



# Eye Opener

JULY-AUG-SEPT - 2014

DISPATCH NEWS

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STANN NEWSLETTER JULY AUG SEPT 2014

## CENTENARIO – 1914 – 2014

As everyone knows, we are celebrating our 100th year anniversary. We will be having a "Great Ball" on August 23 at Continental Manor. The price will be \$100 per person. This will include open bar, antipasto table, pasta station, salad, choice of prime rib, chicken francaise, or grilled salmon, vegetables, espresso bar and dessert. Music to be provided by Fantasy, who will play both traditional and popular music. Please mark your calendars. You will be getting formal invitations shortly. Please plan your table.

We will be marching to St. Thomas Church on East Avenue for Mass, celebrated by Don Peppino Cardegna from Jelsi, at 10 a.m. on August 23rd. If you will be marching with us, please be at the club by 8:30. Immediately after Mass, we will be having a Continental Breakfast back at the club.

Hope everyone has received their pins and bags. See Arlene Petersen (for women) or J Ruggiero (for men). Cookbooks have been ordered and will be available at our feast.

Please try to solicit ads or place your own in our Centenario "Memento" Book ASAP, cut off by July 17. Please call Joe Valiante 203-866-6141.

## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS DINNER

Our annual Scholarship Awards Dinner was held on May 17, 2014 and was attended by 127 people. All profit from this dinner goes directly into the Scholarship Fund so we may continue to help these young people. The 2014 recipients are: Roberto Jimenez Vargas – Brien McMahon High; Lila Sferlazza – Norwalk High; and Charles Klinefelter – Bethel High. These young students were each given \$3,000 toward their college expenses.

Also attending were last year's recipients Taylor Stokes, Matthew Favazzo and Luisa Kenausis who received \$1,000 each for having maintained a 3.0 GPA in their freshman year. Congratulations to all these students and all the other young people who applied. We had a total of 35 applicants and had to choose only 3, which made our job very difficult.

I would like to thank the Scholarship Committee: Ginger Yost, Donna Cutrone, April Yoder, J Ruggiero, Walter Cerretani, and of course, Nick Allegretta whom we miss dearly, and myself, Arlene Petersen.

ATTENTION MEMBERS....  
PLEASE BE SURE TO SELL YOUR RAFFLE TICKETS  
AND RETURN THE STUBS WITH THE TICKET RECEIPTS.  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION.  
ALSO DON'T FORGET THE JOINT MEETING IS JULY 2ND.

## OUR CLUB PURPOSE AND HISTORY

In the late 1890's many emigrants left Europe in search of a better life for themselves and their families. A number of them came between 1890 and 1914 from the small town of Jelsi, located in the Molise region of Italy and settled in the Norwalk area. Many resided on Bouton St. and Ely Av. They found jobs, worked hard and they helped each other in times of need. In 1914 a number of them founded a mutual aid society and named it the Society of St Ann. The following is a list of the original members and the year of their arrival from Jelsi; Michele DiPietro (1894), Andrea Testa (1894), Giovanni Cianciullo (1898), Michele Caruso (1899), Valerio Santella (1899), Giuseppe Mastrianni (1900), Giuseppe Mastrolillo (1900), Michael Mastrolillo (1900), Michael Santella (1902), Michael Vena (1902), Michael Padula (1903), Nicole Tucci (1903), Nicola Ciaccia (1903), Michael Santella (1905), Nicholas Cutrone (1906), Filomena Valiante (1906), John Caruso (1907), Patsy Eletto (1908), Francesco Tatta (1913), Joseph Fratino (1913), Giuseppe Tedeschi (1911), Salvatore Fratino (1911), Luigi D'Amico (1913), Michael D'Amico (1913), Carmine D'Amico (1913), Eugene Caruso (1913), Joseph Caruso (1913), Michele Caruso (1913), Patsy Cutrone (1912), Patsy Fratino (1914), Francesco Mastrolillo (1906) and Pasquale Mastrolillo (1908). During turbulent times, the Society and its members did not prosper well. It wasn't until a new group of men arrived from Jelsi around 1925 that the club began to prosper. This new group included; Andrew Caruso, Michael Passarelli, The DiPietros, Pietro Valiante, Dominick Vena, Gennaro Valiante and Albert Masropietro.

In 1928 these men, along with the children of the original founders and a few men not from Jelsi, began reorganizing the Society. The Society is believed to be the first association of Italian Americans from Molise. Located at 28 Bouton Street, the club did its best to provide for the needs of its members and followed the example of other organized ethnic groups in the community. The Society, also known as the St. Ann club began to grow its roots. The membership continued to grow, adding young adults born in this country. Their goal was to promote family values, culture and traditions. They also worked to make a positive impact in the community by supporting worthwhile causes designed to promote the well being of fellow citizens.

In 1938, the St Ann Club bought a parcel of property on Ely Av. It was on this spot that the first club facility was built. The two story building had a club room for its members, a dance hall, a theater and club grounds. Later the building was expanded upwards to include a bandstand and a place to sell pizza frita. In 1953, a small chapel was constructed to give thanks to our patron Saint which Jelsi has been honoring since 1805. It was at this time that the first statue of St Ann arrived from Italy and was placed in the chapel. Carmine Coratola and Andrew Caruso brought the Saint from Italy.

This location was the site of many memorable St. Ann Feasts. The first of these feasts was held in 1922. The yearly feasts symbolize the celebration held each year in Jelsi (Festa del Grano). These festivals honor the patron Saint Ann. They capture the values and traditions originally started by the citizens of the small Jelese community. In 1805, an earthquake shattered the lives of many Italians. Over 6000 people in Italy perished, 37 from Jelsi. A feast gave the townspeople an opportunity to thank their patron saint for their survival and they do so each year on the 26th of July. Festivals are now held in four countries, U.S., Canada, Argentina and Venezuela, to join in the celebration of gratitude.

The club was also the scene of many social gatherings. Weddings were held in the ballroom. On Sunday afternoons, actors and actresses would drive up from New York and perform Italian dramas for the members. Virtually all of the members would participate in club activities and it made for an extremely vibrant culture.

Other proud memories I have include a parade of members through the downtown area of South Norwalk after World War II. Gratitude and appreciation was shown to some of our members, including Joe Mastrolillo, Tony Mastrolillo, Rick Marrone, Joe Cutrone, John Cutrone, Anthony Cardillo, Andrew Caruso, Harry DeNucci, Charles Domnick, Patsy Dominick, Michael Donatico, Nicholas Donatico and John Fratino. A group of women from the Women's Auxiliary led an effort to attend that march and cheered wildly for the representatives from the club. Memorial Day Parades were attended by virtually all members who took pride in marching. Both men and women would parade in uniform, proud of their culture and also of their club. It was not unusual to have over 100 people in the march, solely as part of the St. Ann

## Club

Foreign travel was not as common as it might be today. In 1947, a great party was held to send off a number of members who were going back to visit Jelsi. Many had not been back for 20 or 30 years. Over 200 members were there to wish those fortunate travelers a safe trip. Included in the group of travelers were Gennaro Valiante, Michael Passarelli, Joe Santella and Antonelle Fratino with her son, Joe.

In 1978, the Society built a beautiful new club facility at its current location on Hendricks Av. Keeping with tradition, many members donated their time, hard work, supplies and funds to make this location a reality. Once again, this demonstrates the loyalty and greatness of our membership as they volunteer their time and energy to raise funds and continuously support our local as well as national organizations. The club continues to have a strong relationship with the citizens of Jelsi as well as many of the St. Ann organizations around the world. The membership roll is now close to 600 with roughly half being in the Woman's Auxiliary. A century after its start, the St. Ann Society continues to provide, entertain and support its members and the surrounding community.

## **THE ST ANN WEB SITE**

Lisa Prince is now the digital administrator for the newsletter and will post each issue to our web site.

Please use the new web site, [www.stannclub.org](http://www.stannclub.org) and we're sure you will enjoy it. There are photos, events, of course the newsletter, important notices and other interesting facts. Check in often for updates. We hope to entice as many members as possible to use the site. This is our best effort to date on a club social site. Under the photos there are member submitted and event photos and the event photos link to a vast library of photos from each event. Everyone complained that they never see the photos that Anna Mastarillo takes, well here is their chance.

We also would like to recognize, with gratitude, Pat Cutrone, for the events calendar, Lisa Prince for maintaining the web site and Anna Mastrolillo for the photos. These are the section administrators for those various pages. Finally Brian Kesselman (not a member) provided the technical muscle and foundation for this site. He made it easy to use and asked for nothing in return. Because of his work we can maintain this site without programmer assistance. Kudos to all!

## **FIRST ST ANN TAG SALE**

The first St Ann tag sale was an unqualified success. Thank you to all who helped and donated. There are plans being formulated to have an even more sales in the future, perhaps more along the lines of a flea market. Stay tuned for further details.

## **NICK ALLEGRETTA**

A longtime and life member recently passed away after a short illness. Nick was always very active in club functions and always ready to extend a helping hand. Nick had a kind word for everyone he met. He will be fondly remembered.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Joe Martino sponsored by Marc Lepore, sworn in on May 7, 2014

Deian Petrov sponsored by Marcello Cerretani, sworn in on June 4, 2014

Tom Buono Jr. sponsored by James O'Brien, 1st reading June 4, men's meeting. Will be sworn in on July 2, 2014

## **NEW AUXILIARY MEMBERS**

Julie Camerota sponsored by Maryann Cappuccia  
Rita Camerota sponsored by Maryann Cappuccia  
Sonia Chisholm sponsored by TiAnna Danieri  
Giovanna Cicirello sponsored by TiAnna Danieri  
Giovanna Cugno sponsored by Maryann Cappuccia  
Francesca Davis sponsored by Maryann Cappuccia  
April Fiore sponsored by Kate Fiori  
Dina Andreozzi Howe sponsored by Camille Andreozzi

Joan Howard sponsored by Christy McWilliams  
Palmina Libertino sponsored by TiAnna Danieri  
Ellen Miller sponsored by Deborah Stadler  
Noel Muchinsky sponsored by Maria Prince  
Rebecca Sabol sponsored by Victoria Sabol  
Giovanna Stella sponsored by TiAnna Danieri

## **CONNECTICUT**

19.3% of Connecticut's population claims Italian ancestry, making it the second most Italian state in the US after Rhode Island

## **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 October 1st, 2014

## **NOW YOU KNOW – BY MARCELLO CERRETANI**

Two billion people still cannot read. A cats jaw cannot move sideways. A green diamond is the rarest of diamonds. Hawaii is moving towards Japan 4 inches every year. On average hiccups last 5 minutes. Hummingbirds can't walk. The same man that led the attack on the Alamo, Mexican Gen. Antonio Lopez De Santa Anna, is also credited with inventing chewing gum.... And now you know.

## **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 Camille Andreozzi at 203-849-0199 or email her at candreozzi@aol.com.

## **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.

## July

- 2 Joint Meeting
- 12 St Ann Club "Michael Tucciarone Memorial" fishing contest – contact Al Latte
- 24 St Ann Feast 6 till 10
- 25 St Ann Feast 6 till 11
- 26 St Ann Feast 6 till 11
- 27 St Ann Feast 4 till 10

### OFFICERS

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

## August

- 6 Mens Meeting
- 22 Centenario Celebration Cocktail Party at the club
- 23 Centenario Celebration Dinner/ Dance at Continental Manor
- 27 Special Mens Seafood Dinner

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Pat Cutrone, Chairman  
Mike Gabriele, Vice Chairman  
J. Ruggiero  
Ralph Allegretta  
Nicandro Cappuccia  
Sal Fratino  
James O'Brian  
Ken Romano  
Vincent Scicchitano  
Joe Valiante  
John Vozzo  
Al Latte  
Keith Stadler

## September

- 3 Mens Meeting
- 4 Ladies Meeting
- 5 Norwalk Oyster Festival 6 till 11
- 6 Norwalk Oyster Festival 11 till 11
- 7 Norwalk Oyster Festival 11 till 8
- 18 Ladies Dinner
- 24 Mens Dinner

### LADIES AUXILIARY

President – Betty Tavella Brink  
Vice President – Maria Prince  
Recording Secretary – Marie Mappa  
Corresponding Secretary – Barbara Antonelli  
Financial Secretary – Camille Andreozzi  
Treasurer – Maria Chuhta  
Sergeant at Arms – Mary Ann Cappuccia  
Public Relations – Maria Vozzo  
  
Chairman of the Board – Kate Fiore  
Vice Chairman – Vicki Raymond  
Board Member – Lusua Cappuccia