



37th Year, 1971-2008

# The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

## \*\* IMPORTANT DATES \*\*

## January 2008 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Jan. 8, 2008, 7:00 p.m.  
General Membership Meeting ..... Sunday, Jan. 27, 2008, 6:30 p.m.



## Buon Anno - Happy New Year, 2008!

It's A New Year!

*May your New Year be the best you've ever had,  
and may you have many more new years  
that are even better!  
A Safe and Happy 2008*

### 2008 Club Membership Dues

The 2008 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, 2008**. Attached with this newsletter is an invoice to be sent back with your dues.

Honorary members who wish to have the newsletter mailed to their home, there is a \$15.00 charge. The newsletter can be picked up free at the DIA Hall during normal business hours. Call in advance.

### A Message from the Club President



The Christmas Season, with all of its festive activities, has now past us and we greet the New Year with much anticipation. The Member's Christmas Party was a big success thanks to our chair people **Leona Vizzini** and **Sadie Kusic**, as well as **Joyce Mitra** who helped. The hall was beautifully decorated and the chair covers added significantly to the beauty. The menu was very good and the food well prepared.

Because of the heavy snowfall in December, the Children's Christmas Party was canceled and will be re-scheduled at a future date. We cannot let those children

presents not be delivered. As of the writing of this article only the **New Years Dance**, with a live band remains.

The annual **Mardi Gras Celebration** will be held on Saturday February 2, 2008. The very danceable Jazz Band from Toledo, Ohio, will again be playing. The menu does include some non-Cajun entrees for those that are not into spicy food.

The sale of Club Bonds went well and we were able to meet our goals.

The **Lions Club of Taylor**, in conjunction with the **Penrickton Center for Blind Children**, will be holding a **Millionaire's Party**, on Saturday March 8, 2008. The Hall Board will provide volunteers to run the Bar and the Club will be seeking volunteers for the kitchen. More to come in the February newsletter.

Remember, you cannot go forward when you're looking in the rearview mirror. So pay attention to what is going on around you and focus on the here-and-now. Yesterday is old news, and it will only distract you from seeing where you need to go. Let go of old ideas and lost opportunities and make room for new challenges and new hopes.

We hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health and **Mary Jane** and I wish you a Happy New Year.

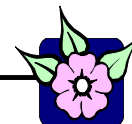
**Mark S. Grazioli, Club President**

### DIAC 2008 Honorary Member

The following Club member has attained twenty-five (25) consecutive years in the Downriver Italian-American Club and is eligible to the position of "**Honorary Member**." In accordance to the By-Laws, Article I-Membership, Section 2-C, such member(s) shall have all the rights enjoyed by a Regular Member, but shall not be required, thereafter, to pay any dues.

The following member, in good-standing since 1983, qualifies to the status of "**Honorary Member**."

**Mary R Wierzba**



## 2008 Club Officers and Trustees

The Club Officers and Trustees are as follows:

President: **Mark Grazioli**  
 Vice President: **Tony Lumia**  
 Secretary: **Leslie Lupo**  
 Fin. Corres. Secretary: **Frank Giannotti**  
 Treasurer: **Guy Vitale**  
 Assist Treasurer: **(vacant)**  
 Inside Guard: **Fay Palazzolo**  
 Outside Guard: **Jennie Palazzolo**  
 Guide: **Grace Pizzo**

Trustees: **Jim Bademian**                      **Alfonso Stralle**  
               **Sadie Kusic**                         **Vito A Trupiano**  
               **Mike Palazzolo**                    **Leona Vizzini**  
               **Vivian Palazzolo**                 **(vacant)**

Please congratulate the above Officers and Trustees - and ask them for their leadership in guiding the Club through the coming year.

## DIAC Certificate of Deposit

During the month of January, the Club Treasurer, **Guy A. Vitale**, will be mailing the interest earned on the DIAC Bond Certificate for the year 2006. Keep a lookout in your mailbox. If you do not receive your letter by the end of January, please contact Guy at (734) 281-6554.

In addition, the new DIAC bonds will be mailed out to owners during the month of January.

## Mardi Gras Celebration – Feb. 2, 2008



The DIAC Young Membership will be chairing a **Mardi Gras Celebration** at the DIAC Hall on February 2, 2008. Chairpersons are **Lina M. Giannotti and Rita (Trupiano) Dauss**. There will be

food and music with a New Orleans's theme. Please fill out the attached slip on the flyer with your desired table location. Deadline date for reserving tickets is January 25, 2008. Last year, this event was well received and all had a wonderful time. We want this to be a wonderful turnout and give the young DIAC members our support in making this a successful annual event. Please jot this date on your calendar.

## Millionaire's Party

The **Lions Club of Taylor**, in conjunction with the **Penrickton Center for Blind Children**, will be holding a Millionaire's Party, on Saturday March 8, 2008, at the Club. They are also looking into holding a Texas Hold 'em tournament as part of the party.

More details to come in the February newsletter, including the start time and any cost for the tournament. All you gamblers and card players mark your calendar as this should be a fun night, with an opportunity to support the Lions Club and the Penrickton School for the Blind.

## Winter Luncheon at the Club



**Due to a conflict, there will not be a Winter Luncheon at the Club in the month of January.**

The luncheons will start on Wednesday - February 20, 2008 - 12:00 noon.

The luncheon will be held as usual in the Menna room. The meal will be lunchmeats and chicken, per your suggestion at the meeting. 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.

## Midwinter Serenade – Feb. 8, 2008

The **Overture Society** will be presenting a **Midwinter Serenade**, a fundraiser for the **Southern Great Lakes Symphony**. This event will be held at the Downriver Italian-American Hall on Friday, February 8, 2008. Social hour begins at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Music is provided by **Michael King and the Band**. Michael will not only perform original songs from his four CDs, but also songs by **Paul Simon, Eric Clapton, John Mayer** and others.

For ticket sales and further information, please contact:

**Gloria King**  
 6321 Osage  
 Allen Park, MI 48101  
 Phone: (313) 386-9305  
 Fax: (313)928-1843

## St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 16



**The 35<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration - Sunday, March 16, 2008.**

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 16th. 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 the 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 34 years. We have donated over \$92,000.00 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) 282-2803 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**

### Bus Trips on the Horizon



**Four Winds and Blue Chip Casinos – Wed./Thurs., March 12/13, 2008 – New Buffalo, MI. and Michigan City, IN.**

This is a two-day/one-night event.

The cost is \$125.00 per person (based on double occupancy). This package includes a 1-night hotel stay in New Buffalo, MI. You will be visiting the famous Four Winds Casino. You will receive \$30.00 incentive - which you may use for food or slot play.

You will also be visiting the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Indiana, on the first day.

The Bianco Bus will be departing and returning at the Club parking lot. **Coffee and donuts included on the first morning. A continental breakfast is included on the morning of the second day. Happy Hour provided on the return trip.**

For reservation and further information, please contact **Nancy DiPasquale at (734)282-1644**. Deadline is March 3, 2008. Mail your check (made out to: **Bianco Tours**) to:

Nancy DiPasquale  
13426 Mulberry  
Southgate, MI 48195-2499.



*The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center*

### A Reassuring Smile

A smile is like a rainbow  
Glowing in the sky,  
Announcing, rain is over!  
No need to weep and sigh.  
So give a reassuring smile  
To someone in distress,  
You may be planting a seed of hope  
In a very troubled breast.  
And if, by love and prayer, you tend  
This very tender shoot,  
Some day you'll find a full grown tree  
Bearing luscious fruit.

— Helen Neimy —

### Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: Tony Lumia, **Ed Klube**. Get Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo** (734) 379-9491 of anyone who is ill.

Condolences to the family and friends of **Marie Venditti**, who passed away on December 13, 2007, at the age of 77. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to family and friends of **Nancy McFaul** on the death of her husband, **Ivan McFaul**, who passed away on December 30, 2007, at the age of 88. Condolences to brother-in-law, **Joe Leone**. Ivan was very instrumental in our club in the early years. He was a club president. Ivan and Nancy were chairpersons for the club festivals at the Yack Arena. Ivan loved our Club. He will be missed by all of us club members. May he rest in peace.

**Nancy DiPasquale** would like to thank the membership for their prayers and cards, regarding her past surgery.

### Congratulating New DIAC Member

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

**Linda (D'Alosio) Kerr**, of Trenton, MI. Sponsored by **Tony and Joyce Pietrangelo**.

**Sam and Theresa (Roberts) Gemus** of Riverview, MI. Sponsored by **John and Anna Finazzo**.

### 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.

*Veto and Rita Giannola (1/4)*

*Vincenzo and Lilla Vitale (1/4)*  
*Frank and Barbara Bianchi (1/9)*  
*Fioravante and Hermine Norscia (1/12)*  
*John and Barbara Russo (1/12)*  
*Larry and Joan Luzac (1/20)*  
*Larry and Cathey Restaino (1/21)*

### Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Nancy Cosentino (1/1)</i>	<i>Rosalie Agrusa (1/18)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (1/2)</i>	<i>Alba Simone (1/18)</i>
<i>Emma Checchio (1/4)</i>	<i>Vincenzo Mannino (1/20)</i>
<i>Gianna Trupiano (1/4)</i>	<i>Rose Pagano (1/20)</i>
<i>Iolanda Buscemi (1/5)</i>	<i>Salvatore Abbulone (1/21)</i>
<i>Frank Giannotti (1/5)</i>	<i>Sam Cottone (1/21)</i>
<i>Sam Randazzo (1/5)</i>	<i>Mark Grazioli (1/22)</i>
<i>Jack Favazza (1/6)</i>	<i>Salvatore Randazzo (1/22)</i>
<i>Miriam Lumia (1/6)</i>	<i>Joyce Pietrangelo (1/23)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (1/6)</i>	<i>Leta Bommarito (1/24)</i>
<i>Johnpaul Finazzo (1/9)</i>	<i>Peter Badalamente (1/25)</i>
<i>Frank Pizzo (1/11)</i>	<i>Marty Shimkus (1/25)</i>
<i>Cindy Norscia (1/12)</i>	<i>Catherine Rotondo (1/26)</i>
<i>Joe Pagano (1/12)</i>	<i>Rita (Trupiano) Dauss (1/27)</i>
<i>Maria Sclafani (1/12)</i>	<i>Nino Trupiano (1/28)</i>
<i>Caterina Vitale (1/12)</i>	<i>Catherine Bagnasco (1/30)</i>
<i>Lilla Vitale (1/13)</i>	<i>Giacinto Simone (1/30)</i>
<i>Stacie Blackledge (1/14)</i>	<i>Noreen Battaglia (1/31)</i>
<i>Angela Scott (1/14)</i>	<i>David Lustig (1/31)</i>
<i>Marie Vitale (1/14)</i>	<i>Gina Lustig (1/31)</i>
<i>Paul Lupo (1/16)</i>	<i>Mamie Vitale (1/31)</i>
<i>Grace Pizzo (1/16)</i>	

### The Mirror

The other day, I happened by chance,  
 As I passed a mirror, to give it a glance.  
 And I wondered who that old man could be,  
 Who, with his mouth wide open, was looking at me.  
 His bald head was sprinkled with a little gray fuzz,  
 And he wasn't at all handsome (like I always was).  
 He looked like a sack of mismated parts,  
 Put together without aid of instructions or charts.  
 And while I know that my shoulders don't slump,  
 This person's were misshapen in one ugly hump!  
 Now, if that was my image, I only can say,  
 They don't make mirrors like they did in my day.

— John T. West Jr. —

### Messaggio Natalizio del Console d'Italia

Dicembre 13, 2007  
 Cari Italiani,

In occasione delle imminenti festività desidero rivolgermi ai miei auguri più affettuosi.

L'anno che volge ormai al termine è stato particolarmente intenso per un Consolato dalle dimensioni medio-piccole come questo di Detroit, con carenza di personale a fronte della vastità della circoscrizione consolare (cinque Stati, per un totale di oltre 13,600 cittadini registrati nell'anagrafe consolare). L'introduzione del passaporto elettronico, ad esempio, dopo la fase iniziale di normale transizione, ha consentito di velocizzare i tempi di trattazione delle richieste e di consegna del documento. In costante aumento i visti, in particolare per turismo e studio, segnali di un immutato ed anzi crescente interesse verso l'Italia. Continua l'iscrizione di nuovi cittadini all'AIRE, obbligatoria e gratuita, strumento indispensabile, insieme al puntuale aggiornamento delle notizie anagrafiche, che consente la regolare erogazione dei servizi consolari (tra cui il diritto di voto all'estero). Incoraggianti i risultati in materia di promozione della lingua italiana, anche se molto resta da fare. Diversi gli eventi legati alla nostra cultura organizzati quest'anno dal Consolato.

Con grande professionalità ed impagabile abnegazione il personale di questa Rappresentanza consolare tenta quotidianamente di rispondere alle esigenze di tutti i connazionali. In questa missione abbiamo, tuttavia bisogno anche del vostro aiuto, della vostra pazienza e dei vostri preziosi suggerimenti per offrire un servizio sempre più efficiente e degno di un Paese come il nostro. Per il benessere dei cittadini Italiani e la prosperità delle relazioni tra Stati Uniti ed Italia.

Spero che le prossime festività ed il nuovo anno siano ricchi di pace e serenità per Voi e le vostre famiglie.

Il Console  
 Hon. Carlo Romeo

### Calendar of Coming Events

- Feb. 2, 2008** ..... **Mardi Gras Celebration.**  
 Lina Giannotti, Rita (Trupiano) Dauss.
- Mar. 16, 2008** ..... **St. Joseph Celebration.**  
**Coleman, Cosentino, DiPasquale,**  
**Pizzo**
- Jul. 27, 2008** ..... **Membership Summer Picnic.**

The **Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter** is Published Monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club Membership. Editors: Frank and Liliana Giannotti. (734)283-7394. Forward your comments, corrections and items of interest to:  
 DIAC Newsletter  
 c/o Frank A. Giannotti  
 14823 Williamsburg Blvd.  
 Riverview, MI 48193-7703

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*The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center*

# *The Downriver Italian-American Club*

*is Presenting the  
35<sup>th</sup> Annual*



*St. Joseph Day Celebration*

*Sunday, March 16, 2008*

*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*



# MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION



**Saturday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008**

**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 Band "The Chefs of Dixieland"**

## **Creole & Cajun Buffet:**

Crab Cakes with Creole Cream Dipping Sauce

Crawfish

Firecracker Shrimp

Jambalaya

Chicken Breast Stuffed with Rice and Andouille 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 welcome!**

**Ticket price: \$30 per member, \$35 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 Giannotti  
14823 Williamsburg Blvd.  
Riverview, MI 48193-7703

For further information call: **Lina Giannotti at (734) 283-7394, after 6:00 pm**

**Rita (Trupiano) Dauss at (734) 560-3875, after 6:00 pm**

I (We) will be attending the **Mardi Gras Celebration Event on Saturday, February 2, 2008**

This coupon and payment must be received no later than January 25, 2008.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of people Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club.** \_\_\_\_\_

Mail form and check to: Lina Giannotti ♣ 14823 Williamsburg Blvd ♣ 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.