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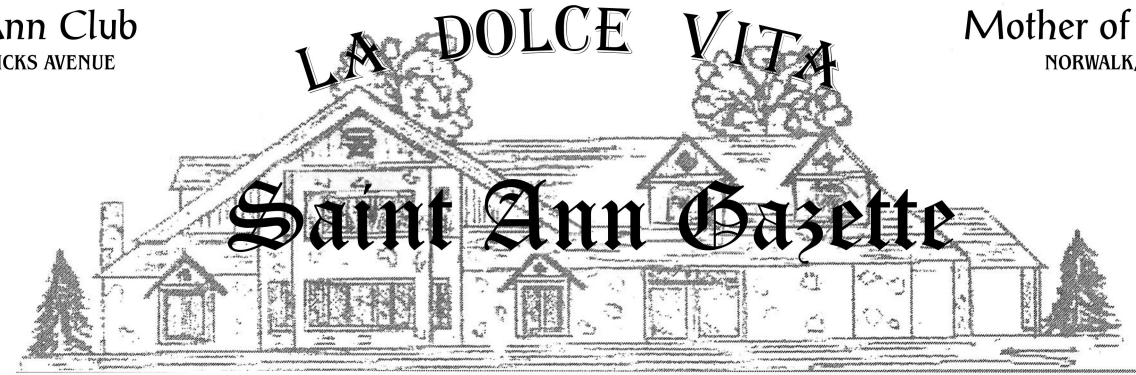
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Saint Ann Club  
 16 HENDRICKS AVENUE

Mother of Mary, Inc.  
 NORWALK, CT 06851



July - August - September - 2024

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

WWW.STANNCLUB.ORG

**A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

Dear Saint Ann Members,  
 Welcome summer! Thank you volunteers for all you do! It has been a busy first six months of 2024 with dinners and entertainment events, along with the continued success of our Bingo Mondays; many thanks to the Women's Auxiliary and all the volunteers who work so hard for this club. This is the time of year that our traditional Saint Ann Feast arrives; this is also our major fundraiser of the year. I want to thank all those who are and have been involved in making this event happen and be a success year after year. We are still in need of volunteers to make this happen, and be successful, so please get involved.

I want to add that we must not lose sight of all the members that came before us. Our dedicated founders especially; and all members over the years whose sacrifice made this club prosperous and able to support so many worthy charities; past and present. Remember our club supports not just us, but those that benefit from our generosity. With this thought in mind, I am asking each and every one of you to remember our club Prayer to Saint Ann: Dear Saint Ann: We look to you for guidance. Enlighten our minds to make the proper decisions. Strengthen our wills so as not to regret it. Help us to choose what is pleasing to you and therefore, best for us and our families.  
 - Your President, Guiseppe Tamburro

**JOINT MEETING HAS BEEN CHANGED TO JULY 10th PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTEND**

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

Dear Saint Ann Members,  
 I write to you today not just as a fellow member but as someone who deeply values what our club represents. Lately, we've found ourselves at odds, letting personal differences overshadow our collective goals. It's crucial we take a step back and remember why we joined this club in the first place. Our club is a place where friendships are forged, where ideas are shared, and where we collectively strive for a greater purpose. Each of us brings unique talents and perspectives that contribute to our success. However, our strength lies not just in our individuality but in our unity. Let's set aside any conflicts or misunderstandings that have arisen. Instead, let's focus on what truly matters: nurturing our club, ensuring its growth, and creating a welcoming environment for all. By prioritizing the interests of our social club over our personal agendas, we not only honor its founding principles established by our predecessors but also pave the way for a brighter future together. Let's commit to open communication, mutual respect, and a shared dedication to our club's mission. Together, we can overcome any challenges and achieve greatness. Our club deserves nothing less than our collective best.  
 Thank you, - Walter Cerretani Board Chairman  
**P.S.** If you would like to volunteer at the Pizza Booth for our upcoming festival, please call and register with Jacqueline at 347-780-6260.

**ITALIAN FAMILY LIFE: A LOOK AT THE CULTURE**

Italian family life can be characterized by loyalty and closeness. From the immediate, nuclear family to more extended relatives, Italians tend to remain as a close unit through several generations. Whether they are meeting in the square or at someone's house over a large dinner, family life in Italy is one of the foundations of their culture.

**THE FAMILY UNIT** Every Culture explains that Italians have stronger feelings of loyalty to their family than they have to their country. Even though there is increasing migration with some families geographically separated, the family is still the center of the social structure, providing unity and stability. In the South, extended families often live together, but in the North, you are more likely to find nuclear families. In both cases, the grandparents take an active role in helping with childcare, especially when both parents work.

**CHILDREN** Children are watched over carefully and trained to be loyal and obey their parents. Every Culture describes how children are coddled while very young, but are expected to help as they grow older. They are given jobs to perform within the family, especially in rural areas

**MARINA COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Nick Kantzas  
 Dock Master: Tom Donohue  
 Assistant Dock Master: Jeff Wallace  
 Secretary and Treasurer: Frank Felicissimo

**EVENTS**

**JULY**

- 1 SA Bingo 5:30
- 8 SA Bingo 5:30
- 10 Joint Meeting 8:00
- 11 Board Meeting 7:00
- 15 SA Bingo 5:30
- 25 Feast 6:00-10:00
- 26 Feast 6:00-11:00
- 27 Feast 3:00-10:00
- 28 Feast 5 :00-10:00
- 7 Men's Meeting 8:00
- 8 Board Meeting 7:00
- 10 SA Entertainment TBD 7:00-11:00
- 11 SA Italian American Police Car Show 8am-4pm
- 12 SA Bingo 5:30
- 17 Private Party 1:00
- 19 SA Bingo 5:30
- 22 Board Meeting 7:00
- 24 SA Entertainment TBD 7:00-11:00
- 29 SA Bingo 5:30

**AUGUST**

- 5 SA Bingo 5:30

**SEPTEMBER**

- 1 SA Entertainment TBD 7:00-11:00
- 4 Men's Meeting 8:00

**5 LADIES MEETING 7:30**

- 7 Private Party 5-11
- 9 SA Bingo 5:30
- 12 Board Meeting 7:00
- 14 SA Pig Roast 5:00-11:00
- 15 Pancreatic Care Car Show
- 16 SA Bingo 5:30
- 19 Ladies Dinner 7:30 \$35.
- 21 Private Party Our Vision 5:00-9:00
- 23 SA Bingo 5:30
- 25 Men's Dibble 7:30 \$35.
- 26 Board Meeting 7:00
- 28 Private Party P. D'Amico 6:00-11:00
- 30 SA Bingo 5:30

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where they are expected to help out with chores and run errands. This is not so evident in busy cities where parents' work does not relate to the home. Respect for the elderly is demanded. For example, children give up their seats and enter the room after adults, and they are at the beck and call of elderly family members.

**SOCIAL LIFE** A large part of an Italian family's social life involves eating and celebrating together. They meet in bars, pizzerias and restaurants, and frequently share meals in the home. This love of food conforms to the traditional vision of the Italian family. Industrialization and modern city life mean that parents work office hours, so for Northerners, the midday meal is lighter and taken outside the home. The larger family meal takes place in the evening. According to **Professor Russel L. King**, other popular leisure activities Italian families like to indulge in are: TV, radio, reading the newspaper and cinema. They are not so keen to participate in sports or read books.

**STREET LIFE** Italian architecture, with its many piazzas, encourages families to go out onto the streets, especially during the spring and summer. In rural communities, the village square is a place for meetings between families. City folk also walk out in the evening and as Tricia Senior shows in her *video*, the streets of major towns and cities such as Rome are filled with garrulous Italians shopping, eating and drinking together.

**CELEBRATIONS** Celebrations occur frequently, so there are many occasions for Italian families to get together. According to *Culture Crossing Guide*, 90 percent of Italians are Catholic. There are so many patron saints that Italians could celebrate every day of the year. Families do not attend church as frequently as they used to, but busy families share Sunday lunch, and Catholicism still provides a moral structure. Italian families also celebrate secular holidays, such as the Anniversary of the Republic on June 2, and Independence Day on March 17.

**GENDER** Typically *women* who work outside the house also take on the traditional roles of housework and child care as well. Still, with the lower birth rate, increased financial independence of women, and acceptance of divorce, the situation is changing. Amongst Europeans, Italian women are recognized as more liberated than their counterparts in other countries. The role of the man in younger families is less patriarchal, and the woman is no longer considered tied to the home and kitchen.

**MARRIAGE** Another development is in marriages. In the past, traditional church ceremonies were popular. Today, civil weddings are becoming more frequent, particularly in towns, and many couples choose to live together rather than marry. According to *Italy-Marriage and Children*, people are marrying later, with an average age of 27 years for women and 30 years for men. This is due to the increased cost of education, unemployment, and the economic situation.

**RESPECT FOR THE FAMILY** Although traditional lifestyle is breaking down under the strains of modern life, family life in Italy still contains the seeds of past culture. This is especially true in the South. *Family* ties are respected and Italians spend much of their time enjoying the company of their relatives.

## MENS NEW MEMBERS

**GIUSEPPE (JOE) PESCE** resides in Norwalk and is a self employed carpenter doing business as Pesce Inc Home Improvement. He is a regular member sponsored by Rinaldo Diloiro.

**JUSTIN GALEMBA** of Fairfield is a welder with Ram Welding. He is a regular member and is sponsored by Ernie Marsan.

**DONALD BABYAK** lives in Norwalk and is retired but, still working. He is a regular member and is sponsored by Ralph Castelli.

## CORRECTION

In the last issue it was incorrectly reported that Antoinette Fratino had celebrated her 103rd Birthday. As it turns out Mrs. Fratino was born on what was to become D-Day, only it was 1923. Mrs. Fratino is in reality only 101 years old. I believe that makes her the most senior member of Saint Ann's. We apologize for the error.

## INTERESTING READING

The violins, violas and cellos played by the Orchestra of the Sea in its debut performance at Milan's famed Teatro alla Scala carry with them tales of desperation and redemption.

The wood that was bent, chiseled and gouged to form the instruments was recovered from dilapidated smugglers' boats that brought migrants to Italy's shores; the luthiers (a person who builds or repairs stringed instruments) who created them are inmates in Italy's largest prison.

The project, dubbed Metamorphosis, focuses on transforming what otherwise might be discarded into something of value to society: rotten wood into fine instruments, inmates into craftsmen, all under the principle of rehabilitation.

Two inmates were granted leave to see the Orchestra of the Sea's debut concert Monday featuring 14 prison-made stringed instruments playing a program that included works by Bach and Vivaldi. They sat in the royal box alongside Milan Mayor Giuseppe Sala.

"I feel like Cinderella," said Claudio Lamponi, as a friend approached in the lobby before the show with a bow-tie to complement his new suit. "This morning, I woke up in an ugly, dark place. Now I am here."

Far from the stately La Scala opera house, the Opera prison on Milan's southern edge has over 1,400 inmates, including 101 mafiosi held under a strict regime of near-total isolation.

Other inmates, like Nikolae, who joined Lamponi at La Scala, are permitted more latitude. Since joining the prison's instrument workshop in 2020, Nikolae — who declined to give his full name and prefers to skim over the charges that landed him in prison a decade ago — has become Opera's master craftsman, graduating from crude instruments made out of plywood to harmonious violins worthy of La Scala's stage.

"That's how I began to speak with the wood," Nikolae said recently in the prison workshop, which is filled with the smell of wood chips amid the rows of chisels and the faint hum of a jigsaw. "I started with very poor materials, and they saw I had good dexterity."

Working on the instruments four to five hours a day gives him a sense of tranquility, he said, to reflect on "the mistakes I made" and skills that allow him to consider a future. "I am gaining self-esteem," he said, "which is no small thing."

One "graduate" of the prison workshops has completed his sentence and is working as a master luthier at another prison, in Rome.

"I hope one day, I can be recuperated, like this violin," Nikolae said.

For another prisoner, who preferred to remain anonymous, making the instruments is a form of therapy, physical and psychological. He lived through two wars in his home country, which he also asked not to be identified because he served time as a political prisoner there and says he was beaten to the point of needing a crutch to walk.

He falls into a trance as he gently chisels the back of a violin's front piece, measuring the thickness with an instrument to achieve perfect pitch. Dig too much, and it's back to the drawing board. His own rocky journey to a new country has given him an understanding of the desperation that drove migrants onto unseaworthy boats.

"As I am working on these pieces, I think of the refugees that this wood transported, the women and children," he said. "I think only of that as I work, what this piece of wood has lived."

Lamponi and fellow inmate Andrea Volonghi have found new purpose in their life sentences, pulling apart the smugglers' boats deposited in a yard among the prison blocks. Originally, the boats were being transformed into crucifixes and nativity scenes, but the inmates who were already trained luthiers thought: why not instruments?

## LADIES AUXILIARY NEW MEMBERS

**TINA D'URSO-PINTO** is a lifelong resident of Norwalk with two adult daughters (Carly and Emily) who are her world. Tina has worked for Diageo (an adult Beverage Company located in Stamford) for 24 years. She loves dogs and runs a dog care business as a side gig.

**DOLORES LONGO** was born in Stamford and has been a resident of Darien for the past 49 years. She has three daughters, two son-in-law's and four grandsons. Linda works as a receptionist at Coastal OB/GYN in Stamford and enjoys playing bocce with the Stamford Women's Bocce League.

**LISA COZZI** was born and raised in New York and has lived in Connecticut for the past 15 years. Lisa is married and has 3 sons. She works at Diageo where she imports rum from the Virgin Islands and is looking forward to all the activities and events at St. Anns.

## TURNING 65 OR LEAVING YOUR EMPLOYER PLAN?

I can help you navigate the process of applying for Medicare & choosing a plan that best meets your needs. Medicare made simple. We can speak via phone or meet at the club. Available for members & non-members & anyone who can benefit from this free valuable informational service.

### Gary A. Antonello

Medicare Solutions

203.984.3737 or *Gary@themorgangroup.net*

## THIS IS IMPORTANT

If you have an E-mail address and have not provided it to St Anns, please do so by contacting Louis Imperato by phone at 203-984-2094 or bigalou@aol.com. This will help us to keep you informed about various happenings at the club on a timely basis.

## PLEASE READ

Anyone wishing to contribute to this newsletter is encouraged to do so. Please contact Eric Fleisch at 203-847-7669 or by e-mail at bige101@optonline.net.

The next edition will be sent on or about October 1, 2024.

If you know any member that is sick or hospitalized, please bring it to the attention of the Board of Directors or Eric Fleisch at 203 847-7669 or by e-mail at: bige101@optonline.net. For the Ladies Auxiliary contact Ellen Marucci at 203-847-5536. A gift basket and card will be sent. If anyone knows of an auxiliary member who has been permanently placed in a nursing home, please contact Betty Brink with the information at 203-847-8133. We would like to keep in touch with them by sending a card.