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Saint Ann Club  
 16 HENDRICKS AVENUE

Mother of Mary, Inc.  
 NORWALK, CT 06851



October - November - December - 2023

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY

WWW.STANNCLUB.ORG

**FROM THE PRESIDENT**

**Greetings to all as we welcome the Fall Season!**

We have had a very busy year and are continuing that theme throughout Sept/Oct and into the Holiday Season! As I have said time and again, it is all because of the tireless work of our dedicated volunteer members. Those who worked so hard to make the Feast such a success this year and those who made the idea of Bingo a very profitable endeavor for the club; as well as the volunteers who cook continuously or volunteer to setup tables and other prep work to make our men's and ladies dinners a reality each month.

I also recognize those who volunteer for other member and charitable events that support both our club but also reach far beyond. Our blood drives have saved lives; our donations to charities have brightened others' lives in countless ways. Our donations help people to live and to have a better quality of life. I believe in that work as I know many of you do as well. I am so happy to report that I had the opportunity when I visited my home in Italy this past August, to make the trip over to Jelsi. I met Sal Fratino that lives in Jelsi and is first cousins with our own past president Sal Fratino. They had a lovely Gnocchi lunch ready for me. The Fratino Family was very welcoming and I thanked them for their hospitality. I also toured the town and went to the Saint Ann Museum and saw the bronze Saint Ann statue donated by our club to them. It was such a wonderful experience. I brought back some gifts, of which some are in the display case and a fascinating DVD which we can all view together at some point soon.

Looking forward to a busy but fun Fall and Holiday Season serving with all the members of Saint Ann Club!

Also, I want to let members know that if you have a request, it needs to be in writing to a board member to seek approval. Email or physical written request. I appreciate your cooperation. 8/11/23 - Your President, Guiseeppe Tamburro

**FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD**

**To my fellow members of St. Ann Club,**

Hope everyone is well. September will continue to be very busy as well November and December, I would like to see more members engaging in events and activities of our Club, in particular more help in the kitchen i.e. ladies and men's dinners and also in every other corner of our Club. Your help will prevent assessments in the future, volunteers have built our beautiful Club, now we have to maintain and support, so please do all you can to do so.

Enjoy fall and get ready for winter, - Walter Cerretani, Chairman of the board.

**FROM THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT**

**Hello Members.** Hope everyone is well. Hope all had a great summer and enjoyed our great weather. Again, our feast was a great success. Thanks to all our volunteers and our chair people who put so much time into making it such a success. It was a great honor to have Bishop Caggiano say mass. Thank you to Anna Marie Malagisi for all your time in working with St. Thomas Church making it such a beautiful mass.

Our entertainment committee has been putting together many events for the coming months. Please come enjoy and support our club. We have a website telling us what is going on at the club on a daily basis. This will help planning to attend the events. Thank you to Camille for arranging the Ferragosto trip, it was great fun and a lot of eating. Below is the website for our club. Contact/Map - The St. Ann Club, Norwalk CT (stannclub.org)

Thanks again to all of our volunteers, - President, JoAnne Guaglione

**CHILDREN'S HALLOWEEN TRUNK OR TREAT**

**Sunday, October 29th, 11 to 1pm.** Please let me know if you can decorate your cars and were asking for candy donations, regular and nut free. Please respond. By 10/22 to: Maria12974@sbcglobal.net or 203-722-3220

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY**

**Sunday December 3rd, 1-3pm.** Entertainment by "The Amazing Andy" and a visit from Santa on the fire truck. Children and grandchildren up to 8 years old. Limit 2 people per child. Child must be present to receive gift. Please respond by 11/20 to Maria12974@sbcglobal.net or 203-722-3220.

**LADIES AUXILIARY SPONSORING FALL HOLIDAY FAIR**

**November 12th from 10-4 pm.** We have many vendors & crafters for your shopping pleasure. We have had such an overwhelming response, so will be utilizing the KOC hall also. There will be a raffle basket table, our traditional Cafe' serving a lite breakfast and lunch, and of course our famous "bake sale and sauce tables." There will also be an auxiliary table selling Nutcrackers Ornaments and other Christmas items. All proceeds from that table will go to the club. Thank you in advance to all involved! Hope to see you there! Feel free to call us for further information. Also, we will also be taking a collection for the raffle basket gifts at the October meeting. Any amount would be appreciated. Please see Patty or Virginia. Thank you

- Patty Murphy and Virginia Tartaglia

**MARINA COMMITTEE**

Chairman: Nick Kantzas  
 Dock Master: Tom Donohue  
 Assistant Dock Master: Tim Sargent  
 Secretary and Treasurer: Frank Felicissimo

**EVENTS**

**OCTOBER**

- 1 Private Party 7-10
- 2 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 3 Private Bocce League 7-10
- 4 Men's Meeting 8-9
- 5 Ladies Meeting 7:30-8:30
- 7 Octoberfest 6-10
- 8 Columbus Day Dinner Celebration 12-3
- 10 Bingo Canceled
- 11 Blood Drive 8am-1pm
- 12 Men's Board Meeting 7-9
- 13 Feast Volunteer Dinner 7-10
- 15 Ladies Tea Party 1-5
- 16 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 17 Fireman's Dinner Private 7-10
- 19 Ladies Dinner 7:30-9:30 \$30.

- 21 Community Dinner 7-11
- 23 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 25 Men's Dinner 7:30-9:30 \$35
- 26 Men's Board Meeting 7-9
- 27 Kids Halloween Party 7-11
- 28 Gold Fundraiser 10am-4pm
- 29 Gold Fundraiser 10am-4pm

**NOVEMBER**

- 1 Men's Meeting 8-9
- 2 Ladies Meeting 7:30-8:30
- 3 Blood Drive 8am-1pm
- 5 Private Party 7-10
- 6 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 9 Men's Board Meeting 7-9
- 12 Holiday Fair 10-4
- 13 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 16 Ladies Dinner 7:30-9:30 \$30.
- 20 Bingo 5:30-9:30

- 27 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 29 Men's Dinner 7:30-9:30 \$35
- 30 Men's Board Meeting 7-9

**DECEMBER**

- 2 Our Vision Private 5-9
- 3 Children's Christmas Party 1-4
- 4 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 5 Senior Center Luncheon Private 12-3
- 6 Men's Meeting 8-9
- 7 Ladies Meeting 7:30-8:30
- 9 Men's Christmas Party 7-11 \$10.
- 11 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 13 Blood Drive 8am-1pm
- 13 Ladies Christmas Party 7:30-11:30
- 14 Men's Board Meeting 7-9
- 18 Bingo 5:30-9:30
- 28 Men's Board Meeting 7-9
- 31 New Years Eve Party 7pm-1am

**ALTHOUGH WE ENDEAVOR TO DO OUR BEST, ALL TIMES AND DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE**

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## OLD GOLD FUNDRAISER AT CLUB

**October 28/29th from 10am- 4pm.** Search your home and safe and jewelry boxes (do not forget to look under your mattress) for unwanted and broken gold pieces including but not limited to; broken chains and bracelets, single earrings, old school rings, gifts from long forgotten romantic interests, rings missing gems, broken gold watches, things you no longer wear and even dental gold. Also, sterling silver in any form as well as platinum and palladium. Bring your gold to the club and Bob the Gold Man will buy it and give you a check. Then 60% of any profits will be donated in your name. Questions, E-mail bob@libertygoldct.com

## BINGO AT SAINT ANNS

Bingo has been going on for almost a year now and has been very successful. In order to keep Bingo going we are in the need of Bingo Callers. This is a great thing for someone who wants to help but can't make a big commitment. Right now, we would like to get some callers one or two nights the months of January - April. During the summer just to fill in if needed. Bingo calling is fun and you get to meet a lot of people. We have Bingo on Monday nights from 5:30 to about 10:00. You would come in at 5:30 to set up the first game, then have a bite to eat, (Great Food). Bingo starts at 6:45. We have a 10-minute break half way. We will show you and work with you at a Bingo to teach you. You can also call as a pair if you like. We will be sending out a date to meet and show how bingo calling works. If you are interested at all, please watch for the date. Please call me if you are interested and would like to come to a bingo and see what we do. We have some people that do it once a year.

Thank You, Jack Zakhar 203-952-8516 zakharscarpet@gmail.com

## ST ANN MEMBERS: OVER 65?

It is time to schedule your Annual Medicare Benefits review during the Annual Open Enrollment Period. October 15th ~ December 7th. Your current Advantage or Supplement/Medigap plan may not be as comprehensive & cost effective as the new plan designs for 2024. Have your prescription drugs changed? Part D carrier's change their formularies every year. Schedule your NO-COST plan review at home or at the club.

Gary Antonello ~ gary.antonello@yahoo.com - 203.984.3737.

## NEW MEMBERS

***Mark Hargrave*** of Norwalk will be a regular member and is sponsored by Tom Donahue.

***Aleksander Andrea*** of Norwalk will be an associate member and is sponsored by Tom Donahue.

***Thomas Benvenuto*** of Norwalk will be a regular member and is sponsored by Ken Romano.

***Robert Mangano*** of Lindenhurst N.Y. will be a regular member and is sponsored by Nick Kantzas.

***Joe Muro*** of Norwalk will be a regular member and is sponsored by Ken Romano.

## NEW AUXILIARY MEMBER

***Jacqueline Torres*** was born in New York City, raised in Pennsylvania, lived in Norwalk for many years but recently moved to Trumbull. She works at Montefiore Medical Center ER as a Social Worker Asst. in Psychiatry. Jacqueline enjoys caring for her elders, gardening, fishing, volunteering, spiritual retreats, and spending time with her grandkids. But her first passion is and always will be spreading unconditional love and smiles to all - which she believes this world needs more of. Welcome Jacqueline.

## LITTLE ITALY IN NEW ENGLAND: SOME LOST, SOME THRIVING

Shortly after the American Civil War, a new kind of neighborhood emerged in New England cities: a Little Italy. They were poor, dense, Roman Catholic and very, very family oriented. The Italians came to escape grinding poverty in Sicily and Southern Italy. They followed the Irish, who came to escape the potato famine and usually moved out when the Italians moved in. Today, the descendants of Italian immigrants make up more than 10 percent of the population of every New England state except Vermont and Maine. A Little Italy survives in Boston, in New Haven and in Providence, but bulldozers took out the Little Italie's of Northern New England to make way for hotels and parking lots.

People flock to the surviving Little Italie's for their buoyant street atmospheres, their summer religious festivals and most of all for their food.

Here, then, are six of New England's Little Italie's, both lost and surviving.

## WOOSTER SQUARE

*Connecticut is the second most Italian state in the United States*, with 18.7 percent of the population claiming Italian ancestry. So, you should not be surprised that roughly half the populations of three New Haven neighborhoods — East Haven, West Haven, and North Haven — are descended from Italian immigrants. Wooster Square is New Haven's Little Italy, one of the densest and oldest in the country. It has plenty of Italian pastry shops and restaurants, like Tony & Lucille's, Da Legna and Consiglio's. Locals argue about which is better: Frank Pepe's white clam apizza or Sallies The neighborhood was named after Revolutionary War General David Wooster because he owned a warehouse near Water Street. Before the harbor was filled, Wooster Square was close to the waterfront. Ship captains and wholesale grocers built large houses near the port. By the end of the 19th century, factories moved to Wooster Square, making it a less desirable place to live. Sargent Manufacturing, a hardware maker, moved in to New Haven and brought workers from the Amalfi coast of Italy. More Italians followed, to make corsets at Strouse, Adler, boots at Candee Rubber Co., clocks at the New Haven Clock Company and carriage parts at C. Cowles and other carriage factories. Many families opened small shops out of their homes.

The neighborhood fell into poverty when factories closed during the Great Depression. The city planned to build a highway through Wooster Square during the 1950s and '60s, but preservationists rallied. Wooster Square was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971.

For 117 years, the Society of St. Andrew has held a festa at the end of June to honor St. Andrew, who saved Amalfi from Turkish invaders.

### **PORTLAND'S LOST LITTLE ITALY**

Maine is one of the least Italian states in New England (along with Vermont), but nonetheless 50,000 Italian-Americans live within its borders. They began arriving in large numbers around 1900 and moved to Portland's Little Italy on India Street. They came to work in Portland as barbers, carpenters, fishermen, longshoremen, railroad workers and masons.

Life for Italian immigrants centered on St. Peter's Parish on Federal Street, built in 1929. Eventually Portland's Italian-Americans moved to the suburbs, and Portland's Little Italy is nearly gone. St. Peter's Parish is still active, and Micucci Grocery Co., Est. 1949., is still open on India Street. Amato's Italian delicatessen, now a chain, still claims to have originated the Italian sandwich.

## **THE NORTH END OF BOSTON**

People have lived in Boston's North End since 1630. Paul Revere lived there in a house built on the site of Increase Mather's house. The Old North Church still stands; Paul Revere saw lanterns hung from its steeple. Thomas Hutchinson, the lieutenant governor of Massachusetts, lived in a North End mansion before patriots ransacked it in 1765.

By the late 1840s, the North End developed a red-light district and prosperous residents moved away. Irish immigrants moved in to the neighborhood, and moved up in the world. Boston Mayor John 'Honey Fitz' Fitzgerald and his daughter Rose lived there. By the time Rose married Joe Kennedy and moved to Brookline, Eastern European Jews started moving in. Then came many, many Italians. At one time 44,000 Italians lived in the North End, more than three times the number of Irish at their peak — 14,000, and more than the 17,000 Jews.

## **CHURCHES, FEASTS, PROCESSIONS**

The Italians took over five Protestant churches and built new Catholic ones, including St. Leonard is, the first Italian-speaking church in New England. They started the first Italian café, Café Vittoria, in 1929. They ran grocery stores and bakeries. Three Italian immigrants started the Prince pasta company on Prince Street, and the Pastene Corporation started in a North End pushcart. The North End became the center of world attention during the trial and execution in 1927 of Sacco and Vanzetti. The Patriarca crime family operated out of the North End for a time. So did Charles Ponzi.

Today the narrow dense streets are lined with cafes, pizzerias, small grocery stores and dozens of Italian restaurants, popular among tourists and city dwellers alike. The North End's religious societies sponsor a dozen feasts and processions during the year. Mass is celebrated, food is served and religious statues covered with dollar bills are paraded through the streets.

## **THE NORTH END OF PORTSMOUTH**

Portsmouth, N.H., once had a Little Italy that was a tiny version of Boston's Little Italy. There were 300 homes in 30 acres for about a thousand people. And, as in Boston, Portsmouth's Little Italy was called the North End. And if Paul Revere lived in Boston's North End, Daniel Webster lived in Portsmouth's.

It was a crowded waterfront neighborhood with narrow, busy streets and dozens of small businesses, restaurants, and shops. Families sold beer and lobster rolls from their homes, popcorn, and ice cream from pushcarts. First it was a colonial neighborhood, then Irish. The Irish moved out when a wave of Italians arrived at the beginning of the 20th century. They worked in the shoe and button factories. Or they worked in the construction trades and later at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. By 1920, Portsmouth's Little Italy was 95 percent Italian. There were also Chinese, French, Irish, African-Americans, Russians, Jewish, Polish, Canadians, Greeks, Indians. Some people viewed the neighborhood as a slum.

Urban renewal in the 1950s and '60s leveled many of the homes, replacing them with a municipal parking lot, the Sheraton Hotel, and the old Portsmouth Herald Building. Daniel Webster's home and the Farragut School next door became an A&P and a parking lot, then a hotel. Only a few of the old buildings survive.

## **FEDERAL HILL**

You can still hear Italian spoken in Providence's Little Italy, known as Federal Hill. The neighborhood followed the typical trajectory of a Little Italy: A colonial neighborhood became a commercial district. Then Irish immigrants filled its tenements during the famines of the mid-19th century. The Italians began to arrive in the 1870s.

Today Rhode Island is the most Italian state in the country, just ahead of Connecticut, and the Little Italy of Providence is alive and well. The gateway arch that welcomes visitors to Federal Hill is one of the most recognizable Providence landmarks. The neighborhood includes the Columbus Theater, college housing, a piazza, Italian specialty shops and bakeries and Roman Catholic churches. Italian flags decorate the main thoroughfare, Atwells Avenue. The Columbus Day parade starts on Federal Hill in the middle of the three-day Columbus Day Festival. On March 19, St. Joseph's Day, Federal Hill's Italian bakeries churn out a pastry called Zeppole Di San Guiseppi. More than 20 Italian restaurants such as Angelo's Civita Farnese and Café Mediterraneo line a quarter-mile of Atwells Avenue. They attract skilled chefs because they are so near Johnson and Wales University. In 1954, mob kingpin Ray Patriarca moved from Boston's North End to the National Cigarette Service Company and Coin-O-Matic Distributors on Atwells Avenue. He died of a heart attack in 1984.

## **LITTLE ITALY, BURLINGTON**

The Little Italy in Burlington, Vt., mirrors the history of Portsmouth's North End. Italians arrived at the turn of the 19th century to work in lumber mills and railroad yards. They created a vibrant little neighborhood along the waterfront east of Battery Street.

Burlington's Little Italy had 140 homes, social clubs, Catholic schools and churches and small businesses like Izzo's Market, Merola's and Bellino's Grocery. Outsiders thought they could improve Burlington's Little Italy with urban renewal. In 1966, the final house was razed to make way for the Champlain Street Project. More than 200 people were scattered after the city bought their houses at unfairly low prices. The old neighborhood fell to parking garages and lots, concrete-and-glass office buildings, a hotel, and a windowless shopping mall. Today three interpretive signs are all that is left of Burlington's Little Italy. It is fondly remembered as a place where neighbors shared homemade wine and children ran in and out of their neighbors' houses, which were never locked.

## 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 January 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.