



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 **

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Dec. 9, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting ***** CANCELLED *****

December 2008 NEWSLETTER



Buon Natale a Tutti – Merry Christmas to All

No Membership Meeting in December

The December 27th Membership Meeting has been cancelled due to the Christmas Holiday. We wish the members and their families the Very Best for the coming Holidays. Be safe, drive carefully and see you next year.

May you have the Spirit of Christmas, which is
Peace
the Gladness of Christmas, which is
Hope
the Warmth of Christmas, which is
Friendship
the Heart of Christmas, which is
Joy
the Blessing of Christmas, which is
Love

A Message from the Club President



When you receive this newsletter, the holiday season will have begun with Thanksgiving. Upcoming events in December and January include the following:

Club Children's Christmas Party, Sunday December 14th.

Club Christmas Party, Saturday December 20th.

New Year's Eve Dance (open to the public) December 31st.

Presidential Ball (open to the public) Saturday January 24th.

At the Presidential Ball, **Judge Christopher Dingell** will give the oath of office to our 2009-2010 Club Officers. We have also invited the **Italian Consulate**, who attended the last Presidential Ball in 2007. For many this is a chance to meet and speak with the Consulate.

I have been honored to serve as your President for the last two years. My successor, **Frank Giannotti**, is a very capable person who has done a fantastic job as Financial

Corresponding Secretary. I know the members will support him as they have me and I see nothing but good times ahead for the Club.

This is my last article as your President. So first, I would like to thank the existing Club Board Members for all their cooperation and support during these two years. I was fortunate to have such a capable Board, that was always ready to pitch in and help. Next I would like to thank the Hall Board: **Nino Trupiano, Mary Cottone, Rocky Kaune and Tony Pietrangelo**, for their efforts and support. These Board Members have worked very hard making many important business decisions related to the operation of the hall these past two years. Next I would like to thank all of the Spaghetti Dinner workers (110+) that have made these dinners so successful. And, I would like to thank all the Club Members, which have made this one of the most successful Clubs in the downriver area. Finally, I would like to thank my wife **Mary Jane** who has stood by me through thick and thin these 48 years and supported me during this presidency. Your vote and support for me as the next Vice President is greatly appreciated.

As we approach the holiday season, we need to remember our troops that protect our freedom, our members that have passed away and the many neighbors and friends that are or will be suffering during these hard economic times.

To all of you I Wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and may God Bless you and your families.

Mark S. Grazioli, Club President



A MERRY CHRISTMAS and a HAPPY NEW YEAR

To the Membership and their Families!



Nomination & Election Committee News

The **Nomination and Election Committee** ran the election polling process for the office of vice president on November 23, 2008.

The Club Officers and Board of Directors for 2009-2010 are as follows:

President – Frank A. Giannotti
Vice President – Mark S. Grazioli
Recording Secretary – Linda Kerr
Financial Corresponding Secretary – Leslie G. Lupo
Treasurer – Guy A. Vitale
Assistant Treasurer – George W. Lavine
Inside Guard – Fay A. Palazzolo
Outside Guard – Damiano Vitale
Guide – Grace Pizzo

Board of Directors:

Jim M. Bademian
Sadie Kusic
Janice A. Labadie
Mike T. Palazzolo
Vivian Palazzolo
Alfonso Stralle
Vito A. Trupiano
Leona M. Vizzini

A special thank-you and a job professionally done by the Nomination and Election Committee. The committee members included: **Grace Randazzo (Chairperson)**, **Shirley Cavataio**, **Nancy DiPasquale**, **Rose Pagano** and **Pina Milewski**, along with election overseers **Damiano Vitale** and **Frank Giannotti**.

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.

DIAC Membership Christmas Party

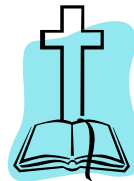


The Membership Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 20, 2008. **Grace Pizzo**, **Leona Vizzini** and **Sadie Kusic** are the chairpersons. This event is open to members and a guest of a single member. Menu and pricing is included in the flyer

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.

Italian Mass at St. Stanislaus



The **Downriver Santa Rosalia Club** is having an Italian Mass at **St. Stanislaus Church** on Sunday December 21, 2008 at 4:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

There will be a pizza and refreshment immediately following the mass, at the PLAV Post #74 at 438 Oak, Wyandotte, MI. **There is a fee of \$10.00 per adult for non-members of the Santa Rosalia Club.**

St. Stanislaus is located at 266 Antoine, seven blocks north of Northline and two blocks west of Biddle. For further information, please contact **Grace Pizzo** at (734)379-9491.

New Year's Eve Gala 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 5, 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. The public is welcome.

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



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. A meeting has been set for Thurs. - Dec. 11th - 7:00 pm for anyone who wants to help.

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

DIAC Presidential Ball



The **2009 Presidential Ball** will be held on **Saturday, January 24, 2009**, in the main Banquet Hall. The chairpersons for this event are **Mark and MaryJane Grazioli**, along with **Tony and Miriam Lumia**. See the attached flyer for further information. We need the membership support in making this event a success. The event is open to the public. Please advise your friends early and mark this event on your calendar. Reserve

your table early for those good seats. We want to make this a sell out event.

For further information, please contact **Mark Grazioli** at (734)671-5884 or **Tony Lumia** at (313)565-0671.

Merry Christmas to my Angel Friends

I believe in angels
those helpers who are near
exactly when they're needed most,
then seem to disappear.

I know them when I see them
whatever their disguise
they're patient and encouraging
resourceful, kind, and wise.

Yes, I believe in angels
the kind that heaven sends
and I'm surrounded every day
by angels I call friends.

God gave me someone special
when He gave me
A special friend like you.
Have a Blessed Christmas!

Mardi Gras Event



The DIAC Young Membership will be chairing a **Mardi Gras Event** at the DIAC Hall on February 21, 2009. Chairpersons are **Lina M. Giannotti, Nick Rigney, Steve and Rita (Trupiano) Dauss**. There

will be food and music with a New Orleans's theme. Information is not complete at this time. Detailed information will be forthcoming in the January newsletter. Please reserve this date on your calendar. Last year this event was well received and everyone 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 event.

A Message from Fay Palazzolo

Fay would like to thank, **Terry LeSage, Mary Caparotta, Ann Lepidi, Helen Grasso** and **Rose Donofrio** for bringing dessert to the November membership meeting - all were delicious.

We have no volunteers for the January membership meeting. If you would like to bring a cake or cookie dessert, please contact **Fay Palazzolo** at (734)282-0539.

Fay would like to thank all the members who provided dessert during this past year. Thank-you so much!

Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: **Mimi Kerr, Leslie Lupo** and **Jim Morrin** who were hospitalized. **Mary Wierzba** 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.

Condolences to the families of **John and Anna Finazzo** on the death of John's brother, **Paul Finazzo**, who passed away on October 29, 2008 at the age of 79. Condolences to the families of **JohnPaul and Liesa Finazzo, Phyllis Cottone** and **Grace Badalamente**.

Condolences to the families of **Frank Manzella** on the death of Frank's wife, **Josie Manzella**, who passed away on November 4, 2008 at the age of 84. Condolences to the families of **Sam and Fannie Randazzo, Mamie Vitale** and **Mary Giaimo**. Josie and Frank have been club members since 1985. They were very active in our club. We will miss her dearly - she was in our circle of friends.

Condolences to the families of: **Fay Palazzolo, Nancy Marcantonio** and **Rosalie (Angelo) Giaimo** on the death of their brother, **Mike Palazzolo**, who passed away on November 26, 2008 at the age of 77.

Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

John and Debbie (Riggs) Serafano of Grosse Ile, MI
Sponsored by **Frank and Liliana Giannotti**.

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.

Gregory and Sandra Saucier (12/19)

Don and Emilia (Mimi) Kerr (12/31)

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Mary Wierzba (12/03)</i>	<i>Rosalie Aluia (12/18)</i>
<i>Gina Cosner (12/04)</i>	<i>Giuseppe Alastra (12/19)</i>
<i>Salvatore Vitale (12/05)</i>	<i>John Cadorin (12/19)</i>
<i>Bruce Yinger (12/05)</i>	<i>Paul Consiglio (12/19)</i>
<i>Roger Zampieri (12/05)</i>	<i>Kelli Fracassa (12/20)</i>
<i>Sylvia Vitale (12/06)</i>	<i>Angela Palazzolo (12/20)</i>
<i>David Webster (12/07)</i>	<i>Vivian Cacioppo (12/22)</i>
<i>Anna Crapanzano (12/08)</i>	<i>Shirley Cavataio (12/22)</i>
<i>Vincenza DiClaudio (12/11)</i>	<i>Salvatore Lentini (12/22)</i>
<i>Lina M. Giannotti (12/11)</i>	<i>Josephine Chimento (12/23)</i>
<i>Edward Palermo (12/12)</i>	<i>Carlo LoPiccolo (12/24)</i>
<i>Domenick Forte (12/14)</i>	<i>Nancy DiPasquale (12/26)</i>
<i>Giovanna Vitale (12/14)</i>	<i>George Lavine (12/26)</i>
<i>Aldo Gerbi (12/15)</i>	<i>Larry Mitchell (12/26)</i>
<i>Richard Kaune (12/15)</i>	<i>Marian Maniaci (12/28)</i>
<i>Francesco DeMelis (12/16)</i>	<i>Steven Vitale (12/28)</i>
<i>Tom Talluto (12/17)</i>	<i>Robyn Vitale (12/30)</i>

On Christmas Time

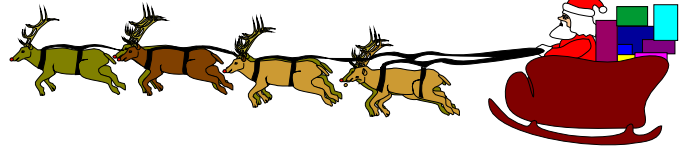
How lovely 'tis to take this time
To greet our dearest friends,
To wish them health and happiness
Before the old year ends.
Darkness comes late afternoon
And winter lies ahead,
But friendship is a glowing fire
When all seems cold and dead.
Just as in some vacant barn,
Unnoticed in the night,
The whole of human history turns,
So we, too, make things right.
We must keep alive the flame
Though darkness grip the Earth;
For in the love we find in friends
Is our chance for rebirth.

A Senior Moment

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes she just stared and glared at her. Finally she said, "How soon do you need to know?"



Festa di Natale

Natale è festa di gioia e pace,
ogni rancore si spegne o tace;
tutto si scorda, tutto si oblia,
deve esser giorno sol d'allegria.
Dunque scordatevi, o miei diletti,
le mie mancanze e i miei difetti.
Se io promettessi di essere buono,
mi neghereste forse il perdono?
Tace la mamma, tu, babbo, taci.
Son dunque assolto: che io vi baci!

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.**
Mary Cottone, DIA Hall Board.
- Jan. 24, 2009** **Presidential Ball.**
Mark and MaryJane Grazioli
Tony and Miriam Lumia.
- Feb. 21, 2009** **Mardi Gras Celebration.**
Lina M Giannotti, Nick Rigney, Steve and Rita (Trupiano) Dauss.
- Mar. 15, 2009** **St. Joseph Day Celebration.**
Coleman, Cosentino, DiPasquale, Pizzo families.

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

The Downriver Italian-American Club

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

Presents

2009 Presidential Ball

Saturday, January 24, 2009

Music by *The Blue Genes from Windsor*

Hors D'Oeuvre/Cocktails begins at 5:30 pm

Cheese, Fruits, Sausage, Shrimp Cocktail

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Family Style Dinner by Jeanne Liedel

~~~~ **Main Entrée** ~~~~

Relish Tray

Wedding Soup

Salad with House Dressing

Tortellini with Fresh Pesto

Herb Baked Chicken

Stuffed Pork Roast

Santa Anna Potatoes

Green Beans with Oil & Garlic

Coffee, Tea, Rolls, Butter

Napoleon Dessert

Wine at each Table

Tickets: \$35.00 per person

Event is Open to the Public. Invite your Family and Friends

Tickets must be paid at the time of reservation

Reserved tables of 10 only, all others seated where available

**Deadline for reservations is January 14, 2009**

Make checks payable to: Downriver Italian-American Club

Further information: **Mark Grazioli, (734)671-5884**

**Tony Lumia, (313)565-0671**

**DIAC HALL – Diana Holmes, (734)285-4044**



I/We will be attending the **2009 Presidential Ball** event on Saturday, January 24, 2009

This ticket and payment must be received **no later than Saturday, January 14, 2009**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number of People attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club**

Mail coupon and payment to: **Mark Grazioli, 21934 Knudsen, Grosse Ile, MI 48138-1345**

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

# *The Downriver Italian-American Hall®*

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

## **Soup and Salad Luncheon**

**Thursday, January 8, 2009**

Buffet Luncheon from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm

♣ **Open to the General Public** ♣

**\$5.00 per Person**

~ Menu ~

Chicken Noodle Soup

Minestrone Soup

Antipasto Salad

Caesar's Salad

Coffee or Tea

Beverage Available

Dessert Available



For further information, please contact:

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

*The Downriver Italian-American Banquet Hall®*

# 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 -----