



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 **

March 2008 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting Sunday, Mar. 16, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

St. Joseph Celebration - March 16, 2008!

Membership Meeting Date Change

The March General Membership meeting **has been rescheduled to Sunday, Mar. 16, 2008** to avoid conflict with the Easter weekend. Please jot this new date on your calendar and please remind other club members, as necessary.

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



Yes, February has been a cold month, but now we can all look forward to a warmer March. The only issue with March is the fluctuations. One day snowy and windy and the next day warm and sunny.

The **Mardi Gras Party** was very successful with about 150 people attending. The band and food

were excellent. A big thanks to the chairs: **Lina Giannotti, Nick Rigney, Rita (Trupiano) Dauss and Stephen Dauss**.

I would like to welcome our new Trustee **Janice Labadie**, who was appointed to fill a one-year term at the last

Board meeting. We still have a vacancy for an Assistant Treasurer.

Events for March, which is a very busy month, include:

- ❖ Lions Club of Taylor Millionaires Party, on Saturday March 8, 2008.
- ❖ St. Joseph's Day Celebration on Sunday March 16, 2008.
- ❖ General Membership meeting on Sunday March 16, 2008.
- ❖ Club Winter Luncheon on Wednesday March 19, 2008.
- ❖ Easter Brunch on Sunday March 23, 2008.
- ❖ Hall Bridal Show on Sunday March 30, 2008.

At the January General Membership meeting **Frank Checchio** explained the **American Legion Organ Donor Program**. Age is not a factor as some organs can be used for medical research as well as organ transplants. If you are interested in the program, give Frank a call at (734) 675-6424.

Remember the Spaghetti Dinners begin on the third Wednesday in April and please note that the March General Membership meeting has been moved to the third Sunday of the month (March 16th), to accommodate Easter. See you at the next Club function.

Mark S. Grazioli, Club President

Millionaire's Party - March 8, 2008

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 DIAC Hall. They are also looking into holding a Texas Hold 'em tournament as part of the party.

Tentatively, Black Jack tables, Roulette and Big Wheels are set for the main Hall. The Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament set in the Menna Room. The start time and any cost for the tournament are not yet finalized. 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**.

The Club will be providing food and snacks. The Hall Board will be providing bar service.

Winter Luncheon at the Club – Mar. 19th



Lunch at the Club - Wednesday - March 19, 2008 - 12:00 noon.

The luncheon will be held as usual in the Menna room. The meal will be lunchmeats and chicken. 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, March 13, 2008.

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

St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 16



The 35th 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

Easter Brunch – Sunday, Mar. 23, 2008



There will be an **Easter Brunch** on **Easter Day, Sunday, March 23, 2008** between the hours of 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, at the Downriver Italian-American Club.

Cost: Adults \$18.00 in advance and \$19.00 at the door. Seniors (62+) \$16.00 in advance and \$17.00 at the door. Children: (Ages 4-10) \$8.00 in advance, \$9.00 at the door. See the attached flyer in this newsletter.

This event is open to the public. Advise your friends and neighbors. There is no need to spend time waiting in lines at restaurants when you can be accommodated immediately at our Club. Your seating time will be based on a schedule to avoid overcrowding. Make your reservations early.

Menu details in March newsletter. Ticket sales, please contact **Diana Holmes** at the Hall (734)285-4044.

Bridal Show set for March 30, 2008



The DIAH Business Board will once again sponsor a **Bridal Show** for Sunday, March 30, 2008 at the Hall. The event runs from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The fashion show begins at 2:00 pm.

The event is sponsored by **Bella Donna's, Downriver Tuxedo Association** and **D.J. & Music**. There will be many wedding related prizes to be given away. There will be many vendors showing their services. If you know of anyone getting married in the near future, please advise them to this valuable event. The hall will be well decorated and may result in future bookings.

Jeanne's Catering will provide a Taste Test Sampler.

Advance tickets are \$4.00 (\$5.00 at the door). For reservation and further information, please call **Diana Holmes**, at (734)285-4044.



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**. (If no answer, please call (734)365-1984, cell phone). Deadline is expired, but call Nancy to make sure. Mail your check (made out to: **Bianco Tours**) to:

Nancy DiPasquale
13426 Mulberry
Southgate, MI 48195-2499.

Finding Time at Last

I feared the word "retired"
But, oh, it's such a boom
To know that I can slow down,
To worry be immune.
There's time to greet the morning
To watch the nesting birds,
To sip the cup of summer,
Enjoy the poet's words.
The problems that once drove me
Are gone and in their place,
I'm heir to peace and comfort,
A happy, precious grace.
I touch a dewy rose but,
I feel contentment's kiss,
The life I've known and lived for years,
Was leading up to this.

—Mytle Durand, Faribault, Minn. —

Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: **Leo DeJohn, Delores DeJohn, Florence Costa, Robert Kling**. 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 families/relatives of **Sam and Frances Randazzo** on the death of their grandson, **Joel T. Hillebrand**, who passed away on January 30, 2008, at the age of 32. Condolences to the parents Art and Paola (Randazzo) Hillebrand.

Condolences to the family of **Kenneth and Angela (Santavicca) Scott**, on the death of Angela's mother, **Genesia Santavicca**, who passed away on February 16, 2008 at the age of 87. Condolences to the **DiMarco** families. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Joseph and Sadie Kusic** on the death of Joe's sister, **Pauline Kusic**, who passed away on February 20, 2008. Condolences to the family of **Mark and Mary Jane Grazioli**. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Margaret (Ann) Vitale** on the death of her husband, **Samuel Vitale**, who passed away on February 20, 2008, at the age of 84. Sam and Ann have been club members since 1988, and were members before that. Sam was very supportive to our club. Condolences to Sam's sister **Grace Randazzo** and **Fannie Passalacqua**. Condolences to all other related Vitale families. May he rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Vincenza (Vinnie) DiClaudio** on the death of her husband, **Nicola (Nick) DiClaudio**, who passed away on February 25, 2008, at the age of 80. Nick and Vinnie have been club members since April, 1974, were very active in our club. We will miss seeing Nick in our presence. May he rest in peace.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of our deceased members. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed thru the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and may the perpetual light shine upon them.

Tea with Daddy

One day my mother was out and my dad was in charge. I was maybe 1 and a half years old.

Someone had given me a little 'tea set' as a gift and it was one of my favorite toys. Daddy was in the living room engrossed in the evening news and my brother was playing nearby in the living room when I brought Daddy a little cup of 'tea', which was just water. After several cups of tea and lots of praise for such yummy tea, my Mom came home. My Dad made her wait in the living room to watch me bring him a cup of tea, because it was 'just the cutest thing!'

My Mom waited, and sure enough, here I come down the hall with a cup of tea for Daddy and she watches him drink it up, then says, 'Did it ever occur to you that the only place that baby can reach to get water is the toilet?'

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Rosalie Giammalva (3/4)</i>	<i>Rose Donofrio (3/18)</i>
<i>Helen Grasso (3/4)</i>	<i>Joseph Leone (3/19)</i>
<i>Ann Lepidi (3/4)</i>	<i>Gaspare Misuraca (3/19)</i>
<i>James Jenson (3/5)</i>	<i>Joseph Susin (3/19)</i>
<i>Nancy Marcantonio (3/6)</i>	<i>Charlie Lupo (3/22)</i>
<i>Giovanni Ventura (3/6)</i>	<i>Sal DiPasquale (3/24)</i>
<i>Margaret Trupiano (3/8)</i>	<i>Jason Karawan (3/24)</i>
<i>Stephanie Badalamenti (3/10)</i>	<i>Joe Chirco (3/25)</i>
<i>Josephine Favazza (3/10)</i>	<i>Filicia Biundo (3/26)</i>
<i>Rose Vitale (3/10)</i>	<i>Angelo Giannotti (3/26)</i>
<i>Quirino (Jerry) Stralle (3/11)</i>	<i>Caroline Barrett (3/27)</i>
<i>Connie DeLiz (3/13)</i>	<i>Luigi Biundo (3/28)</i>
<i>Aline Palamara (3/13)</i>	<i>Delores DeJohn (3/28)</i>
<i>Vincenzo Pizzo (3/13)</i>	<i>Brenda Mangiapane (3/28)</i>
<i>Matteo Giaino (3/15)</i>	<i>Florence Costa (3/29)</i>
<i>Joe Evola (3/16)</i>	<i>Gaetano Vitale (3/29)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (3/17)</i>	<i>Douglas Melzer (3/30)</i>

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.

<i>George and Rosemary Menna (3/3)</i>	<i>35th</i>
<i>Johnpaul and Liesa Finazzo (3/4)</i>	
<i>Samuel and Theresa Germus (3/17)</i>	<i>25th</i>
<i>Salvatore and Nancy DiPasquale (3/22)</i>	

A Michigan Poem

It's winter here in Michigan,
And the gentle breezes blow,
Seventy miles an hour,
At twenty-five below!

Oh, how I love dear Michigan,
When the snow's up to your butt,
You take a breath of winter,
And your nose gets frozen shut.

Yes, the weather here is wonderful,
So I guess I'll hang around,
I could never leave my Michigan,
'Cause I'm frozen to the ground!!

Poem Provided by Tom Talluto

A Burglar

A burglar broke into a house one night. He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables. He picked up a CD player to place in his sack, when a strange,

disembodied voice echoed from the dark, saying, 'Jesus is watching you.'

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked his flashlight off, and froze. When he heard nothing more after a bit, he shook his head and continued. Just as he pulled the stereo out so he could disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard, 'Jesus is watching you.'

Freaked out, he shined his light around frantically, looking for the source of the voice. Finally, in the corner of the room, his flashlight beam came to rest on a parrot. 'Did you say that?' he hissed at the parrot.

'Yep,' the parrot confessed, then squawked, 'I'm just trying to warn you.'

The burglar relaxed. 'Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?'

'Moses,' replied the bird.

'Moses?' the burglar laughed. 'What kind of people would name a bird Moses?'

'The same kind of people that would name a pit bull... Jesus.'

Alphabet For Life

(A)cccept Differences
(B)e Kind
(C)ount your Blessings
(D)ream
(E)xpress Differences
(F)orgive
(G)ive Freely
(H)arm No One
(I)magine More
(J)ettison Anger
(K)eep Confidences
(L)ove Truly
(M)aster Something
(N)urture Hope
(O)pen Your Mind
(P)ack Lightly
(Q)uell Rumors
(R)eciprocate
(S)eek Wisdom
(T)ouch Hearts
(U)nderstand
(V)alue Truth
(W)in Graciously
(X)eriscape
(Y)earn for Peace
(Z)ealously Support a Worthy Cause



A Simple Friend vs. A Real Friend

A Simple Friend can stand by you when you are right.
A Real Friend will stand by you even when you are wrong.

A Simple Friend thinks the problems you whine about are recent.

A Real Friend says, "You've been whining about the same things for 14 years. Get off your duff and do something about it."

A Simple Friend has never seen you cry.

A Real Friend has shoulders soggy from your tears.

A Simple Friend brings food or drink to your party.

A Real Friend come early to help you cook and stays late to help you clean.

A Simple Friend seeks to talk with you about your problems.

A Real Friend seeks to help you with your problems.

A Simple Friend wonders about your romantic history.

A Real Friend could blackmail you with it.

A Simple Friend thinks the friendship is over when you have an argument.

A Real Friend knows that it's not a friendship until after you've had a fight.

A Simple Friend expects you to always be there for them.

A Real Friend expects to always be there for you!

In This Home

We believe in living deeply,
 Laughing often & loving always.

We believe we were brought together,
 To support and care for each other.

We believe in celebrating together,
 Our faith, our heritage, our traditions.

We Believe that everyone's feeling count,
 And that the uniqueness of each of us,
 Strengthens all of us.

We Believe in the power of forgiveness to heal,
 And in the power of love to carry us through.

We believe in one another in this family.
 IN THIS HOME.

Things To Live By

Live ...as though heaven is on earth.

Love... as though you've never been hurt before.

Dance... as though no one is watching you.

Sing... as though no one can hear you.

A Pre-School Moment

For weeks a five-year-old child kept telling his kindergarten teacher about the baby sister or brother that was expected at his house. One day the mother allowed the child to feel the movements of the unborn baby. The five-year-old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Moreover, he stopped telling the teacher about the awaiting event. Finally, the teacher sat the child on her lap and said, "Lucas, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

"Lucas burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

Calendar of Coming Events

- Mar. 16, 2008** **St. Joseph Celebration.**
 Coleman, Cosentino, DiPasquale,
 Pizzo
- Mar. 23, 2008** **Easter Brunch.**
 Jeanne's Catering and DIA Hall.
- Mar. 30, 2008** **Bridal Show.**
 DIA Hall and Jeanne's Catering.
- April 16, 2008** **DIAC First Pasta Event.**
 Pasta Committee and Members.
- May 7, 2008** **Taste of Italy.**
 Tony Lumia and Members.
- May 11, 2008** **Mother's Day Dinner.**
 Jeanne's Catering and DIA Hall.
- July 4, 2008** **Wyandotte Independence Day Parade.**
 Mary Cottone and Members.
- Jul. 27, 2008** **Membership Summer Picnic.**
- Aug. 9, 2008** **Golf Outing.**
 G. Vitale, M Grazioli, T. Lumia.
- Oct. 10, 2008** **Wine Dance.**
- Dec. 12, 2008** **Member's Xmas Party.**
 Grace Pizzo, Leona Vizzini.
- Dec. 14, 2008** **Member's Children Xmas Party.**
 Rosalie (Vitale) Karawan.
- Dec. 31, 2008** **New Year's Eve Celebration.**
 DIA Hall Board.

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

**Jeanne's Catering and the
Downriver Italian-American Hall**



646 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192



Easter Brunch Buffet

Sunday March 23, 2008

11:00 am – 4:00 pm (Last Reservation at 3:00 pm)

Call Now for Your Reservations (734) 285-4044

Brunch Menu

Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Lyonnaise Potatoes, Patty Sausage,
Caramel French Toast, Fruit Salad and Pastries

Luncheon Menu

Chef Carved Beef Sirloin, Baked Ham, Chicken Marsala,
Fish Monterey, Italian Sausage w/Peppers and Onions,
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Penne Pasta in Marinara Sauce,
Tossed Salad, Cheese & Crackers, Chicken Noodle Soup,
Peel & Eat Shrimp in Cocktail Bowl.

Dessert Table with Coffee & Tea

Cash Bar Available



Adults – \$18.00 in Advance / \$19.00 at the Door

Seniors – \$16.00 in Advance / \$17.00 at the Door

Children (4 to 10 Years) – \$8.00 in Advance / \$9.00 at the Door

Public Welcome – Bring Your Family and Friends

Also – Join Us for Mother's Day Dinner Buffet

The Downriver Italian-American Club

*is Presenting the
35th 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

MILLIONAIRE'S PARTY!



Downriver Italian
American Club
& Taylor Lions



Date: Saturday, March 8, 2008

Time: 7:00 p.m. to Midnight

Doors Open at 6:00 p.m.

**Millionaire's Party To
Benefit Penrickton Center for Blind
Children. There Will Be Plenty Of
Games, Food, Drink & Fun!**

- **TEXAS HOLD 'EM**

\$50 Buy In – \$2,500 In Prizes

1st Prize—\$1,000/2nd Prize—\$750/3rd Prize—\$500/4th Prize—\$250
(Based on 100 players, prize money will be prorated)

- **SECOND CHANCE POKER TABLES**

- **BLACKJACK TABLES**

- **CRAPS TABLE**

- **ROULETTE WHEEL**

- **BIG WHEEL**

**A Charity Benefit
Fundraiser For**

*Penrickton Center for
Blind Children*



Michigan Charitable Gaming License # M39579

The Downriver Italian American Hall

Downriver's Finest Banquet / Conference Center

646 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, Michigan

For More Information Contact:

Taylor Lions Club
Kurt Sebaly — 734.946.7500
Patty Obrzut — 734.946.7501

Downriver Italian American Club
Hall — 734.285.4044
Tony Lumia — 313.565.0671