



37th Year, 1971-2008



The Downriver Italian-American Club®

646 BIDDLE AVE ♣ WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-2727 ♣ TEL. (734)285-4044 ♣ website: www.diac.us

** IMPORTANT DATES **

November 2008 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting Sunday, Nov. 23, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Happy Thanksgiving – November 27, 2008

A Message from the Club President



Welcome to the cold weather of November. There are no Club social events this month, but December will be busy. At our last Spaghetti Dinner in October, we served 756 dinners. This gives a total for 2008 of 5,579 dinners, compared to 4,669 last year. That is a 20% increase. We knew we were busy, but just not that busy.

A big thanks to all of you members that either worked at the Spaghetti Dinners or brought friends to the dinners.

The Fall dance (“Dancing with the Stars”), went well with about 220 people - about 50-60 Club members attended. A big thanks to **Mary Wierzba** and her daughter **Janice Labadie** for a fine evening.

Also, a big thanks to **Jim Bademian** and all that helped to install the new energy efficient light bulbs, it took about two hours. This will cut the utility cost immediately.

Events for December include the following:

Children’s Christmas Party, Sunday, December 14th.

Member’s Christmas Dinner, Saturday, December 20th.

New Years Eve Dance (Open to the Public)
Wednesday, December 31st.

At our October General Membership Meeting, nominations were made for 2009-2010 Club Officers. The only office to be voted on, in November, will be the position of Vice President. All other offices had just a single nomination.

Since I will be running for this position, I would like to give my background in Club activities, for those new members that do not personally know me. My wife **Mary Jane** and I joined the Club in 1973. I worked as an engineer in the public and private sector for 45 years and retired in 2003. Since the mid 1980’s I have continuously served on either the Club Board or Hall Board. I was President of the Hall Board for many years. Four years ago, I returned to the Club Board as Vice President and have been honored to serve as President the last two

years. I, along with **Jim Bademian** and **Tony Lumia** have chaired the Spaghetti Dinners the last four years.

If you have any questions on my qualifications please contact me or talk to someone that has worked with me on both Boards or at the Spaghetti Dinners.

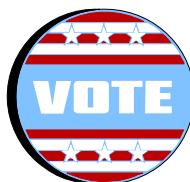
Mark S. Grazioli, Club President

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

To All Our Members and their Families!



Nomination & Election Committee News



The **Nomination and Election Committee** ran the nomination process for the 2009-2010 Club officers at the October General Membership meeting. Nominees for each office ran unopposed, except the office of **Vice-President**. Running for this office are **Mark Grazioli** and **Sal DiPasquale**. This notification advises the membership to the elections in lieu of the requirement of the Club By-Laws, Article VIII – Elections, Section 3 Part A.

The voting will be held at the DIAC Hall on Sunday, November 23, 2008 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 p.m. All members in line at 6:00 p.m. will be allowed to vote.

New members are not eligible to vote in the election unless their application was accepted on or before the June 2008 membership meeting.

Please participate and exercise your rights, and vote for the candidate most qualified.

All un-opposed candidates that accepted their respective office position are elected by acclamation. The officers are:

President – Frank A. Giannotti

Recording Secretary – Linda Kerr

Financial Corresponding Secretary – Leslie Lupo
Treasurer – Guy A. Vitale
Assistant Treasurer – George Lavine
Inside Guard – Fay Palazzolo
Outside Guard – Damiano Vitale
Guide – Grace Pizzo

New Elected Trustees:

Jim Bademian, Janice Labadie, Mike T. Palazzolo and Alfonso Stralle. These officers have a 4-year term limit.

Existing Trustees:

Sadie Kusic, Vivian Palazzolo, Vito Trupiano and Leona Vizzini. These officers' terms expire in 2010.

We would like to thank the existing officers and trustees for their leadership and guidance during the past two years. Many thanks to **Mary Jane Grazioli** who was the special first lady behind the scenes these past years.

A special thank you and a job well done by the Nomination and Election Committee for running the nomination process and overseeing the coming election. The committee members include: **Grace Randazzo, Shirley Cavataio, Nancy DiPasquale, Nancy Marcantonio and Pina Milewski.**

DIAC Membership Christmas Party



The Membership Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2008. **Grace Pizzo, Leona Vizzini and Sadie Kusic** are the chairpersons. This event is open to members and a guest of a single member. Menu and pricing is included in the flyer attached. Music is by **DJ John Frasson**. Reservation deadline is December 6, 2008. Please respond early for those good seats. Send reservation coupon to **Grace Pizzo**. If you would like to sit with someone, write their name on the back of the coupon.

For further information, contact **Grace Pizzo** at (734)379-9491, **Leona Vizzini** at (313)383-4775 or **Sadie Kusic** at (734)374-1699. We expect a big turnout for this event.

Children's Christmas Party



Rosalie Vitale-Karawan will be chairing the **Children's Christmas Party** set for **Sunday, December 14, 2008**. **Santa Claus** has been booked and will be the special guest of honor. As in the past, this event is open to the DIAC members who have children that are 10 years and under.

Rosalie is looking for members who can donate cookies and other goodies. Deadline for reservation is December 1, 2008. A flyer with a return coupon is included in this newsletter.

For further information, contact **Rosalie** at (734)285-7406.

New Years Eve Party



It is not too early to start thinking about this fine event. This event is a DIA Hall sponsored event, chaired by **Tony Pietrangelo**, along with **Rocky Kaune**. Tickets and reservations will soon be available for the New Year's Eve event. If you are planning to attend or want to reserve a table with your friends, please contact them. As an added bonus, if you purchase your tickets on or before December 6, there is a reduced price. This applies to all that want to come. See attached flyer for further information. Tickets must be paid at time of reservation and no tickets will be sold at the door.

For ticket sales, contact: **Tony Pietrangelo** at (734) 676-4877, **Rocky Kaune** at (734) 246-4255, or **Diana Holmes** at (734) 285-4044.

Soup and Salad Luncheon



This is something new. The Hall Board will be sponsoring **Soup and Salad Luncheon** on Thursday, January 8, 2009. The meal entries are: Chicken Noodle Soup, Minestrone Soup, Antipasto Salad and Caesar's Salad. The meal will be catered. **Mary Cottone** is the chairperson for this event. She will need volunteers from the membership to help out. A discussion will be held at the November membership meeting. A group meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2008, at 7:00 pm, in the Menna Room.

For further details, contact **Mary Cottone** at (734)285-1563.

A November Poem

From gold to gray
 Our mild, sweet day
 Of Indian summer fades too soon;
 But tenderly
 Above the sea
 Hangs, white and calm, the November moon.

- John Greenleaf Whittier -

Bus Trips on the Horizon



Four Winds and Blue Chip Casinos – Wed./Thurs., Dec. 10/11, 2008 – New Buffalo, MI. and Michigan City, IN.

One last reminder, this trip 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. One Continental Breakfast is included at the hotel. You will be visiting the famous Four Winds Casino. You will receive \$10.00 for food, retail and slot play and \$5.00 instant credit. You will also be visiting the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Indiana, on the first day. Deadline for reservation is November 25, 2008.

The Bianco Bus will be departing and returning at the Club parking lot.

For reservation, please contact **Nancy DiPasquale at (734)282-1644**. (If no answer, please call (734)365-1984, cell phone). Mail your check (made out to: **Bianco Tours**) to:
Nancy DiPasquale
13426 Mulberry
Southgate, MI 48195-2499.

Our Friends Are Like Angels

Our friends are like angels
Who brighten our days.
In all kinds of wonderful,
Magical ways.

Their thoughtfulness comes,
As a gift from above.
And we feel we're surrounded,
By warm, caring love.

Like upside-down rainbows,
Their smiles bring the sun.
And they fill ho-hum moments,
With laughter and fun.

Friends are like angels,
Without any wings.
Blessing our lives,
With the most precious things!

-- Emily Mathews --

Club Website

If you have internet connection at home (or at your place of work), do visit the club website at www.diac.us.

The site is packed with information, regarding club events, pasta events and photos, newsletter, links of interest, guestbook and a message board.

Let us know by signing the guestbook and leaving us a message. You can download this newsletter from the site.

A Message from Fay Palazzolo

Fay would like to thank, **Joyce Mitra, Mary Randazzo, Piera Vitale and Liliana Giannotti** for bringing dessert to the October membership meeting - all were delicious.

Fay would like to remind **Terry LeSage, Mary Caparaotta, Ann Lepidi, Helen Grasso and Rose Donofrio** who have volunteered to bring dessert to the November Membership meeting.

Anyone wanting to bring dessert at a future meeting, please contact **Fay Palazzolo at (734)282-0539**.

Toys for Tots

The families of **Joe and Anita Vitale** of Woodhaven are collecting for their Christmas tradition, **Toys for Tots**. This is a brief history on how it began.

For about a dozen years, my family has donated toys to the Toys for Tots program.

Around six years ago, we decided not to buy ourselves Christmas presents, and instead buy more toys for the kids that would not have any toys under their Christmas tree.

The following Christmas we decided to ask our family and friends to join us for a home party. We would provide refreshments and they would bring a new toy they would like to have gotten when they were young, as an admission fee.

From that year on, the parties have gotten bigger every year, as more of our friends and family want to give to the Toys for Tots program.

*We started donating toys in remembrance of **Anita's** brother who was a marine, killed in action in Viet Nam.*

*The downriver Toys for Tots coordinator, **Kim Fleske**, has been extremely helpful every year.*

She sees that the families that ask for toys really deserve to receive them, and she works tirelessly to make sure that the toys stay in the Downriver area.

This is the first year we are not having the party at our home, because the number of people attending has exceeded our space.

*My wife, daughter, and myself want to thank each and everyone that makes this program a success, our family, friends, **Kim Fleske**, and of course the men and women of the **United States Marine Corps**.*

Yours truly

Joe, Anita and Mary-Beth Vitale

IF you wish to make a toy donation, please bring an unwrapped toy to the DIA Hall no later than Dec. 2, 2008.

Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: **Leo DeJohn and Janice Labadie** who were hospitalized. **Ann Vitale** who had a fall. Get Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491 of anyone who is ill.

The following is a note from **Grace Pizzo**.

I would like to thank everyone that sent me cards, said prayers, and made phone calls to me. It was really appreciated. This is why I enjoy being part of this club. The members are just a great group of special people. A special thanks to my sister **Stella** and brother-in-law **Fred Marzano**. They were my "meals on wheels" and special support team. I'm starting to feel much better and hope to see everyone for our next event. **Grace Pizzo**

Condolences to the family of **Lorraine Casali** on the death of her daughter, **Tina Casali**, who passed away on October 8, 2008 at the age of 38.

Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

Daniele and Maria (Gentile) Graziani of Southgate, MI
Sponsored by **Sal DiPasquale**.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Antonietta Chirco (11/1)</i>	<i>Robert Coch (11/16)</i>
<i>Violet Jenson (11/1)</i>	<i>Vincetta Smith (11/18)</i>
<i>Mary Lavine (11/1)</i>	<i>Jacqueline Jagiello (11/19)</i>
<i>Sam Palamara (11/1)</i>	<i>Josephine Manzella (11/20)</i>
<i>Marco Vitale (11/1)</i>	<i>Angelo Giaimo (11/21)</i>
<i>Angelina Carlone (11/2)</i>	<i>Angelo Schiraldi (11/22)</i>
<i>Marlene Erno (11/4)</i>	<i>Phyllis LoPiccolo (11/23)</i>
<i>Cora Muffi (11/7)</i>	<i>Patrick McMahon (11/24)</i>
<i>Emilia Gonella (11/9)</i>	<i>Fioravante Norscia (11/25)</i>
<i>Angelo Norscia (11/11)</i>	<i>Giovanni Santi, Sr. (11/25)</i>
<i>Joanne Cuva (11/12)</i>	<i>Thomas Battaglia (11/26)</i>
<i>Providence Evola (11/12)</i>	<i>MaryJane Grazioli (11/27)</i>
<i>Katherine Finazzo (11/13)</i>	<i>Piera Vitale (11/27)</i>
<i>Faro Gaglio (11/13)</i>	<i>Antonio Ventura (11/28)</i>
<i>William Barrett (11/14)</i>	<i>Fara Pizzo (11/29)</i>
<i>Jack Palazzolo (11/15)</i>	<i>Gertrude Ventura (11/29)</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>Marco and Theresa Talluto (11/3)</i>	
<i>Norman and Colleen Tabaka (11/7)</i>	
<i>Gaspare and Mamie Misuraca (11/8)</i>	50 th
<i>Michael and Gabriela Loria (11/10)</i>	
<i>Guy A. and Maria Vitale (11/10)</i>	
<i>Anthony and Sherran Sclafani (11/13)</i>	
<i>Salvatore and Katherine Finazzo (11/18)</i>	30 th
<i>Daniel and Catherine Brooks (11/19)</i>	20 th
<i>Robert and Susie Coch (11/21)</i>	
<i>Joseph and Sharon Pagano (11/22)</i>	

Frank and Nina Liberati (11/25)
Don and Nancy Capezza (11/27)
Aldo and Rose Gerbi (11/28)
Bruce and Valarie Yinger (11/28)
Angelo and Rosalie Giaimo (11/29)

A Thanksgiving Blessing

THANKSGIVING is giving thanks for all that is necessary and dear to us – food, clothing, shelter, family, friends, beauties of nature, a profession in which we can be of service to our friends and a free country where we can worship God as we please.

THANKSGIVING is the delight we feel in a baby's grasp as he clings to an outstretched finger; the tender look in his mother's eyes as she watches him.

THANKSGIVING is the joy of a family outing in one of God's beauty spots; helping small children to appreciate beauties of nature in sea, mountain or forest. It is also the spreading of food prepared by loving hands and enjoyed because of healthy appetites and grateful hearts.

THANKSGIVING is gratitude for neighbors who lovingly come to our aid in time of trouble or sorrow and who join with us in rejoicing in our happier moments.

THANKSGIVING is saying a big "thank you" to God for all favors He has given us.

A Halloween Moment

A cabbie picks up a nun. She gets into the cab, and notices that the very handsome cab driver won't stop staring at her. She asks him why he is staring.

He replies: "I have a question to ask you but I don't want to offend you."

She answers, "My son, you cannot offend me. When you're as old as I am and have been a nun as long as I have, you get a chance to see and hear just about everything. I'm sure that there's nothing you could say or ask that I would find offensive."

"Well, I've always had a fantasy to have a nun kiss me."

She responds, "Well, let's see what we can do about that: #1, you have to be single and #2, you must be Catholic."

The cab driver is very excited and says, "Yes, I'm single and Catholic!"

"OK" the nun says. "Pull into the next alley."

The nun fulfills his fantasy, with a kiss that would make a hooker blush.

But when they get back on the road, the cab driver starts crying.

"My dear child," says the nun, "why are you crying?"

"Forgive me but I've sinned. I lied and I must confess, I'm married and I'm Jewish."

The nun says, "That's OK."

"My name is Kevin and I'm going to a Halloween party."

I Give Thanks For...

I give thanks for...

Having such a great friend
Whose love will never end.

I give thanks for...

Having you in my life
Amidst the turmoil and strife.

I give thanks for...

All you continue to do
Just because you're you.

I give thanks for...

Each day we get to talk
Yes, even for those long walks.

I give thanks for...

Being given this chance
To give you a small glance.

I give thanks for...

You giving me a hand
For all your help is grand.

I give thanks for...

The unending support
That includes words of comfort.

I give thanks for...

You always being there
Showing how much you care.

I give thanks for...

Those moments every once in a while
When I need it most you make me smile.

I give thanks for...

Having met someone so dear
Whose friendship will be cherished through the years.

I give thanks for...

Your very special way
Of knowing just what to say

I give thanks for...

Each of these things
And for the happiness you bring.

.... And That's How the Fight Started

When I got home last night, my wife demanded that I take her someplace expensive...

So, I took her to a gas station....

And that's how the fight started....

I tried to talk my wife into buying a case of Miller Light for \$14.95. Instead, she bought a jar of cold cream for \$7.95.

I told her the beer would make her look better at night than the cold cream.

And that's how the fight started....

After retiring, I went to the Social Security office to apply for Social Security. The woman behind the counter asked me for my driver's license to verify my age.

I looked in my pockets and realized I had left my wallet at home.

I told the woman that I was very sorry, but I would have to go home and come back later.

The woman said, 'Unbutton your shirt'.

So I opened my shirt revealing my curly silver hair.

She said, 'That silver hair on your chest is proof enough for me' and she processed my Social Security application.

When I got home, I excitedly told my wife about my experience at the Social Security office.

She said, 'You should have dropped your pants. You might have gotten disability, too!'

And that's how the fight started....

My wife and I were sitting at a table at my high school reunion, and I kept staring at a drunken lady swigging her drink as she sat alone at a nearby table. My wife asked, 'Do you know her?'

'Yes,' I sighed, 'She's my old girlfriend. I understand she took to drinking right after we split up those many years ago, and I hear she hasn't been sober since.'

'My God!' says my wife, 'Who would think a person could go on celebrating that long?'

And that's how the fight started....

I took my wife to a restaurant. The waiter, for some reason, took my order first.

'I'll have the strip steak, medium rare, please.'

He said, 'Aren't you worried about the mad cow?'

'Nah, she can order for herself.'

And that's how the fight started....

Calendar of Coming Events

Dec. 14, 2008 **Member's Children Christmas Party.**

Rosalie (Vitale) Karawan.

Dec. 20, 2008 **Member's Christmas Party.**

Grace Pizzo, Leona Vizzini, Sadie Kusic.

Dec. 31, 2008 **New Year's Eve Gala Party.**

DIA Hall Board.

Jan. 8, 2009 **Soup and Salad Luncheon.**

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:

DIA Newsletter

c/o Frank A. Giannotti

14823 Williamsburg Blvd.

Riverview, MI 48193-7703

The Downriver Italian-American Club®

646 BIDDLE AVE * WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-2727 * TEL. (734)285-4044 * WEB WWW.DIAC.US



Member's Children Christmas Party



Sunday, December 14, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

This Party is for **Member's Children Only**. The child must be 10 years and under.

This year's party will again consist of fun hands-on activities for all the children and a pizza luncheon. Directly from the North Pole, Santa Claus will be the special guest. Moms and dads, don't forget to bring your camera and catch those special moment with Santa.

If you wish to donate cookies, please call Rosalie Vitale-Karawan. at (734)285-7406.

Return the coupon below to:

Rosalie Vitale-Karawan
17120 Kennebec
Riverview, MI 48193-7608

****This form must be received no later than December 1, 2008 This deadline must be strictly enforced to ensure your child will receive a gift.**

✂-----✂-----✂

Member's Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address _____ City _____

Print Child's Name	Age	Girl	Boy
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Mail to: Rosalie Vitale-Karawan, 17120 Kennebec, Riverview, MI 48193-7608

✂-----✂-----✂



The Downriver Italian-American Hall®

646 BIDDLE AVE ♣ WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-2727 ♣ TEL. (734)285-4044 ♣ FAX (734)285-2501

New Year's Eve Party

Wednesday, December 31, 2008



Music by "The Four of Us"

Dinner by Chef Jeanne Liedel



6:30 pm Cocktail Hour - 7:30 pm Dinner

Buffet Style Dinner - Door Prizes

* Favors, Midnight Champagne Toast and Pizza *

Tickets must be paid at time of reservation:

\$45.00 per person – if Paid on or before Dec. 6, 2008

\$50.00 per person – if Paid after Dec. 6, 2008

♣ Open to the General Public ♣



~ Menu ~

Cheese, Crackers, Fruit and Veggies
Tossed Green Salad in House Dressing
Mostaccioli in House Sauce
Baked Herb Chicken
Sliced Top Sirloin
Baked Ham
Dinner Rolls and Butter
Specialty Dessert
Coffee & Tea
Your Favorite Beverage



Reserved tables of 10 only - All others seated where available.

*Make check payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Hall***

Mail to: Tony Pietrangelo

1618 Camelot Drive

Trenton, MI 48183-1949

For further information, please contact:

Tony or Joyce Pietrangelo at (734)676-4877

Rocky or Nancy Kaune at (734)246-4255

Diana Holmes or Mary Cottone – DIAH Office at (734)285-4044



DIAC Member's Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 20, 2008

Music by: DJ John Frasson

Family Style Dinner by Chef Jeanne Liedel

6:30 pm Hors D'oeuvre, 7:30 pm Dinner



Hors D'oeuvre
Cheese, Relish, Cracker Dish Centerpiece
Main Entrées:
Chicken Soup
Tossed Salad, Sliced Italian Bread /w Olive Oil
Linguini with Oil and Garlic – Hungarian Pepper
Herb Baked Chicken
Italian Sausage with peppers and Onions
Breaded Pork Chop
Oven Roasted Potatoes
Mixed Vegetables
Dessert
Napoleon Dessert
Beverage, Coffee or Tea
Each Table with 2 carafe of wine

\$25.00 per member, \$30.00 per guest of a single member

Reserved tables of 10 only. All other seated where available. Door Prizes

Tickets must be paid at time of reservation:

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

Mail to: Grace Pizzo

32050 Liparota Drive

Rockwood, MI 48173-8613



For further information call: Grace Pizzo at (734)379-9491,
Leona Vizzini at (313) 383-4775
Sadie Kusic at (734) 374-1699

✂-----✂-----✂

I (We) will be attending the D.I.A.C. 2008 Members Christmas Party on Saturday, December 20, 2008.
This ticket and payment must be received no later than December 6, 2008.

Name: _____ Number of people Attending: _____

Address: _____ Telephone: _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Make checks payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club.** Table No. _____

Mail this form and check to: Grace Pizzo ♣ 32050 Liparota Drive ♣ Rockwood, MI 48173-8613

----- Buon Natale ----- Merry Christmas ----- Buon Natale ----- Merry Christmas -----