

The Downriver Italian-American Club®

646 BIDDLE AVE ♣ WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-2727 ♣ TEL. (734)285-4044 ♣ web: www.diahall.com

** IMPORTANT DATES **

February 2007 NEWSLETTER



Happy Valentine's Day - February 14, 2007!

2007 Club Membership Dues

The 2007 membership dues are now payable. The dues are \$25.00 for a member who is single and \$50.00 for a married couple. The dues can be paid at the general membership meeting or you can send a check or money order, payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club.** Mail the dues to: **Frank Giannotti, 14823 Williamsburg Blvd., Riverview, MI 48193-7703**. Your receipt and membership card(s) will be mailed with the upcoming newsletter. The deadline for the dues is **March 31, 2007**. Please attach your dues with the invoice sent in January, so we can keep your address information current.

A Message from our Club President



The Presidential Ball was a great event thanks to Florence Coleman, Tony and Miriam Lumia and the 123 people in attendance. The highlight was the attendance by the Italian Consulate Dr. Carlo Romeo and Judge Christopher Dingell, who gave the oath of office to the Board. Mr. Romeo was impressed

with the facility and the friendliness of our members.

Rentals for the Hall are down this year and with the economy in Michigan, it's going to be a difficult year. The Business Board at its December meeting voted to provide a 10% discount on the total bill for members renting the Hall. This discount is equivalent to the discount currently provided by the **Italian-American Club of Livonia**, to its members. In addition, the Board will provide a smaller discount to grandchildren using the Hall, even if the parents are not members.

The Club Board at its January meeting approved a finder's fee for members for a referral that results in a rental in 2007. For each rental referred by a member, the member will receive \$100 if the rental is for Saturday and \$50 if that rental is for a Sunday.

The General Membership meeting in January was attended by 85 members. For the second time it was held

in the Menna Room. Because of the crowded conditions, we will be moving back to the Main Hall in February.

Our next big event is the **Mardi Gras Celebration** on Saturday February 24, 2007. This event is being chaired by our young members for the second year. We have always said - we need to encourage participation by the young club members, because they are the future. Now is the time to support them.

The Hall will be sponsoring **Fabulous Buffet Fish Dinners** during Lent (March-April) as a means of gaining revenue. We as members need to support these dinners by bringing neighbors, friends and family. See related article.

The pricing of the **Spaghetti Dinners** for 2007 will be raised to \$7.00 for adults and \$4.00 for children. In addition, we have been contacted by the **Wyandotte Warriors Hockey Association** (170 kids) to help them with a fundraiser in March. We met with two representatives from the Association (one is a young Club member) and it looks promising.

January has been a bad month for funerals of Club members, relatives and friends. Our condolences to the families and friends of the deceased and remember them in your prayers.

As your new president for the next two years, I look forward to continuing to build on the past successes of the Club.

Mark S. Grazioli, President

Mardi Gras Celebration



This month, the Young DIAC Membership will be hosting the Mardi Gras Event at the DIAC Hall on Saturday, February 24, 2007. Chairpersons are Lina Giannotti and Rita (Trupiano) Dauss. The

food and music with have a New Orleans's theme. Music is provided by **The Cakewalkin' Jass Band** of Toledo, OH. See flyer in newsletter for further information. Please reserve this date on your calendar. Last year, this event was well received and all had a wonderful time. We want this to be a great turnout and give the Young DIAC

members our support in making this a successful annual event. A Carnevale - ogni scherzo vale!

St. Joseph Day Celebration - Mar. 18



The 34th Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration - Sunday, March 18, 2007.

Pageant Admission Free - 2:00 p.m. - Dinner follows the pageant.

Adults \$7.00 - Children 10 and under \$3.50.

We will be celebrating St. Joseph Day on March 18th. As most of you know this is a Sicilian custom passed down by our parents and grandparents. They set up an altar with statues of saints and opened their homes to

friends and neighbors. After a short pageant, they had a meal and left a donation to help a needy family. We follow the same tradition, an altar is set up on our stage with statues brought in by members - candles, bread, and fruit are placed on the altar. We serve a meal of pasta and beans. Each person is given a roll, grapefruit, an orange and a few homemade cookies. There is a short pageant and blessing of the food before we eat. We follow the tradition of our families as much as possible. We have held this event for the past 33 years. We have donated over \$90,000.00 All donations made are given to needy families and organizations helping children. If you would like to make cookies, or help us in any way, please contact one of us. Invite your friends and family and help us celebrate our 33rd year. This is a family event. If you are unable to attend, you may still make a donation. Make your check payable to Downriver Italian American Club, and please note at the bottom that it is for St. Joseph Celebration. Please call Rose Vitale 734-284-8539 if you would like to make cookies.

We would love to have you, your family and friends celebrate this event with us. Remember all donations go to help the needy in this area.

Florence Coleman -- (734) 281-7126 Nancy Cosentino -- (313) 383-0350 Sal DiPasquale -- (734) 282-1644 Grace Pizzo -- (734) 379-9491

Winter Luncheon Event at the Club

**** NOTE DATE CHANGE ***

Lunch at the Club - Tuesday - February 20, 2007 - 12:00 noon.

The luncheon is held in the Menna Room. The menu will be same as in January. If you would like to bring your

favorite desert or salad, please let us know so we won't

buy as much; if not, just bring yourself. Remember, we divide the cost of the lunch by the people present; so, it is very important for you to let us know if you will be attending. It is not fair for us to order food for you and you don't show up. This is for members ONLY. If you wish to stay and visit friends, play your favorite games or just talk, you are welcome to do so; there is no reason to rush off after lunch. If you have any questions, please call one of us anytime. Let us know if you plan on attending no later than Thursday, February 15th.

We need volunteers (at the end) to clean up and put away the tables and chairs, if necessary. Please contact:

> Florence Coleman (734) 281-7126 Grace Pizzo (734) 379-9491

Beat the Blahs - Dinner Event



One last reminder. On Friday, February 9, 2007, the Overture Society (fundraising arm of the Southern Great Lakes Symphony) will present **Beat the Blahs**, a dinner and entertainment evening. It will take place at the

Downriver Italian-American Hall in Wyandotte, MI, at 6:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$35.00 per person, for a pasta dinner, music by the "Royal Garden Trio," for listening and dancing. The trio plays swing music reminiscent of the '30s, show tunes and traditional jazz.

Mike Karoub, on cello, grew up and still lives Downriver. He has performed with the Red Garter Band and is known to many of us. The Royal Garden Trio creates a vintage swing sound for today's audiences.

For ticket information, call **Gloria King** at (313)386-9305. Deadline for tickets is February 2, 2007

Bus Trips on the Horizon



Soaring Eagle Casino – Sunday, April 15, 2007 – Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

This event is sponsored by **Santa Rosalia Club**. This is a one day

round trip transportation to the fabulous Soaring Eagle Casino. Price is \$25.00 per person. Everyone will receive an incentive package, that includes: \$15.00 on slot card, and a \$3.00 food voucher. The **Bianco Tour** bus departs at Sam's Club, (Northline and I-75) at 7:30 a.m. and returns at 9:00 p.m. The deadline for reservation is March 1, 2007. Reservations accepted with payments only, on a first come basis.

For further information, please contact:

Stella Marzano – (734) 379-5901 **Nancy DiPasquale** – (734) 282-1644 **Ciccina Palazzolo** – (734) 283-4588 Make checks or money order payable to: Francis Palazzolo 1602 8th Street Wyandotte, MI 48192-3316

Men's Social at the Club

Sal DiPasquale is considering starting a weekly social in the Menna Room on Tuesdays, from 1:00 pm till 4:00 pm. Sal needs a commitment of those interested - so the room and activities can be pre-arranged. If interested, please contact Sal DiPasquale at (734) 282-1644.

DIAC 2007 Goals

Club president **Mark Grazioli** presented 5 goals the Club should be striving for in 2007. Mark presented these goals in details at the January membership meeting. Below are these goals:

- 1. Attract and Increase Activities for the Younger Members.
- 2. Increase Hall Rentals to Club Members.
- 3. Better Support for the Spaghetti Dinner Events.
- 4. Increase Club Income.
- 5. Promote Club Activities.

If you wish to learn more about these goals or have an input, please attend the February membership meeting.

DIAC Scholarship Program

The DIAC has initiated a Scholarship Program, for club member's children in the amount of \$500.00. The scholarship is intended for freshman college or university tuition. Any high school senior who will graduate at midyear or the end of the current scholastic year is eligible. The award of the scholarship will be based on Grade Point Average, ACT/SAT scores, personal essay and extra curricular activities.

An application package can be obtained by contacting Frank Giannotti at (734) 283-7394, or Grace Pizzo at (734) 379-9491. Helping this committee are Lina Giannotti, Rita (Trupiano) Dauss and Luisa Trupiano. The deadline for submitting an application is May 1, 2007.

Fabulous Fish Buffet During Lent

The Hall Business Board will be presenting **Fabulous Fish Buffet** events during the Easter Lent Fridays. The menu is as follows: Baked or fried fish, soup, cole slaw, pasta, tossed salad, potatoes, vegetables, rolls, coffee, tea and dessert. Cash bar available. The buffet is served from 4:00 pm till 7:00 pm. **This event is also open to the public.**

Pricing: Adults - \$10.00, Children 4 - 12 years - \$6.00, Children under 4 years - Free. Dates: March 2, 2007, March 9, 2007, March 16, 2007, March 23, 2007, March 30, 2007, April 2, 2007.

Please contact **Diana Holmes** to make your reservation, (734) 285-4044, no later than Wednesday, preceding the dinner event.

Sick and Good Will

Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were hospitalized: Sue Lupo, Mike Palazzolo, Frank Manzella, Faro Gaglio, Florence Costa and Florence Coleman, who underwent a knee surgery. Get

Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well.

Condolences to the family of **Damiano and Piera Vitale**, on the death of Piera's brother-in-law, **Benedetto Manzella**, who passed away on January 7, 2007, at the age of 77. Condolences to **Lia (Angelo) Giannotti** on the death of her uncle. May he rest in Peace.

Condolences to the family of **James and Juliann Bademian** on the death of Jim's mother, **Teresa Bademian**, who passed away on January 25, 2007, at the age of 91. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of Marco and Theresa Talluto on the death of their granddaughter, Danae Talluto, who passed away on January 23, 2007, at the age of 13, in a tragic auto accident in Keller, Texas. Condolences to the family of Tom Talluto and to the family of Dolly (Joe) Chirco. May she rest in peace.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

We wish to extend our Congratulations and Best Wishes to our members who are celebrating their Birthday this month.

Frances Vitale (2/4) Grace Asteriou (2/5) Elisa Norscia (2/6) Frank Liberati (2/7) Michael Olevnik (2/9) Don Capezza (2/12) Fara DiMaria (2/12) Gloria Frassetto (2/12) Joan Cadorin (2/13) Chris Dingell (2/13) Rose Lupo (2/13) Antonio Palazzolo (2/13) Frank Bianchi (2/15) Raymond Lucarelli (2/15) Norman Tabaka Sr. (2/16) Elizabeth Dolunt (2/17) Anthony Militello (2/17) Rosalie Lopetrone (2/18) Michael Menna (2/18)

Shirley Bommarito (2/19) Gerald Conz (2/19) John Gustaf (2/19) Anthony Salvati (2/19) Leona Vizzini (2/19) Stephanie Parrino (2/22) Ted Brockway (2/23) Florence Coleman (2/23) Fara Parrino (2/23) Connie Militello (2/24) Don Jenson (2/26) Reitha Biundo (2/27) Sam Cosentino (2/27) Sue Lupo (2/27) James Morrin (2/27) Sam G. Randazzo (2/27) Joe Agrusa (2/28) Vita Alastra (2/28)

Happy Anniversary - Felice Anniversario

We wish to extend our Best Wishes for many Happy and Healthy Years together, to our couples who will be celebrating their Wedding Anniversary this month.

Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1) 15th
Art and Fermanda DiMarco (2/8) 59th
Salvatore and Caterina Vitale (2/14)
Edward and Susan Palermo (2/20)
Pietro and Filocia Biundo (2/23)
Martin and Rosalie Shimkus (2/25)

Congratulating our New DIAC Members

Please welcome the following new member who recently joined the DIAC membership:

Luisa M. Trupiano of Southgate, MI. Sponsored by **Nino** and **Gianna Trupiano** (her parents).

Friends vs. Italian Friends

Friends: Move out when they're 18, with the full support of their parents.

Italian Friends: Move out when they're 28, having saved for that nice house and are a week away from getting married... Unless, there's room in the basement for the newlyweds.

Friends: When their mom visits them, she brings a nice bunt cake and you sip coffee and chat.

Italian Friends: When their mom visits them, she brings 3 days worth of food and begins to immediately tidy up, dust, do the laundry or rearrange the furniture.

Friends: Their dads always call before they come over to visit them and its usually only on special occasions.

Italian Friends: Are not at all fazed when their dads come over, unannounced, on a Saturday morning at 8:00 am and start pruning the trees with a chainsaw or renovating the garage.

Friends: You can leave your kids with them and you always worry if everything is going to be ok and you have to feed them after you pick them up.

Italian Friends: No problem, leave the kids there and if they get out of line the Italian friend can set them straight - plus, they get fed.

Friends: Always pay retail and look in the yellow pages when they need something done.

Italian Friends: Just call their dad or uncle and ask for another dad's or uncle's phone number to get it done - cash deal, know what I mean?

Friends: Will come over for cake and coffee and expect cake and coffee, no more.

Italian Friends: Will come over for cake and coffee and expect an antipasto, a few bottles of wine, a pasta dish, a

choice of two meats, salad, bread, potatoes, a nice dessert cake, fruit, coffee and a few after dinner drinks - time permitting there will be a late lunch as well.

Friends: Think that being Italian is a great thing. **Italian Friends:** Know that being Italian is a great thing

Friends: Never ask for food.

Italian Friends: Are the reason you have no food.

Friends: Will say "hello."

Italian Friends: Will give you a big hug and a kiss.

Friends: Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.

Italian Friends: Call your parent's mom and dad.

Friends: Have never seen you cry. **Italian Friends:** Cry with you.

Friends: Will eat at your dinner table and leave.

Italian Friends: Will spend hours there, talking, laughing

and just being together.

Friends: Know a few things about you.

Italian Friends: Could write a book with direct quotes

from you.

Friends: Will leave you behind if that is what the crowd is

doing.

Italian Friends: Will kick the whole crowd's butt that left

you.

Friends: Would knock on your door.

Italian Friends: Walk right in and say, "I'm home!"

Friends: Are for a while. **Italian Friends:** Are for life.

Friends: Will ignore these thoughts.

Italian Friends: Will pass these thoughts to their friends.

Submitted by Angelo and Lia Giannotti

Friendship

I could search the whole world over,

Travel far or near,

But never find the friendship
I have found so dear.

You, my friend, are special, Unique, in your own way. Words don't come so easily. Yet, I just have to say ...

I'm so glad I have a friend, Who is there, come what may; Sharing all our times of laughter, Seeing dark or sunny days.

There'll be times of celebration, Sad times, yes, a few. But, through it all, I'm thankful God blessed me with you!

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An Overseas Moment

The wife and her husband were touring the Tower of London, proudly wearing pins displaying the USA flag. As the wife approached one of the famous Beefeaters to ask a question, he called out, "Madam, you are in distress!" Both of them were greatly confused, until he pointed out that the flag on her pin was upside down, the naval symbol for a ship in distress. The wife fumbled with the sticky clasp for a moment, but was only able to turn the flag 90 degrees. "Ah," he said sternly, "now you're being boarded by pirates."

Friendship Advice

Friendship is something special, it can not be bought or sold.

Its value is far greater than any silver or even gold.

When times get rough, they always seem to understand. Without being asked, they comfort and lend a helping hand.

> Holding you up when they think you will fall. No matter what, they help you through it all.

Friends lift you up, when you are feeling low. They take you in when you have no place to go.

Never ever forget or take such things for granted. For you can never re-sow the seed that's already been planted.

> Take this to heart, let it never be undone. In order to keep a friend you must first be one.

Honesty is something that should always be your aim. With lies, their wounds may heal, but nothing's ever the same.

So cherish your friendship, always be sincere. Open up your heart, and it will never disappear.

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Conflicting Nutritional Studies

For those of you who watch what you eat, here's the final word on nutrition and health. It's a relief to know the truth after all those conflicting nutritional studies.

- 1. The Japanese eat very little fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 2. The Mexicans eat a lot of fat and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 3. The Chinese drink very little red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 4. The Italians drink a lot of red wine and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.
- 5. The Germans drink a lot of beers and eat lots of sausages and fats and suffer fewer heart attacks than Americans.

CONCLUSION:

Eat and drink what you like. Speaking English is apparently, what kills you. Humor provided by Nancy DiPasquale

A Medical Moment

Morris complained to his doctor, "I've been to three other doctors and none of them agreed with your diagnosis."

The doctor calmly replied, "Just wait until the autopsy, then you will see that I was right"

The New Year's Prayer

May you get a clean bill of health from your dentist, your cardiologist, your gastro-entomologist, your urologist, your proctologist, your podiatrist, your psychiatrist, your plumber and the IRS.

May your hair, your teeth, your face-lift, your abs and your stocks not fall; and may your blood pressure, your triglycerides, your cholesterol, your white blood count and your mortgage interest not rise.

May New Year's Eve find you seated around the table, together with your beloved family and cherished friends. May you find the food better, the environment quieter, the cost much cheaper, and the pleasure much more fulfilling than anything else you might ordinarily do that night.

May what you see in the mirror delight you, and what others see in you delight them. May someone love you enough to forgive your faults, be blind to your blemishes, and tell the world about your virtues.

May the telemarketers wait to make their sales calls until you finish dinner, may the commercials on TV not be louder than the program you have been watching, and may your checkbook and your budget balance - and include generous amounts for charity.

May you remember to say "I love you" at least once a day to your spouse, your child, your parent, your siblings; but not to your secretary, your nurse, your masseuse, your hairdresser or your tennis instructor.

And, may we live in a world at peace and with the awareness of God's love in every sunset, every flower's unfolding petals, every baby's smile, every lover's kiss, and every wonderful, astonishing, miraculous beat of our heart.

Some Friends Are Forever

Sometimes in life, you find a special friend: Someone who changes your life by being part of it.

Someone who makes you laugh until you can't stop;
Someone who makes you believe that there is really good in this world.
This is forever friendship.

When you're down, and the world seems dark and empty, your forever friends lifts you up in spirit and makes that dark and empty world suddenly seem bright and full.

If you find such friend, you feel happy and complete you have a forever friend for life! Copyright © Mae Ann Vise

A Farming Moment

[This is an old, old one, but still one of my favorites...]

A fifth generation farmer has determined that his son will be the first in their family to go to college. So he and the wife save every penny for years and when the big day comes for junior to leave for school, the old man is the proudest he's ever been.

After the first semester, junior comes home for Christmas break and the old man sits him down for a talk. "Well, boy, you been at school for three months now, I want you to tell me some of that fancy book learnin'."

So junior says, "My favorite class is math, pa. Just last week we learned a new formula...Pir squared."

At hearing this the old man screws up his eyes and smacks his forehead, "Dog gone-it! I spent all that money on schooling and all you can tell me is Pi r squared?

Why everybody knows pies are round...CORNBREAD are squared!"

Calendar of Coming Events

Feb. 9, 2007	Beat the Blahs Dinner Event Gloria King – (313) 386-9305.
Feb. 24, 2007	. Mardi Gras (Carnevale) Celebration Lina Giannotti, Rita (Trupiano) Dauss.
Mar. 2, 2007	. Fish Buffet – 2nd Friday of Lent DIA Hall Board w/Members.
Mar. 8, 2007	. Fish Buffet – 3rd Friday of Lent DIA Hall Board w/Members.
Mar. 16, 2007	. Fish Buffet – 4th Friday of Lent DIA Hall Board w/Members.
Mar. 18, 2007	. St. Joseph Day Celebration Florence Coleman, Nancy Cosentino, Sal DiPasquale, Grace Pizzo.
Mar. 23, 2007	. Fish Buffet – 5th Friday of Lent DIA Hall Board w/Members.
Mar. 30, 2007	. Fish Buffet – 6th Friday of Lent DIA Hall Board w/Members.
Apr. 6, 2007	. Fish Buffet – Good Friday DIA Hall Board w/Members.
Apr. 15, 2007	. Soaring Eagle Casino Trip Ciccina Palazzolo (734) 283-4588.
May 9, 2007	. Taste of Italy – Charity Event. Tony & Miriam Lumia (313) 565-0671.
July 4, 2007	. Wyandotte Independence Parade Mary Cottone and Board.
July 29, 2007	. Membership Annual Picnic. Vivian & Mike Palazzolo.
Oct. 12, 2007	. Fall Wine Dance Fay Palazzolo, Grace Pizzo.
Dec. 14, 2007	. Adult Member Xmas Party Sadie Kusic, Leona Vizzini.
Dec. 16, 2007	. Children Xmas Party Rosalie (Vitale) Karawan.
Dec. 31, 2007	. New Years Eve Party DIA Hall Board.

The **Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter** is Published Monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club Membership.

Forward your comments, corrections and items of interest to:

Editors: Frank and Liliana Giannotti. (734)283-7394.

DIAC Newsletter

c/o Frank A. Giannotti

14823 Williamsburg Blvd.

Riverview, MI 48193-7703

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The Downriver Italian American Club

Presents its

34th Annual



St. Joseph Day Celebration

Sunday, March 18, 2007

Downriver Italian-American Hall 646 Biddle Avenue Wyandotte, MI 48192 (734) 285-4044

Pageant at 2:00 p.m. - Admission Free Dinner - Follows the Pageant

Adults: \$7.00

Children – 10 and under: \$3.50

All donations are given to charities helping children and for needy local families.

May St. Joseph Bless You and Bring You Joy



Saturday-February 24, 2007 Downriver Italian-American Club

> 646 Biddle Avenue Wyandotte, MI 48192-2727

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Dinner at 7:30 p.m. New Orleans Style "The Cakewalkin' Jass Band"



Crab Cakes with Creole Cream Dipping Sauce Crawfish Firecracker Shrimp Jambalava

Chicken Breast Stuffed with Rice and Andoullie Sausage Seared Pork Chops with Crawfish Marsala Creole Rice with Roast Chicken Fresh Fruit and Cheese Display Banana Cream Pie

Drinks for the occasion Party favors provided

Costumes are welcomed! \$30.00 per member, \$35.00 per non-member

Reserved tables of 10 only. All others seated where available. Tickets must be paid at time of reservation:

Make check or money order payable to: Downriver Italian-American Club

Mail to: Lina M. Giannotti

14823 Williamsburg Blvd. Riverview, MI 48193-7703

For further information call: Lina Giannotti at (734) 283-7394, after 6:00 pm Rita (Truniano) Dauss at (734) 560-3875, after 6:00 nm

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I (We) will be attending the Mardi Gras This coupon and payment must be rece		
Name:		Number of people Attending:
Address:	Telephone:	Amount Enclosed: \$
Make checks payable to: Downriver Ita	alian-American Club.	
Mail form and check to: Lina Giannotti	♣ 14823 Williamsburg B	slvd • Riverview, MI 48193-7703

Note: If you would like to sit with a friend (at their table), please print their name on the back of this coupon.