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Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America "ICAROS"

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Headquarters of the Supreme Lodge

April 17, 2013

Dearest Brothers and Sisters,

I open by extending our collective thoughts and prayers to the people of Boston. Once again we are faced with having to comprehend that side of the human condition that defies all rational and intelligent thought. We have of course been down this road before and will likely have it re-visited upon us at some later point as well. Yet, despite these deplorable actions, we have and will continue to overcome our fears, to believe that our humanity, despite its flaws, will let us rise above those who would hate and attempt to instill fear in us. The people of Boston, the same people who provided the first spark of American independence some 250 years ago, and who will be our gracious hosts this coming Labor Day, deserve our support. I ask that you make every effort to attend this year's Convention which I am sure will be a great one.

In better new, congratulations to the members of New York's Pandiki Chapter who recently raised \$10,000.00 for the Icarian Storm Relief effort! This raises the amount collected to date too over \$26,000.00. Remember that the Foundation will match every dollar raised up to \$50,000.00. I urge all of you to give in the spirit that our brothers and sisters from New York have demonstrated. Remember as tax season draws to a close your contributions are 100% deductible.

The Pittsburgh chapter, Icaros, has begun its preparations for its annual Memorial Day Weekend extravaganza.....If you like playing golf, dancing a 45 minute Kariotiko or feel the need to vent at yours truly.....this is your chance. In addition to the golf and dance this year's bash will also play host to the annual Youth conference and a Supreme Lodge meeting. (Holy Ikarian Bedlam Batman!) Chapters who will send youth delegates should make sure to contact our youth Governor, Katerina Mavrophilipas (ekatmavro2@gmail.com) or the Youth Conference chair Georgia Barlamas (gbarlamas@gmail.com). Remember that the Supreme Lodge underwrites most of the expenses associated with the conference. The delegates only need to provide their way to and fro! The Pittsburgh chapter is also taking orders for its annual album. You can place your order with the very lovely Anna Avaliotis. If you're lucky, you can reach her at annaca@pitt.edu.

Convention bids, as previously mentioned here and elsewhere, are still welcome. Please make sure to have your chapter or chapters (no rule against chapters teaming up!) have your proposals in writing for submission to the Convention City Committee at the Boston Convention. Also please remember that we are still collecting e-mails for quicker communication. You can provide your e-mails to both our data base manger as well as our website host.

I close by once again having to pass along the sad news of the loss of a beautiful Ikarian lady....my mom. Mom, Alexandra Koklanaris, left us after 82 years of living a very full life. Mom was a friend to all, and especially a friend to those who needed a friend. She was the ying to Dad's yang for 58 years, an excellent Yiayia to her three grandchildren, and a great Mom to myself and my sister MaryAnn. Mom was elegant, never spoke ill of another, and loved to travel, especially to Ikaria where she could be found in the early morning drinking her coffee in front of her house in Faro. Mom was in large part responsible for my love affair with Ikaria, making sure I spent many a summer there and equally ensuring my attendance at each and every convention. After learning of her terminal illness, Mom met her fate with courage and dignity. Her only wish was that she die at home without needless suffering. I am happy to say that we were able to grant that final wish. I thank those of you who have sent your condolences and shared memories of Mom with us. Contributions in Mom's name can be sent to the Foundation's Philharmonic fund. These funds will be used to purchase new instruments, uniforms, music and instruction for the high school students who constitute the orchestra. Mom had the good fortune to see and hear these musicians during last summer's centennial celebration and was quite taken with them. I will miss you Mom.....may your memory be eternal.



Until next time...

George N. Koklanaris

Supreme President