



La Canna Siren

Vol VII Issue II

SPRING 2009

UPCOMING EVENTS

Genealogical Meeting

October 15, 2009, 7-9pm,
Activity Room, Maristhill
Nursing and Rehabilitation
Center, 66 Newton Street,
Waltham, MA.

Annual Benefit Banquet & Dance

Nov 21, 2009, 6:30-11:30 pm,
American Legion Post 440, 295
California St., Watertown, MA

Eolian Seasonal Cookie Baking Workshop

Nov 28, 2009, 10-4pm
Time & Place To Be An-
nounced. Call Maria at 508-
875-7616 if interested.

Need Article

Need Picture
And topic

GALA 100: A CENTURY OF COMMUNITY The Filicudi Society officially incorporated itself on February 8, 1911 but was legally organized by the end of 1910. The Saint Stephen of Filicudi Society (Society of Saint Stephen of the Church of the Valley) officially incorporated itself on October 1, 1912 but it too was legally organized earlier. On June 5, 1950 the two societies merged and became the Society of The Island of Filicudi and Saint Stephen, United. On January 16, 1964 The Filicudi Associates, an offshoot of the earlier merged societies, was incorporated, and in November of

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St. Stephen's Glorious Picnic

By Al Bonica

The program of the day for our 7th annual St Stephen Festa and Family Picnic started with a presentation of the physical support of the "St. Stephen troubadours," Lenny Frullo McClelland, Jimmy Gaudet & Stephen Bonica plus John Pappageris, of Maristhill maintenance. The troubadours were there again to cook up a storm of hotdogs, hamburgers and Italian sausages for a hungry and eager crowd of over 75 elders,



(Marino, Continued on page 4)

Tracing Family Roots *By Donna Bevilacqua*

My trip to the Eolian Islands and Sicily with my uncle (Francis Zanca), his wife (Rhea Zanca) and my mom (Joanne Zanca Raymond Menard) was more than I had ever imagined or dreamed it to be. It was a journey that started many years ago when my uncle Franny began collecting information



NAMES?

of our family heritage tracing back to the Island of Salina where my great grandfather, their grandfather (Francesco Zanca) and great grandmother, their grandmother (Josephine Carra Zanca) was born. In a previous trip to Salina that my uncle and aunt had taken, he discovered a great deal of information on the Zanca family and, as he filled in the blanks, realized he still had not found Francesco's and Josephine's birth records. The information he had indicated that Francesco was born on the Island of Lipari in 1847 and lived in Malfa on the Island of Salina before he immigrated to America in 1881 with his wife Josephine, and one year old daughter Mary.

And so the journey continues... September 15 as we made our way with a tour group from the Filicudi Associates to the Aeolian Islands. Our mission: continue the search for Francesco's and Josephine's birth records in Lipari and leave behind a booklet at the Museum in Malfa on the Island of Salina. The

booklet, which was created by my uncle and my cousin Michele, contained historical information on the Zanca family heritage from Salina to America.

While making our way to Lipari on the nightmare ferry ride, I could only imagine what it must have been like for my great grandfather and his young family when they immigrated to America. How long and arduous their journey must have been as they made their way to a new land of opportunity. During my stay on Lipari I searched each day with my uncle at one of the town records offices for Francesco's and Josephine's birth records or any Zanca

records that may have been related.

That, in itself, was a task. What a surprise to learn just how many Zanca families existed on Lipari! We also spent hours searching the cemetery and discovered many Zancas within those boundaries. We even met some Zancas: Santino and his uncle Umberto; although we were not sure how they are related, they were fun to meet. After no luck in Lipari, we were hopeful that we still could find something in Malfa when we went to Salina for the day. Upon our arrival on Salina, my uncle discovered that the Museum was closed for renovation but he was still able to leave his [family history] booklet with Clara Rametta to be placed in the Museum

when it re-opened. We commemorated that event with a photo. My uncle also showed us where my great grandfather had lived, and it was so neat to be standing hundreds of years later where my ancestors once lived while eating grapes from the property. What was even more exciting was that we finally found Francesco's and Josephine's birth records at the records office just before we departed the island. There it was in black and white, hand written, script "Francesco Zanca born July 30, 1848 to Santo Zanca and Maria Lanza," and "Josephine Carra born January 26, 1856 and married to Francesco." What a feeling to actually see their names and be there with my uncle when we found them! It's a moment I will never forget. And now we know, that they truly were born and lived in Malfa on the Island of Salina. We also discovered that Francesco had two sisters unbeknown to my uncle. Rosa Zanca was born on July 8, 1850 and Rachela Zanca was born on March 3, 1860.



Names/

Tracing our family roots was unbelievable and my trip to the Eolian Islands and Sicily is one that I will treasure forever. It was all so beautiful...the amazing sights, the history, the culture, the food, the wine, and the wonderful people my family met along the journey.

The Celebration of Women *By Donna Pinzone*

A woman and a man: Love . . . and so it began,

The perpetual cycle of life: a woman, and a man,
and Love.

Hands that mend hurts, hands that guide, hands
that toil to make a house a home -

That built a family.

Woman-child, you who
possess "Universal
Beauty"

Sweetly curved lips have
spoken words, sometimes
harsh, some times soft -
Always, always with
Love.

Look around you, each
and every one of you.
Just look, breathe in the
essence of family, of love,
of woman.

We, all of us here, have
been through many pas-
sages in our life's jour-
ney, some good, some
bad, But never alone, al-
ways with the guidance of the Goddess, the
woman, always with Love.

And so it began...the perpetuating cycle of life:
A woman, Mother; a man, Father; Daughters,
Sons,

And so it began...the perpetuating cycle of life:
Children, Grandchildren

Throughout the years, the circle of life: no be-
ginning, no end, just Love,

And more importantly Family, Joy, Security,
Wisdom.

And yes, our wonderful, beautiful precious
Mothers, Daughters, Grandmothers.

We are the family; we are the women that
your Love created.

Today we gather once more in celebration
of a woman child who always, to the best of
her ability, Has nurtured, cried and prayed
for her children and
her grandchildren.

A woman child who
chased the boogey-
man away, who hurt
when we hurt,
And found strength
to ease our pain,
Who wept when we
wept and found
strength to wipe
away our tears.

This woman child
who lives in our
souls... we honor
you.
We are in awe of
you. We are a re-

flection of your Love.

We are Your Life's work, and for that we,
all of us, shall eternally remain grateful.
Sisters and Brothers, Daughters, Sons and
Grandchildren realize that the very blood of
these Women breathed life into us, and your
loveliness, your wisdom, your very essence
Continues to run throughout our veins from
generation to generation.

So when you walk, talk, act, be proud, hold
your head up high and wear your name well
For it is synonymous with the true meaning
of Family, the true meaning of Womanhood
And so it begins...



Mother's Day Brunch Remembered. The above is a touching tribute to motherhood written and read by Donna Pinzone at our first Prelude to Mother's Day Celebration last spring. Unable to make space for the poem in our last newsletter, we include it here in semi-prose form.

(Continued from page 1)

2008 its members voted to change the name to The Filicudi Saint Stephen Society and recapture the spirit of unity of the two merged parent societies. Thus from 1910 to 2010 marks a century of community and we will honor the beginning of the 100th year of the two parent societies that have held the Filicudi community together as an extended family for a century. On September 24, 2010 we will celebrate this auspicious beginning with a grand GALA 100! Mark your calendars and get your tickets early. Seating will be limited to 600 guests.

Request for Help I am currently writing a history on the Filicudi Community of Waltham/Newton for our upcoming 100th anniversary year of the Filicudi St. Stephen Society and would like any information on the first families that came from Filicudi to these areas to settle. The Cincotta family is credited with being among the first to arrive in Waltham. Any information on this family and any others that settled early in Waltham and Newton would be greatly appreciated. Please call me, Maria, at 508-875-7616 with any info you have. Thank you so much. The family history you save may be your own!

The Story of Santo Stefano di Filicudi.

In the fourth century AD the relics of Saint Stephen were being transported from the Holy land to Rome and, as was often the case in those days, the ship was wrecked among the Eolian Islands. Miraculously, the casket carrying the bones of Saint Stephen washed ashore on the island of Filicudi. The relics were then carefully resent on their journey to Rome. With the establishment of the Catholic Church in the 1500's the townspeople felt that this "visitation" was a major sign of Santo Stefano special protection of Filicudi and he became the patron saint of the island. From then on you will find many men from Filicudi bearing the name Stefano (Stephen.) The beautiful Church of Saint Stephen (Chiesa di Santo Stefano) on the highest point of one of its peaks marks the tribute of the people of Filicudi to their patron saint. A palm frond and a platter of small stones symbolize the fact that St. Stephen was a martyr who was stoned to death.

St. Stephen's Glorious Picnic

(Continued from page 1)

middle-agers and youngsters.



Photos: 1) The troubadours, Al Bonica and Jo

The community food table was spread with food donated by "paesani" and friends and included chicken, stuffed shells, various pastas, salad, cookies, cakes, fruits and other goodies. People also passed their food around to one another from table to table. Serving gelato (Italian ice cream) for dessert were John and Cathy Umina. Most people came for seconds and thirds as the gelato was "out of this world," a great Italian treat generously donated by Angelo Firenze, owner and operator of Angelato, an Italian delicatessen in Belmont.

Angelato



Gourmet delicatessen, great sandwiches, panini, Danesi coffee, and simply unbeatable gelato

374 Trapelo Road, Belmont, MA 02478

Daily: 10:00AM - 10:00 PM - Sun: 11:00AM - 9:00PM
Phone: 617 484 0025 Fax: 617484 4222 info@angelatofoods.com

Following the meal the St. Stephen procession took place as the men carried a statue of St. Stephen, and members, families and children joined in walking side by side



John Pappageris

lica of the island of Filicudi covered in green moss in the background, small Filicudi stones and shells scattered over the pedestal, and the whole "altar" was surrounded with gold trimming. This magnificent work of art was created and manufactured over three days by one of our members, Donna Pinzone.

The children enjoyed a great day with all kinds of games. Winners received prizes and toys as Angela Aucoin, with all her patience and kindness, worked hard to be fair and please the children. It was noticed during the games that Mary Caramanica was marching with the children, twirling her cane like a majorette. Mary is an outstanding person who loves to swim and dance and is still quite active at her age.

the event. Many thanks to Father Dennis Wheatley for kindly letting us park in the Sacred Heart parking lot. A million thanks to John Pappageris, Maristhill custodian, for setting up and taking down chairs and tables and for his generous and caring help whenever and wherever it was needed during the day. We are grateful to Maristhill, in general, and, to Carolyn Fenn, administrator, in particular, for allowing us gratis again, the use of their lovely grounds, material, equipment and staff. We are grateful to Anna and Sal Pinzone for providing Italian music and to John Umina for taking photos of the event. We thank all our enthusiastic attendees for a truly wonderful Filicudi/Eolian Islands commu-

nity
re-

around the Maristhill grounds. Father Jack Mandile and Al Bonica led the group while the faithful sang and said prayers to venerate the saint. Father Mandile gave a brief talk on Saint Stephen and life. It should also be noted that Fr. Mandile gave up a family reunion day to be with us! We appreciate his dedication to the society and his being there when we needed him. In devotion to the saint the statue of Saint Stephen was decorated with the corners of the pedestal flanked with roses, a small rep-

Thanks for all the donations we received for Maristhill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and for all the kind phone calls and notes we received after

Need Picture

union. And last, but not least, we thank God for a full day of beautiful weather!

SOCIETY NOTES

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Thanks to Carolyn Fenn, administrator of Maristhill Nursing and Rehabilitation Center the Filicudi Saint Stephen's Society is now meeting at Maristhill in the Activity Room on the ground floor. Generally we meet every month, except July and August, on the third or fourth Thursday of the month from 7-9PM. Because of a conflict of interest with Maristhill our September meeting was rescheduled for Wednesday, October 1st. Our remaining meetings for the year are on Thursdays, October 29th, November 19th and December 17th unless rescheduled. For more information contact Cathy Umina, president at 978-370-1840 or Maria Taranto, correspondence secretary at 508-875-7616. All are welcome to attend!!!

Newsletter Staff

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La Canna Siren is published in the
Spring (April/May) and in the Fall (Oct/
Nov.)

La Canna Siren
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MEMBERSHIP

As of Dec 31 2008 we are happy to report a membership of 190 individuals. Twenty-four of those members are (non-paying) honorary members and twenty-four are lifetime members. If you are not currently a member please consider joining us now. Dues are still \$10 annually per individual and \$50 for a lifetime for individuals over 70 years of age, and, we offer a \$25 membership for families with children. We also welcome donations from honorary members and anyone else who wishes to ensure the future of our society. Honorary membership (non-paying) is available to anyone who was a member of one of the earlier societies who is over 80 years of age or anyone who has done a great deal of work to benefit the society. The Board of Directors votes on requests for honorary membership. Dues are payable by December 31st. Please make checks payable to The Filicudi Saint Stephen Society and send it to Roland Vanaria, VP, 18 Chestnut Street, Hopkinton, MA 01748. Thanks so very much for your membership!

GENEALOGICAL SHARING

Jennifer Taranto and Maria Taranto will begin meeting on a regular basis to explore family names in the society. We welcome anyone to our meetings who has the surnames we will be exploring or who has a general interest in island genealogy. For simplicity we are beginning with a surname that is familiar to us, Taranto. If you have that name anywhere in your genealogical base you are welcome to join us and explore your roots and share with us family history we can save for the society archives. We will meet on October 15th 7-9pm at Maristhill, 66 Newton St. in the Activity Room on the ground floor. Please let us know if you are coming by calling Maria at 508-875-7616. Bring with you whatever family history and genealogical information you have. Please take this seriously as time is running out for preserving our histories.

2009 SOCIETY OFFICERS

Cathy Umina, President
Roland Vanaria, Vice President
Donna Pinzone, Treasurer
Jennifer Taranto, Recording Secretary
Maria Taranto, Correspondence Secretary

2009 Board of Directors

Al Bonica, Felix Giardina, Anthony Rando,
John Umina & Elected Officers

CUCINA EOLIANA

Gigi Eoliana

Ingredients:

4 eggs

2 tsp salt

2 tsp vanilla

½ stick melted margarine

6 T sugar

6 T baking-powder

2/3 cups (about) white wine

4 ½ cups (about) flour

Olive oil for deep frying

Mix eggs, salt, vanilla, margarine and sugar well. Work into this, the baking powder, flour and wine. Take off a piece and roll it into a rope. Cut the rope into small pieces about one inch or less in length. Deep fry pieces in the hot olive oil until light brown. They will puff up. Remove with a slotted spoon and drain on paper towels. Heat maple syrup in a pan and add the gigi until the mixture is hot. The gigi can be frozen dry, ie, without the syrup. [The sticky mixture can then be formed with wet hands into a ball or a cone shape or heaped up on a plate.]

“From my mother, Rosaria Lopez’ recipe and my dear sister Josephine Cappadona. Florence Lopez Morabito

NOTICE

If any one knows of paesani who are ill, in the hospital, in a nursing home, or have died, please notify Eleanor Vanaria who is Chair of our Condolence and Bereavement Committee.

Tel. 781-893-2553

Our Deceased Members and Friends

RECENT OBITUARIES

Cynthia Cusolito on June 22, 2009 at age 48

Josie DeLosa on August 11, 2009 at age 82

Mary D. (Salvucci) Camuti on September 17, 2009 at age
85

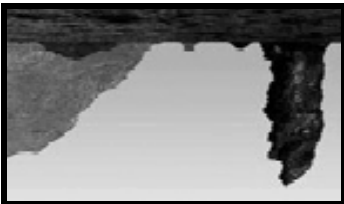
Stephen Defina on September 20, 2009 at age 76

COMING SOON

100th Anniversary Gala 2010

Year 2010 marks the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Filicudi and Saint Stephen societies that later merged. We as a society plan to celebrate this event with great joy and we welcome your assistance. We will sponsor a Gala Dinner Dance and plan on hosting over 600 guests. Because for our 90th anniversary we had to limit seating to 500 guests and had to turn people away we ask you to make plans early and let us know well in advance that you wish to come. We do not want to disappoint anyone. We also welcome your assistance in realizing any of the activities that will make up this grand celebration. So contact us and let us know of your intentions. Within the next few months we will begin meeting to discuss our Gala preparations.

We're on the Web
[Http://www.filicudi.org](http://www.filicudi.org)



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