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 Kate Fiore Carolyn Shannahan
 Mary Sue Skrensky

COMING EVENTS

JULY

2 Concert In Parking Lot \$20 Pizza	31 Pig Roast Real Pig, Roasted 7 Hours
3 Club Closed	Chicken and More 4-10. DJ Dom
7 Joint Meeting 8:00	& Gunsmoke Band \$45.
9 Concert In Parking Lot \$20	Call Tony Cappuccia (203) 515-7706
10 Private Rental	
11 Private Rental	
16 Concert In Parking Lot \$20	
17 Private Rental	
19-21 Feast Set Up. 5pm - 8pm	
22 Feast 6-10 DJ Dom	
23 Feast 6-11 Tangled Vine	
24 Feast 4-11 Bad Boy Band	
25 DJ Dom, Billy Genuario	

AUGUST

4 Mens Meeting
8 Car Show
14 Private Rental
21 Family Pasta Night \$15. (under 10 yrs free) Call Maria Vazzo (203) 722-3202
27 Blood Drive 12:00 till 5:00. Christina Kantzas E-mail to Ctenore@optonline.net

28 "End of Summer Bash"
 Parking Lot Concert with Third Rail

SEPTEMBER

1 Men's Meeting
2 Women's Meeting
11 Private Rental
16 Women's Dinner Call to Reserve 7:30 Mary Sue (203) 984-7568
18 Fundraiser For Westchester Children's Cancer Center. \$85.
19 Car Show
25 Private Rental
29 Men's Dinner \$30.

Saint Ann Club
 16 HENDRICKS AVENUE



Mother of Mary, Inc.
 NORWALK, CT 06851

July - August - September - 2021

DISPATCH NEWS

WWW.STANNCLUB.ORG

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members It is so nice to be writing to you finally from an active club. ST. ANN is back! We have been open 2 months and we've been tremendously busy. As you know July is the most important month. Our feast is on (July 22-25). This is our staple event and as everything else was canceled last year. To hold an event this large takes a lot of effort. I want to thank you in advance for your help. Please volunteer. Take a shift, a day, a week. I get we all have busy lives but this year's feast is so important to help us regain some financial strength that COVID robbed us of. The set up starts on Monday 5 pm. The setup numbers have been dwindling last few years, please if you can come down and help with setup please do. It's not all physical work. Please enjoy your summer and I look forward to seeing you all.

~ Tony Cappuccia

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE LADIES AUXILIARY

Hello everyone. Summer is finally here. There have been many events at the club and many more being planned. As we all know St. Ann Club prides itself on giving back to the community. It has been extremely hard to do that this year as we were closed for so long. The auxiliary has thought of a few ways to do that without costing the club anything, and in some cases even made a little money for the club. We had a food drive in April. We collected 20 bags of groceries that were donated to St. Vincent DePaul food pantry. They were very grateful for our donation as they said so many more people are going to them to supplement their groceries because so many people have lost their jobs. We had a blood drive and a bake / rose sale in May. The Red Cross collected 39 units of blood. That blood helped 117 ill and injured hospital patients. The bake / rose sale brought in \$523.54. After costs our profit was \$373.54. I would like to thank Christina Kantzas for organizing that. It was so successful that another blood drive and bake sale is scheduled for August 27. If anyone is interested in donating, please call Christina at (203) 856-0642 to make an appointment. Another way we gave back to the community was our Savers Fund drive. Members donated unwanted items, we gave them to Savers who paid us by the pound, we made \$265.06. They will resell them in their stores. Their profits go to Big Brothers/Big sisters which helps at risk children. I would like to thank Barbara and John Antonelli, Christina and Nick Kantzas and my husband Jeff for helping to load the vehicles, drive to Brookfield to deliver items and unloading the vehicles. Our Memorial Garden is almost done. I would like to thank Joe Tamburri for doing such a great job, It looks fantastic. That being said I would like to start planning a dedication ceremony for the fall. I would like to ask everyone who has had a family member or friend who was a member and is now deceased to please let me know their names and year of death. We will go back as far as we can. I will make a chronological list to read at the ceremony with all names. Each year going forward we will have a small ceremony and read only the names of members who passed away that year. Please remember if we do not have the name we cannot put it on our list and it will not be read. You can email me at craftstw@aol.com with the names and year of death. We will be having a joint meeting in July and no meeting in August. We will not be having a Ladies dinner in July or August. Meetings and Ladies dinner will start again in September. I hope you all have a wonderful relaxing Summer. Get out and enjoy the beautiful weather. See you all at the feast.

~ Toni Wallace

MORE FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY

As you all know, St. Ann's Club had a huge financial loss during the recent pandemic year. The Auxiliary Board decided to help the Club get back on its feet by starting up the Ladies Dinners again and purchasing and contributing items for the raffles. We did not charge the Club for these items. Since this was becoming costly for the Board members, we reached out to you, our members, for donations. As always, you stepped up to help us! As a result, we have realized huge profits for St. Ann. Our appreciation goes beyond thank you. You are the best!

Our Feast runs from July 22nd to July 25th this year. As with previous years, there will be a raffle. However, unlike previous years, there are no individual envelopes with members' names on them with raffle tickets. In order to receive tickets, they will be available at the Club on the following days and times:

Mother of Mary, Inc.
 Saint Ann Club
 16 HENDRICKS AVENUE
 NORWALK, CT 06851

On Thursday, June 24th, before the ladies dinner from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. On Wednesday, July 7th, before the Joint meeting from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Please stop by the Club to pick up some tickets. If those times are not convenient to you, please email Lisa Prince directly at stannladiesauxiliary@gmail.com to set up receiving them at your convenience. She will work with you to receive them.

~ Thank you, St. Ann Club Feast Raffle Committee

MENS DINNERS NOW \$30.00

Starting in September men’s dinners will be \$30.00, rising food prices cited.

THE ORIGINS OF THE PONZI SCHEME

A Ponzi scheme is a “rob Peter to pay Paul” financial scam in which early investors are paid returns with money from later investors rather than legitimate investment activities. The most notorious perpetrator of this type of fraud is New York financier Bernard Madoff, who in 2009 pleaded guilty to masterminding a decades-long, \$65 billion swindle. The Ponzi scheme is named for a real person, Charles Ponzi, who in 1920 milked thousands of people out of some \$10 million before he was caught.

Born in Italy in 1882, Ponzi arrived in America nearly broke in 1903 and went on to work various jobs in the United States and Canada, along with stint in prison for forgery and smuggling. Then, in late 1919, the charismatic Italian opened a business in Boston to promote a scheme involving international reply coupons, which could be used to buy postage stamps in different countries. Ponzi’s plan was to purchase the coupons in bulk in Europe then redeem them in America, where they were worth more, and reap a hefty profit. Seeking cash to pull off his idea, Ponzi promised a 50 percent return on investment in 45 days and people soon were lining up at his office to hand over their money. However, when Ponzi couldn’t make the logistics of his ploy work, he began using funds from new investors to pay purported earnings to older ones. After journalists started investigating Ponzi’s too-good-to-be-true operation, it collapsed in August 1920 and Ponzi was arrested. He was convicted, sent to prison and later deported to Italy in 1934. Ponzi died in poverty in Brazil in 1949.

While Ponzi is the namesake of the form of get-rich-quick scheme he carried out, he was not its inventor. At least one prior practitioner was New Yorker William Miller, who in 1899 guaranteed investors a whopping 520 percent annual return and collected some \$1 million from them before his con was exposed.

THE ITALIAN MOB: HOW DID IT START, AND WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

New York and the Italian mob have a long and complicated history. New York’s relationship with the Italian mob has a storied, and often very complicated, history.

The modern Italian mob took hold in the city in the early 1900s with the mass emigration of people from southern parts of Italy and Sicily, but it wasn’t the first iteration.

The mob as modern America thinks of it actually grew out of the disintegration of the Five Points Gang, which “was loosely a bunch of guys who later became infamous,” said mob historian Christian Cipollini. Those “guys” included Al Capone and “Lucky” Luciano, who would later go on to become a major player in the Castellammarese War (and the birth of the modern mob).

How it started

The first shots of the Castellammarese War were fired in 1930, Cipollini said, when Luciano “cut a deal” with Salvatore Maranzano to get rid of “Joe the Boss” Masseria, who Luciano had been doing business with.

By the spring of 1931, Luciano’s men had killed Masseria and Maranzano declared himself the “boss of bosses,” demanding tribute payments. But Cipollini said Maranzano, known for being “ruthless and very powerful,” became paranoid, and put a hit out on Ludano and another crime boss, Vito Genovese.

So by September Luciano and Genovese enlisted the help of Jewish mobsters Meyer Lansky and “Bugsy” Siegel, who sent in four men posing as treasury agents to kill Maranzano.

“Maranzano dug his own grave,” Cipollini said. “Everyone was on board.”

Cipollini said the group then eliminated the concept of boss of all bosses in favor of creating “the Commission,” which was “built on Jewish and Italian leadership,” and instituted five mafia families.

The five families

The five original Mafia families were the Luciano family (which later became known as the Genovese family), the Mangano (which became the Gambino family), the Bonnano family, the Lucchese family, and the Profaci family (which would be renamed the Colombo family), Cipollini said.

For the most part, they all worked together, dividing up their territories and controlling only their geographic areas. And for the next several decades the Mafia was at the height of its power. Amid all the infighting and killing their way to the top, they managed to pull off some of the most infamous heists in history.

In December 1978, for example, the Lucchese family successfully robbed the Lufthansa cargo facility at Kennedy Airport, making off with more than \$5 million in what the FBI at the time called the largest cash robbery in history, according to The New York Times. The heist went on to inspire the 1990 movie “Goodfellas,” which Cipollini said is “for the most part” fairly accurate.

But it was in the 1980s when John Gotti killed his way to becoming boss, and in the process brought back the style and flare of a 1950s Hollywood gangster, Cipollini said.

“The problem is that it made him famous and cops don’t like famous gangsters,” he said, adding that Gotti was known as the “Dapper Don.”

Gotti would wear \$1,800 suits, drive a Mercedes-Benz and always make time for the press, Cipollini said. By 1990, he’d been acquitted three times, earning him the nickname the “Teflon Don.”

But in 1992, Gotti was finally sentenced to life in prison after being convicted of murder and racketeering, including for the planning the 1985 death of former Gambino boss Paul Castellano (who he took over the family from) in front of Sparks Steak House in Manhattan.

It was on that day, Cipollini said, the Mafia died.

“He knew it was coming, he still smiled,” he said about Gotti’s conviction. “All of the families were getting busted then. The Feds were going crazy. The heyday ended the day John Gotti was sentenced for the whole Mafia in New York. They’ve never been the same. And like any other empire, criminal or otherwise, there is only one place to go when you hit the top.”

In 2002, Gotti died of throat cancer in a Missouri prison hospital at the age of 61, according to the New York Daily News.

Where are they now?

The five families still exist, of course. Just not in the way they once did, Cipollini said.

Over the last couple decades, other groups have taken power, claiming areas of criminal activity for their own. But the Mafia will always remain, he said, as long as the lure of history remains.

“They’ll exist because there will always be people who want to be part of that,” Cipollini said. “They exist more as a figure head of things.”

But that doesn’t mean they aren’t getting their hands dirty, most notably recently with online prostitution and credit card fraud, he said.

But Cipollini said it seems lately that everyone wants a book deal, and is quick to “rat” on their fellow criminals.

“There was a day when there was some honor around those thieves,” he said. “You can’t exist as a criminal organization when everyone wants a book deal.”

IT’S A TEA PARTY WITH FASCINATOR CONTEST

On Sunday, October 3rd, at 1:00 p.m., we will be holding a formal tea party with a variety of teas, tea sandwiches/salads, and desserts. There will be a fascinator contest (fancy hat contest) for those who love to wear hats, several tea cup and tea pot contests (bring your own tea cup or pot, and contests will include prizes for the oldest, cutest, and ugliest), a raffle, and more. Join us for a relaxing afternoon with your friends. All ages welcome. \$20 per person. Call Toni Wallace for reservations at 203-984-2930.

NEW MEMBERS MEN

Sal Macaluso sworn in on 5/19/2021 BOD meeting sponsored by Tony Cappuccia

Christopher Massucco sworn in at the men’s meeting 5/5/2021 sponsored by Tony Cappuccia

Peter Sedrak sworn in at the men’s meeting 5/5/2021 sponsored by John Antonelli

Howard Robinson sworn in at the men’s meeting 6/2/2021 sponsored by Chris Weldon

Charles Pia sworn in at the men’s meeting 2/2/2021 sponsored by Tony Cappuccia

First Reading: Alfred Salvino 1st reading at the men’s meeting 2/2/2021 sponsored by Vinny Scicchitano

ADDRESS CHANGES AND E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In an effort to bring the club more into the electronic age we are asking that anyone with an e-mail address, who hasn’t done so already, to please send it to Louis G. Imperato. His e-mail address is bigalou@aol.com. We will use these addresses to update events and schedules as well as save postage and be able to keep members informed on a timely basis.

In order to keep the records of the Auxiliary up to date, if you change your physical or email address and/or telephone number(s), please contact Camille Andreozzi at (203) 849-0199 or email her at candreozzi@aol.com.

PLEASE READ

Anyone wishing to contribute to this newsletter is encouraged to do so. Please contact Eric Fleisch at 847-7669 or by e-mail at bige101@optonline.net. The next edition will be sent on or about September 1, 2021.

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 847-7669 or by e-mail at bige101@optonline.net. For the ladies contact Barbara Antonelli at (203) 866-3953. 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.