



# Eye Opener

OCT - NOV - DEC 2015

**DISPATCH NEWS**  
**STANN NEWSLETTER OCT NOV DEC 2015**

WWW.STANNCLUB.ORG

## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members,

It's amazing how quickly the year passes. We've reached the end of the summer and it feels like only a few weeks ago I was writing my first correspondence for the newsletter.

We had an amazing St. Ann Feast this year! The weather certainly cooperated and the crowds were overwhelming with people parking as far away as City Hall! It speaks volumes about how our organization is received in the community. We had a beautiful mass on Saturday to help us reflect and remind us the purpose of our feast.

The Oyster Festival presented its challenges as the weather was not as accommodating. While it did put a damper on things it seemed everyone who attended and helped kept a positive spirit throughout the weekend.

I would like to thank our feast chairman Pat Cutrone for his untiring efforts to continue to promote our traditions and our heritage through the four days of festivities in July. While many remember the food, rides and fun it is also a reminder that our club's purpose is to promote friendship and benevolence. I'm proud of those members who supported this.

In addition, a special thanks to co-chairmen Warren Fondu and Al Latte for their efforts at the Oyster Festival. The weather certainly had many frazzled and yet Warren and Al kept a calm and organized approach throughout the weekend that was greatly appreciated.

As we head into the latter part of the year, I can safely speak on behalf of the officers and board by expressing our gratitude for the many volunteers who gave their time to these events and the many others held throughout the year. You are the most important element of success for the St. Ann Club and what makes us such a viable community population!

There are still a number of events planned for the duration of the year. Please make an effort to support them especially our Community Dinner on October 17th. This event highlights what our membership should be most proud of...the ability to demonstrate that very benevolence in helping others in need.

Lastly, as this will be my last correspondence for 2015, my wish is for everyone to remain healthy for the duration of 2015 and wishing one and all a very joyous, safe and healthy holiday season.

Sal Fratino

## 2015 WOMEN'S AUXILIARY CHRISTMAS PARTY

This year's party will be held on Thursday, December 10th at 7pm. Reservations MUST be made and paid for by December 3rd. No money will be accepted the night of the dinner \*NO EXCEPTIONS!!!\* When making reservations please specify with whom you'd like to be seated.

Tables of 8, 10, & 12 will be available.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING CLUB EVENTS

The events I want to expand on are the children's Halloween party and the Rockers and Crooners Show. The children's Halloween party is for children, under ten years old, who are the grandchildren and great grandchildren of members. The hours are 1-4 pm. Oct 25 (Sunday). Child must be in costume. Forms for this event are at bar. They need to be filled out and put in my box by Oct 18. We will not be mailing the forms out. It is the members responsibility to fill out this form. Also we are looking for donations of candy. This will be a peanut free event so all candy must be peanut free. There is a list of acceptable candy at club. Maria Vozzo or myself are the contacts for this.

The other event is Dec 11. I am proud of this event. It is a joint effort between St Ann and the Alzheimer's Association. It will be a Vegas style show featuring 10 musicians from all over east coast headlined by Billy Genuario. Cost is \$40 for members \$45 non members full dinner included. Portions of proceeds will go to Alzheimer's Association. Food truck is always there on band and DJ Nights. I am the contact on all these events. Tony Cappuccia. 203 515 7706

## HISTORY OF TUSCANY

### Appennini and Villanovan cultures

The pre-Etruscan history of the area in the late Bronze and Iron Ages parallels that of the early Greeks. The Tuscan area was inhabited by peoples of the so-called Apennine culture in the late second millennium BC (roughly 1350–1150 BC) who had trading relationships with the Minoan and Mycenaean civilizations in the Aegean Sea. Following this, the Villanovan culture (1100–700 BC) saw Tuscany, and the rest of Etruria, taken over by chiefdoms.[8] City-states developed in the late Villanovan (paralleling Greece and the Aegean) before “Orientalization” occurred and the Etruscan civilization rose.

### Etruscans

The Etruscans (Latin: Tusci) created the first major civilization in this region, large enough to establish a transport infrastructure, to implement agriculture and mining and to produce vibrant art. The Etruscans lived in Etruria well into prehistory. The civilization grew to fill the area between the Arno River and Tiber River from the 8th century BC, reaching its peak during the 7th and 6th centuries BC, finally succumbing to the Romans by the 1st century. Throughout their existence, they lost territory (in Campania) to Magna Graecia, Carthage and Celts. Despite being seen as distinct in its manners and customs by contemporary Greeks, the cultures of Greece, and later Rome, influenced the civilization to a great extent. One reason for its eventual demise was this increasing absorption by surrounding cultures, including the adoption of the Etruscan upper class by the Romans.

### Romans

Soon after absorbing Etruria, Rome established the cities of Lucca, Pisa, Siena, and Florence, endowed the area with new technologies and development, and ensured peace. These developments included extensions of existing roads, introduction of aqueducts and sewers, and the construction of many buildings, both public and private. However, many of these structures have been destroyed by erosion due to weather. The Roman civilization in the West collapsed in the 5th century AD and the region fell briefly to Goths to be re-conquered by the Byzantine Empire. In the years following 572, the Longobards arrived and designated Lucca the capital of their Duchy of Tuscia.

### Medieval Period

Pilgrims travelling along the Via Francigena between Rome and France brought wealth and development during the medieval period. The food and shelter required by these travellers fuelled the growth of communities around churches and taverns. The conflict between the Guelphs and Ghibellines, factions supporting the Papacy and the Holy Roman Empire in central and northern Italy during the 12th and 13th centuries, split the Tuscan people. These two factors gave rise to several powerful and rich medieval communes in Tuscany: Arezzo, Florence, Lucca, Pisa, and Siena. Balance between these communes was ensured by the assets they held; Pisa, a port; Siena, banking; and Lucca, banking and silk. By the renaissance, however, Florence had become the cultural capital of Tuscany. One family that benefitted from Florence's growing wealth and power was the ruling Medici Family. Lorenzo de' Medici was one of the most famous of the Medici and the legacy of this time is still visible today in the prodigious art and architecture in Florence. One of his famous descendants, Catherine de Medici, married Prince Henry (later King Henry II) of France in 1533.

The Black Death epidemic hit Tuscany starting in 1348. It eventually killed 70% of Tuscan Population. According to Melissa Snell, “Florence lost a third of its population in the first six months of the plague, and from 45% to 75% of its population in the first year.” In 1630, Florence and Tuscany were once again ravaged by the plague.

### The Renaissance

Tuscany, especially Florence, is regarded as the birthplace of the Renaissance. Though “Tuscany” remained a linguistic, cultural and geographic conception, rather than a political reality, in the 15th century, Florence extended its dominion in Tuscany through the annexation of Arezzo in 1384, the purchase of Pisa in 1405 and the suppression of a local resistance there (1406). Livorno was bought as well (1421).

From the leading city of Florence, the republic was from 1434 onward dominated by the increasingly monarchical Medici family. Initially, under Cosimo, Piero the Gouty, Lorenzo and Piero the Unfortunate, the forms of the republic were retained and the Medici ruled without a title, usually without even a formal office. These rulers presided over the Florentine Renaissance. There was a return to the republic from 1494 to 1512, when first Girolamo Savonarola then Piero Soderini oversaw the state. Cardinal Giovanni de' Medici retook the city with Spanish forces in 1512, before going to Rome to become Pope Leo X. Florence was dominated by a series of papal proxies until 1527 when the citizens declared the republic again, only to have it taken from them again in 1530 after a siege by an Imperial and Spanish army. At this point Pope Clement VII and Charles V appointed Alessandro de' Medici as the first formal hereditary ruler.

The Sienese commune was not incorporated into Tuscany until 1555, and during the 15th century Siena enjoyed a cultural ‘Sieneese Renaissance’ with its own more conservative character. Lucca remained an independent Republic until 1847 when it became part of Grand Duchy of Tuscany by the will of its people.

## FUN FACTS ABOUT ITALY

1. Rome is further North than New York City. New York City is about the same latitude as Naples Italy.
2. In Rome and Naples, it only snows briefly once every several years, while in New York snow is very frequent in the Winter.
3. Pizza was “invented” in Naples around 1860s.
4. Pizza is one of the very few words which is understood all over the world.
5. Italy is slightly larger than Arizona.
6. Almost 20% of Italy's population is over 65 years old.
7. Italy borders with Austria, France, Vatican City, San Marino, Slovenia, and Switzerland.
8. Its longest border is with Switzerland.
9. The average Italian family has 1.27 children.
10. Everybody 18 and over can vote, however you have to be at least 25 to vote for the Senate's elections.
11. The Italian flag is inspired by the French, which was introduced during Napoleon's 1797 invasion of the peninsula.

12. The average Italian makes \$26,700 a year, however those in the more prosperous north make almost \$40,000.
13. The thermometer is an Italian invention.
14. Italy's unemployment rate is around 8.6%, but it is as high as 20% in the more impoverished south.
15. Italian farms produce grapes, potatoes, sugar beets, soybeans, wheat and olives. They rear cows and produce meat and dairy.
16. The name of Electricity measurement Volt comes from Alessandro Volta, who invented the first battery in 1779.
17. The average life expectancy at birth for an Italian is 79.54 years.
18. The famous children's story, Pinocchio, was written by an Italian.
19. The city of Naples gave birth to pizza.
20. The piano hails from Italy.
21. The longest river in Italy is the Po.
22. The average Italian consumes half a pound of bread a day.
23. Italy's contributions to science include the barometer, the electric battery, nitroglycerin, and wireless telegraphy.
24. Famous Italian explorers include Christopher Columbus, Marco Polo, John Cabot, and Amerigo Vespucci.
25. Today's modern Italian originated in the region of Tuscany.
26. Enrico Fermi, inventor of the nuclear reactor, was an Italian.
27. The automobile is one of Italy's greatest products. In addition to the Fiat brand, Fiat owns the Lamborghini, Ferrari, Maserati, Alfa Romeo and Chrysler brands.
28. With almost 40 million visitors, Italy is the fourth most visited country in the world.
29. Italy is home to two microstates, San Marino and Vatican City.

## COMMUNITY DINNER OCTOBER 17th

This year's Community Dinner is when our club will be donating proceeds from the Annual St Ann Golf Outing to various charities in the area. By attending this event you will see first hand where the money goes and you will listen to the recipients tell us what their organizations do to help people in need. These donations are the result of a tremendous amount of time and effort by our members. Kudos to one and all!!

## ST ANN FEAST – OYSTER FESTIVAL

The St Ann Feast enjoyed great success. Some say it was the best ever. We had four days of exceptional weather and the crowds were tremendous. A good time was had by one and all. The Oyster Festival, not so much. Rain seemed to be our constant companion, not much to do about that. We are grateful for all the hard work provided by our members.

## HOLIDAY SEASON FAST APPROACHING

Now that Labor Day has come and gone it won't be long before it's Thanksgiving, then the shopping begins and before you know it, it's January 2nd. This is actually a great time of the year as we generally see more of our family and friends and for certain, we eat more, and that's good because that's what the holiday season is all about. Things are kinder and gentler this time of the year. I know it's a bit early, but the staff here at The Eye Opener want to wish every one a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous Holiday Season and New Year.

## NEW MEMBERS MEN

Mike Tavalacci of Norwalk sponsored by Frank Mauro 1st reading was Sept.  
 David Grecco of Norwalk sponsored by Frank Mauro 1st reading was Sept  
 Peter Havens of Norwalk sponsored by Michael Gabriele 1st reading was Sept

## NEW MEMBERS LADIES AUXILLARY

Name	Date Joined	Sponsor
Mary Bellavia	3/12/15	Arlene Peterson
Betty Downing	3/12/15	Arlene Peterson
Rita Kababik	3/12/15	Jeannette Iannacone
Kim Rabin	04/09/15	Camille Scavetta
Tiffany Volpe	04/09/15	Virginia Falcone
Beverly LaJoie	06/04/15	Marlene Hammond
Barbara Sacks	06/04/15	Rita Galbo
Lola Salzano	06/04/15	Geri Kesney
Amy DePasquale	06/04/15	Mary Sue Skrensky
Gabriela Cenatiempo	06/04/15	Palmina Libertino
Sandy Laganza	07/01/15	Mary Sue Skrensky
Denise Lutz	07/01/15	Giovanna Cicirello
Dolores Abresky	07/01/15	Mary Kovacs

## 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 Ken Romano. His e-mail address is rmyken@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.

If you move and need to change your physical address, for the men contact Ken Romano and for the ladies, contact Carolyn Shanahan at 203-8462140 or email her at Shannah776@gmail.com.

**PLEASE READ**

Any one 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 December 31, 2015.

**SICK OR HOSPITALIZED MEMBERS**

If you know any member that is sick or hospitalized contact J. Ruggiero at 866-1477, for men. 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.

## October

- 1 Ladies Meeting
- 3 Murder Mystery Dinner  
(Christmas theme)
- 7 Mens Meeting
- 10 Mersey Beat Band  
Beatles/60's music
- 15 Ladies Dinner
- 17 Community Dinner \$35
- 24 Halloween Costume Party
- 25 Kids Halloween Party
- 28 Men's Dinner
- 31 Club Open No  
Entertainment

## November

- 4 Men's Meeting
- 5 Ladies Meeting
- 7 DJ Mike MARUCCI
- 14 Pimpinella Band
- 19 Ladies Dinner
- 21 80's Party Featuring Retro  
Express Band
- 25 Men's Dinner
- 28 The Great DJ DOM

## December

- 2 Men's Meeting
- 3 Ladies Meeting
- 5 Fuzzbone Holiday Party
- 10 Women's Christmas Party
- 11 Rockers and Crooners  
Show (Friday)
- 19 Mens Christmas Party
- 31 New Years Eve Dinner  
Dance Featuring The  
Summertime Band

For information or reservations on most of the events contact Tony Cappuccia 203 515 7706

### OFFICERS

President – Sal Fratino  
Vice President – Joe Valiante  
Financial Secretary – Ken Romano  
Treasurer – Syd Gordon  
Recording Secretary – Vincent Scicchitano  
Bar Manager – James O'Brian  
Public Relations – Eric Fleisch  
Sergeant At Arms – Ken Prince

### MARINA COMMITTEE

Chairman – Warren Fondu  
Dock Master – Sal Covello

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Cutrone, Chairman  
Mike Gabriele, Vice Chairman  
Nicandro Cappuccia  
Sal Fratino  
James O'Brian  
Ken Romano  
Vincent Scicchitano  
Joe Valiante  
John Vozzo  
Al Latte  
Syd Gordon  
Keith Stadler  
Francesco Danieri

### LADIES AUXILIARY

President – Camille Andreozzi  
Vice President – Toni Wallace  
Recording Secretary – Marie Mappa  
Corresponding Secretary – Barbara Antonelli  
Financial Secretary – Carolyn Shanahan  
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Sergeant at Arms – Mary Ann Cappuccia  
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