 2014, at the Post 440, Newton, to discuss the future of the Society. We want all of you to take part in the meeting. It was our ancestors who started this Society and we want it to continue for future generations to enjoy the benefits of knowing their roots and meeting with other people of similar background and traditions. The future of the Society depends on the outcome of this meeting.

### **FUTURE EVENTS:**

Sept 7, 2014 – Mother/Daughter brunch at the Riverbend Restaurant at Newton Marriot, 11:00 AM

August 24, 2014 – summer picnic at The Cove, on Pine Street in Auburndale (Newton) 12:00 PM

September 21, 2014 – General planning meeting, at the American Legion Post 440 95 California Street, Newton

PLEASE EMAIL [JOHNU@FILICUDI.ORG](mailto:JOHNU@FILICUDI.ORG) SO I CAN KEEP YOU UP TO DATE ON CURRENT ACTIVITIES. These mailings are very expensive.