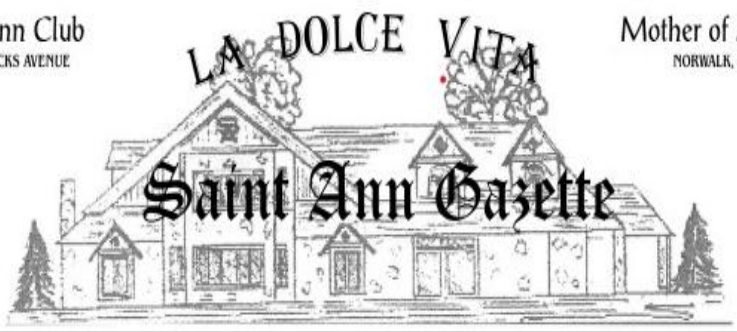
Saint Ann Club
16 HENDRICKS AVENUE

LA DOLCE VITA

Mother of Mary, Inc.
NORWALK, CT 06851



***Vi auguro una splendida estate!* – *Have a wonderful summer!* (*Thank you for a great 2nd quarter of our year*)**

Letter from the President

Greetings, friends,

I hope this letter finds you well.

Summer is upon us. Temperatures are rising, and I keep imaging the smell of sausage and peppers in the air. There can only be one explanation – it's St. Ann Feast time.

This time-honored tradition, celebrated for over 100 years here, emulates a more than 200-year-old tradition in Italy. Our volunteers are already hard at work in the planning stages, and things are shaping up nicely.

"How can I get involved?" you ask. There is a sign-up sheet posted on the display board to the right of the dining hall entrance. We need volunteers for everything-from setup, to working during the feast, to cleanup and breakdown afterward. We hope you'll consider lending a hand and joining us for this special event.

I would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has helped with our events and the day-to-day operations of the club. Your time, dedication, and effort are truly appreciated.

We have also welcomed several first-time event chairpersons this year. A scary endeavor to say the least, but I am happy to report all those involved did survive! Thank you to all who stepped up and made these events successful.

If you've ever considered chairing an event, perhaps now is the time. I can assure you that your help would be welcomed, and there will always be experienced members available to offer guidance and support. Maybe consider it.

I think I've used up enough ink for now, so I'll close by wishing you all a happy, healthy, and safe summer.

See you at the club,
Mike Veno

Letter from the Ladies Auxiliary President

Dear Sisters of the Ladies Auxiliary,

What a wonderful start to our year together — thank you. Your energy, warmth, and steady support have made the first half of the year meaningful and full of fellowship. From our meetings to our dinner, to our fundraising events supporting the community, your commitment has been the heart of our Auxiliary.

I am deeply grateful to each of you for your time, your generosity, and the care you bring to our club and to one another. Your contributions, large and small, have strengthened our community and helped preserve the traditions we cherish.

As you know, our biggest event of the year, the St. Ann Feast is coming up soon. This celebration depends on volunteers to run smoothly and to shine as the special event it always is. I encourage every member to consider volunteering — there is so much to do! Even before the Thursday kick off and long past when the last person leaves the grounds on Sunday the 26th. Remember the feast does not begin or end with when we invite the public to join the fun. Every effort helps, even a few hours make a big difference. If you do not already have a volunteer "job", please reach out to the booth chairs, and we will make sure to get you connected and involved.

Thank you again for all you do for the Ladies Auxiliary and the St. Ann Italian Club. I am proud to serve alongside you and look forward to seeing you at the Feast.

With gratitude,

Joanne Guaglione

Second Quarter Club Highlights

Throughout the second quarter, our members came together for a variety of activities that celebrated our Italian and Italian American heritage, strengthened our sense of community, and honored the traditions that remain at the heart of our club.

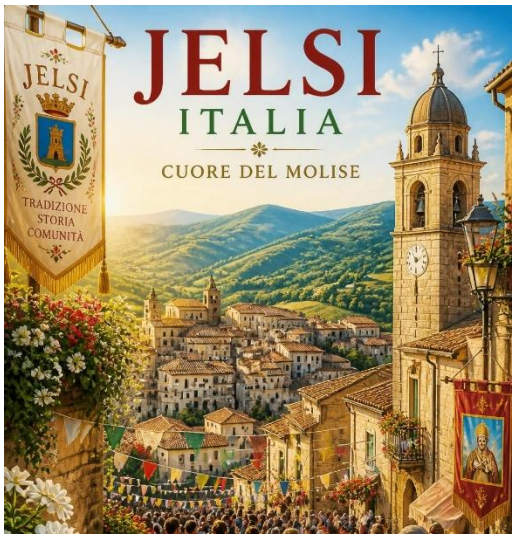
These included a festive celebration of Carnevale – Our annual Jelsi/ Valiante dinner, the Canzoni d'Italia dinner & Nonna's Sunday dinner.

The **Carnevale of Venice** (Italian: *Carnevale di Venezia*; Venetian: *Carnaval de Venessia*) is an annual festival held in Venice, Italy, famous for its elaborate costumes and masks. The Carnevale ends on Shrove Tuesday (*Martedì Grasso* or Mardi Gras), which is the day before the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

The Carnevale traces its origins to the Middle Ages, existing for several centuries until it was abolished in 1797. The tradition was revived in 1979, and the modern event now attracts approximately 3 million visitors annually.

Our own Carnevale celebration captured that festive spirit, with great food, a lively dance floor, and many attendees embracing the evening with creative costumes and enthusiastic participation.

The celebration even included crowning of a King and Queen, adding a memorable highlight.



In May the club hosted its annual Jelsi/Valiante dinner, a cherished tradition that celebrates the beautiful town of Jelsi, Italy — a place rich in history, tradition, and spirit, and the hometown of many of our club's founding members. The evening also honored the memory of Joe Valiante, a beloved member whose legacy continues to inspire our club and community.

Many years ago, Joe established this dinner with a vision of supporting cultural projects and events in Jelsi that would help preserve and promote our shared heritage, friendship, and sense of community. Above all, Joe's wish was that the focus remain on the club's true inspiration, St. Ann, and on the community built in her name.

Joe believed that the light of this club should shine on its namesake and on the values she represents. Through that humble belief, he showed us the meaning of true service.

As we celebrate our club, its origins, and Joe's memory, we also honor his wish by continuing to embrace the values embodied by St. Ann. May we remain a community where service is given freely, kindness leads the way, and no person is forgotten — not because of plaques or applause, but because of the lasting impact they leave in our hearts.

May we carry that spirit forward for generations to come.

The colors of the St. Ann's Ladies Auxiliary: Light Blue & White signify the – patron saint of mothers and the grandmother to Jesus. These colors continue the connection to our history.

Dance the Night Away…

A sold-out crowd gathered for a wonderful evening of food, music, and dancing as we honored our Italian heritage and the strong sense of community that brings our club together. Guests enjoyed a festive dinner, lively music, and a joyful night on the dance floor, sharing in an evening filled with tradition, friendship, and pride. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a great success.

We also had a little fun- with a fashion show that took us on a trip through time-- Fashion Through the Ages

Thank you to everyone who helped make our "Fashion Show Through the Ages" such a memorable and enjoyable event. From the creative styles and spirited participation to the enthusiasm of our volunteers, the day was filled with energy, laughter, and fun.

We are grateful to all who volunteered their time, participated in the show, and supported the event behind the scenes. Your creativity and commitment helped bring each era to life and made the celebration a true success.

The event ended on a special note with a surprise tribute honoring America's 250th anniversary—a meaningful finale that brought the crowd together in shared pride.

A Trip to Jelsi...

During a recent trip to Italy with his family, member Sal Fratino was invited to participate in a presentation at the Museo del Festa del Grano (MUFEG) in Jelsi. The museum features numerous displays showcasing the art and traditions associated with the St. Ann Feast.

During the visit, the museums' officers expressed their sincere appreciation for our club's longstanding commitment to honoring the traditions of Jelsi and maintaining a meaningful connection with the community.

In recognition of the continued support of the MUFEG's mission to preserve and share the artistry and traditions of the feast, the museum officers presented Sal (and our club) with a medallion of our patron, St. Ann, as a gesture of gratitude and friendship.

Have news to share with the membership?

Leave a note in the **Club President's mailbox.** It's behind the bar–you can ask the bartender for help.

15th Annual Charitable Golf Tournament

On June 22nd, despite threatening skies throughout the day, and with a few prayers to St. Ann, our golfers were able to complete their round at the Silvermine Golf Club, leading to one of the most successful St. Ann Club Golf Outings in our history.

For the past 15 years, this event has brought together friends, supporters, and community members while raising more than $400,000 for charitable causes. The continued success of the outing is a testament to the generosity of our sponsors, golfers, volunteers, and supporters.

This year's beneficiaries were Homes for the Brave and Project from the Heart, two organizations dedicated to improving the lives of those in need within our military community.

This Year's Beneficiaries

HOMES FOR THE BRAVE™

A PROJECT FROM THE HEART — A Project From The Heart: We Need To Let Our Soldiers Know They're In Our Thoughts!

A special tribute was made to Project from the Heart. The proceeds donated to the organization will be made in memory of Rosemary Romano, the beloved wife of our Golf Outing Chairman, Kenny Romano, who recently passed away. Rosemary was an active and dedicated member of Project from the Heart, and this donation serves as a meaningful way to honor her commitment, compassion, and lasting impact on the organization and those it serves.

We thank everyone who helped make this year's outing such a tremendous success and look forward to continuing this tradition of giving for many years to come.

Summer Garden Tips

Water deeply, early: Water in the morning at the root level to reduce evaporation. Aim for 1–2 inches per week.

Apply mulch: Add a thick layer of organic mulch to keep soil cool and hold in moisture.

Deadhead flowers: Remove faded blooms to encourage more flowers.

- Pinch back herbs: Pinch basil, mint, and oregano to keep them bushy and delay bolting. "Clip basil weekly — pesto season is here!"
- **Harvest often:** Pick vegetables, pinch back herbs: "Clip basil weekly — pesto season is here!" this will keep plants producing.

Weed regularly: Remove weeds so your plants don't have to compete for water and nutrients.

Protect sun sensitive plants from heat: Use shade cloth or nearby taller plants to shield delicate plants from intense afternoon sun.

Nonna's Cucina

Learn Italian (Come Parlare Italiano) - Words in the Kitchen

Uova (eggs)	**Zucchero (sugar)**
Farina (flour)	**Burro (butter)**
Latte (milk)	**Sale (salt)**
Acqua (water)	**Vaniglia (vanilla)**

Nonna Calogero's Cookies

Preheat over to 350 degrees

Ingredients

4 eggs
3 ½ cups flour
1 cup sugar
3 tsp baking powder
1 tsp baking soda
½ cp Crisco
1tsp vanilla
2 tbsp lemon juice

Directions

Mix flour, baking powder and baking soda
Beat sugar and eggs together
Add Crsico and stir well
Add vanilla and lemon juice
Mix wet ingredients into the dry
Drop spoonfuls on a greased cookie sheet

Bake for aprox. 20 minutes

Upcoming Events

Feast Hours:
Thursday & Friday 6-10PM
Saturday 4 -10PM, Sunday 3- 8 PM

Saturday July 25th
Join us for mass at St. Thomas Church- 10AM
208 East Ave., Norwalk
Gather at 9AM at St. Ann to join the walking procession to the church.
Procession will leave aprox. 9:30 AM

Breakfast will be served back at the club after the mass.

Mark your calendars for our annual Feast of St. Ann, Thursday, July 23rd through Sunday, July 26th. In addition to the general games and rides, the feast will feature a delicious selection of Italian favorites, including sausage and peppers, zitti, pizza fritta, Italian ice, pastries, and espresso.

Be sure to visit the ***Crafters Lane*** every day of the feast- please come support these local vendors.

We will hold a 50/50 Raffle each night (instead of selling our traditional raffle tickets). Every night will have a different color ticket and tickets will be available for purchase in advance.

To make this event a success we need all of you! There are so many ways to help – if you don't yet have a volunteer role, reach out. Any member of the Boards will be happy to guide you in getting involved.