



38th Year, 1971-2009

The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

** IMPORTANT DATES **

January 2009 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting Sunday, Jan. 25, 2009, 6:30 p.m.



Buon Anno - Happy New Year, 2009!

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 2009*

2009 Club Membership Dues

The 2009 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: **Leslie Lupo, 459 Cedar, Wyandotte, MI 48192-4301**. Your receipt and membership card(s) will be mailed with the upcoming newsletter. The deadline for the dues is **March 31, 2009**.

For Honorary Members who wish to have a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to their house, the mailing charge is \$15.00 for the year. The newsletter can be picked up free at the DIA Hall during normal business hours. The deadline for this service is **March 31, 2009**.

The newsletter is available free on the Club website, www.diac.us for viewing, downloading and printing.

Attached with this newsletter is an invoice to be returned with your dues.

A Message from the Club President



Buon Anno ai nostri membri e le famiglie, Happy New Years to our members and their families.

My first presidential article since taking office. Hoping you all had a very nice Christmas Season with family and relatives. Being close is what makes us strong and instills our beliefs and tradition to those

close and dear to us.

My family spent the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day celebration at my sister's house, **Maria and Gaetano**

Chirco. On New Year's Day we will be hosting the families at our house.

At the December Board meeting, we approved **Tony Lumia** to Business Hall Board. I know Tony will be an excellent resource in running the hall business.

The Member's Christmas Party was a big success, good food, good music and fine members in attendance. Many thanks to **Grace (Sam) Pizzo, Sadie (Joe) Kusic, and Leona Vizzini** for the excellent decorations, the beautiful chair covers, and the lovely prizes.

The Hall Board **New Year's Eve Party** was well received. Many thanks to **Tony Pietrangelo, Rocky Kaune, Nino Trupiano** and **Mary Cottone** for a job well done.

The **Soup and Salad Luncheon** is coming up on January 8. Attend and bring friends - make this a successful event.

The **Presidential Ball** will be held on January 24. **Judge Christopher Dingell** will give the oath of office to the 2009-2010 Club Officers. This event is open to the public, please invite your family and friends.

The annual **Mardi Gras Celebration** will be held on Saturday February 21. The very danceable Jazz Band from Toledo, Ohio, will once again be entertaining us. The menu does include some non-Cajun entrees for those who are not into spicy food.

Honorable Marco Nobili is the new Italian Consulate in Detroit. Hopefully he will join us in one of our events this year.

In 2009, the club will have many events, charity and fund raising events. We need the fundraising effort to keep our Club solvent. We will need your participation and support in making it a success year. We need to define and control our future and not let others define our destiny. "We simply have to do what we have to do."

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

Frank Giannotti, Club President

DIAC 2009 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 1984, qualifies to the status of "**Honorary Member.**"

Stanley (Ted) Brockway

2009 Club Officers and Trustees

The Club Officers and Trustees are as follows:

President: **Frank A. Giannotti**

Vice President: **Mark S. Grazioli**

Secretary: **Linda Kerr**

Fin. Corres. Secretary: **Leslie Lupo**

Treasurer: **Guy A. Vitale**

Assist Treasurer: **George Lavine**

Inside Guard: **Fay A. Palazzolo**

Outside Guard: **Damiano Vitale**

Guide: **Grace Pizzo**

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

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

Soup and Salad Luncheon



The Hall Board will be sponsoring **Soup and Salad Luncheon** on Thursday, January 8, 2009. The meal entries are: Chicken Soup, Minestrone Soup, Antipasto Salad, coffee or tea and dessert. The meal will be catered. **Mary Cottone** is the chairperson for this event.

For further information, please 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.

Mardi Gras Celebration – Feb. 21, 2009



The DIAC Young Membership will be chairing the **Mardi Gras Event** at the DIAC Hall on February 21, 2009. Chairpersons are **Lina M. Giannotti, Nick Rigney, Steve and Rita (Trupiano) Daus**. There will be food and music with a New Orleans's theme. The food menu has been revised. See attached flyer for further information. Please reserve this date on your calendar and invite your family and friends. 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 yearly event.

DIAC Certificate of Deposit News

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 2008. 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.

St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 15



The **36th Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration** - Sunday, March 15, 2009.

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 15th. 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 \$85,295.00 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 34th 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

Grace Pizzo -- (734) 379-9491

Sal DiPasquale -- (734) 282-1644

Filastrocca Di Capodanno

Fammi gli auguri per tutto l'anno:
voglio un gennaio col sole d'aprile,
un luglio fresco, un marzo gentile;
voglio un giorno senza sera,
voglio un mare senza bufera;
voglio un pane sempre fresco,
sul cipresso il fiore del pesco;
che siano amici il gatto e il cane,
che diano latte le fontane.

Se voglio troppo, non darmi niente,
dammi una faccia allegra solamente.

A Message from Fay Palazzolo

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

We need 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: **Leta Bommarito** had surgery, **Maria Sclafani** 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 **Rose (Joe) Donofrio** on the death of Rose's sister, **MaryAnn Janice**, who passed away on December 8, 2008 at the age of 78.

Condolences to the families of **James (Shirley) Bommarito, Josie Klube, and Rose Lupo** on the death of

their sister, **Sandra Bommarito**, who passed away on December 15, 2008 at the age of 73.

Condolences to the families of **Alessandra (Lisa) Vespa** on the death of her husband, **Antonio Vespa**, who passed away on December 27, 2008 at the age of 77. Tony and Lisa have been club members since 2004. They would always bring cakes and cookies at the membership meetings. They attended many of our club social and fund raising events. Tony was always there with a smile. We will miss him dearly - he was in our circle of friends.

Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

Gaetano and Maria (Giannotti) Chirco of Southgate, MI. Sponsored by **Angelo Giannotti**.

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>Grace Pizzo (1/16)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (1/2)</i>	<i>Rosalie Agrusa (1/18)</i>
<i>Emma Checchio (1/4)</i>	<i>Alba Simone (1/18)</i>
<i>Gianna Trupiano (1/4)</i>	<i>Vincenzo Mannino (1/20)</i>
<i>Iolanda Buscemi (1/5)</i>	<i>Rose Pagano (1/20)</i>
<i>Frank Giannotti (1/5)</i>	<i>Salvatore Abbulone (1/21)</i>
<i>Sam Randazzo (1/5)</i>	<i>Sam Cottone (1/21)</i>
<i>Jack Favazza (1/6)</i>	<i>Mark Grazioli (1/22)</i>
<i>Miriam Lumia (1/6)</i>	<i>Salvatore Randazzo (1/22)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (1/6)</i>	<i>Joyce Pietrangelo (1/23)</i>
<i>Johnpaul Finazzo (1/9)</i>	<i>Leta Bommarito (1/24)</i>
<i>Frank Pizzo (1/11)</i>	<i>Peter Badalamente (1/25)</i>
<i>Joe Pagano (1/12)</i>	<i>Marty Shimkus (1/25)</i>
<i>Lina Scipione (1/12)</i>	<i>Catherine Rotondo (1/26)</i>
<i>Maria Sclafani (1/12)</i>	<i>Rita (Trupiano) Dauss (1/27)</i>
<i>Caterina Vitale (1/12)</i>	<i>Nino Trupiano (1/28)</i>
<i>Lilla Vitale (1/13)</i>	<i>Catherine Bagnasco (1/30)</i>
<i>Stacie Blackledge (1/14)</i>	<i>Giacinto Simone (1/30)</i>
<i>Angela Scott (1/14)</i>	<i>Noreen Battaglia (1/31)</i>
<i>Marie Vitale (1/14)</i>	<i>Mamie Vitale (1/31)</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>Veto and Rita Giannola (1/4)</i>	<i>40th</i>
<i>Vincenzo and Lilla Vitale (1/4)</i>	
<i>Frank and Barbara Bianchi (1/9)</i>	
<i>Fioravante and Hermine Norscia (1/12)</i>	
<i>John and Barbara Russo (1/12)</i>	
<i>Larry and Joan Luzac (1/20)</i>	
<i>Larry and Cathey Restaino (1/21)</i>	

Winter Thoughts

"Look into the garden,
Where the grass was green;
Covered by the snowflakes,
Not a blade is seen.

Now the bare black bushes
All look soft and white.
Every twig is laden-
What a pretty sight!"

"The first of January rolls around
Like clockwork it appears
I find it's timing most profound
As it brings us each new year

Right on time, It's never late
Has never ever blown it
Apparently this wise old date
Refuses to postpone it

Drink a toast to January one
For annual consistence
It's coming means the old year's done
Let's drink to it's persistence."

Delta to have Non-Stop Flights to Rome

Delta Airlines has announced it will launch non-stop flights between Detroit Metropolitan Airport and Leonardo DaVinci - Fiumicino Airport, in Rome, starting June 4, 2009.

The Italian capital will become Detroit Metro's sixth transatlantic destination, along with many other destinations. According to recent data, nearly 60,000 passengers travel between Detroit and Italy each year.

Having non-stop service to Rome reduces travel time and is so convenient for the travelers. Consider this option on your next travel to Italy. Buon viaggio!

The Grandma Test

I was out walking with my 4-year-old granddaughter. She picked up something off the ground and started to put it in her mouth. I took the item away from her and I asked her not to do that.

'Why?' my granddaughter asked.

'Because it's been on the ground; you don't know where it's been, it's dirty, and probably has germs,' I replied.

At this point, my granddaughter looked at me with total admiration and asked, 'Grandma, how do you know all this stuff? You are so smart.'

I was thinking quickly. 'All Grandmas know this stuff. It's on the Grandma Test.

You have to know it, or they don't let you be a Grandma.'

We walked along in silence for 2 or 3 minutes, but she was evidently pondering this new information. 'Oh.....I get it!' she beamed, 'So if you don't pass the test you have to be the Grandpa'.

'Exactly,' I replied with a big smile on my face.

A Day on the Farm

A Department of Water Resources representative stops at a Texas ranch and talks with an old rancher. He tells the rancher, I need to inspect your ranch for your water allocation. The old rancher says, 'Okay, but don't go in that field over there.

The Water representative says, 'Mister, I have the authority of the Federal Government with me. See this badge? This badge means I am allowed to go WHEREVER I WISH on any agricultural land. No questions asked or answered. Have I made myself clear? Do you understand?'

The old rancher nods politely and goes about his chores.

Later, the old rancher hears loud screams and spies the Water Rep running for his life and close behind is the rancher's bull. The bull is gaining with every step. The Rep is clearly terrified, So the old rancher immediately throws down his tools, runs to the fence and yells at the top of his lungs.....

'Your badge! Show him Your badge!'

Calendar of Coming Events

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, Pizzo and
DiPasquale families.

April 12, 2009 Easter Brunch.

Jeanne Catering and DIA Hall Board.

April 15, 2009 First Pasta Event for 2009.

Club Membership.

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 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 Soup

Minestrone Soup

Antipasto Salad

Coffee or Tea

Beverage Available

Dessert



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 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 Club*

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



*St. Joseph Day Celebration*

*Sunday, March 15, 2009*

*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 21<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**Downriver Italian-American Club**

646 Biddle Avenue  
Wyandotte, MI 48192-2727



**Doors open at 6:30 p.m.**  
**Hors-d'oeuvres & Cocktails**  
**Dinner at 7:30 p.m.**



**New Orleans Style Band!**

**Creole & Cajun Buffet:**

**Hors-d'oeuvres:** Fresh Fruit and Cheese Display,  
Crab Cakes with Creole Cream Dipping Sauce,  
Alligator Voodoo, Firecracker Shrimp & Chicken Gumbo

**Dinner:** Jambalaya, Green Beans Almondine,  
Chicken Breast Stuffed with Rice and Andouille Sausage,  
Seared Pork Chops with Crawfish Marsala,  
Grilled Chicken Breast with Creole Sauce,  
Banana Cream Pie & Chocolate Cake  
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 7:00 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 21, 2009**  
This coupon and payment must be received no later than Friday, February 13, 2009.

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.