



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 **

February 2009 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Feb. 10, 2009, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

Mardi Gras Celebration – Feb. 21, 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 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



A good February to you! Hoping you are coping with this bitter cold and snow we've been having. We've not had it this bad for many years. How we wish we could be with our members in Florida.

The past **Presidential Ball** was so beautifully done. I want to thank **Mark and MaryJane Grazioli**, along with **Tony and Miriam Lumia** for chairing this prestigious event. The food was spectacular, the **Blue Genes Band** was fabulous.

We had the new Italian Consulate of Detroit, **Dr. Marco Nobili**, along with his wife, **Elisa** and their son **Niccoló** in our presence. They were very impressed by our Hall facility and our members. **Judge Christopher Dingell** provided the swearing-in ceremony to the Club and the Business Boards. The attendees later danced away to the fine music and vocal of the **Blue Genes Band**.

The **Soup and Salad Luncheon** in January was a success. The meal was just outstanding. The next **Soup and Salad Luncheons** are set for Thursday, February 19 and again on March 19. Let us all support these events. If you cannot help, please come and have lunch with us. The public is welcome, so get a group together and join us.

Our next big club event is the **Mardi Gras Celebration** scheduled for Saturday, February 21. Reservations have started to trickle in. The jazz band will once again impress us. Call to reserve your seating and/or your favorite table.

Ahead, are the St. Joseph Celebration, the Easter Fish Fry's, the Easter Brunch, and our Pasta Event starting on April 15th. We have much going on. Your participation is very much wanted. This is your Club!

We hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health.

Frank Giannotti, Club President

Soup and Salad Luncheon



The Hall Board will once again be sponsoring a **Soup and Salad Luncheon** on Thursday, February 19, and again on March 19, 2009. See attached flyer for meal and time information. Food preparation is on Wednesday Feb. 18 from 9:00 am till 2:00 pm. Anyone wanting to help out, please show up. Then on

Thursday, the 19th, the preparation begins at 9:00 am. Our members will prepare and cook a fine homemade meal. **This event is open to the public - invite your family and friends.** **Mary Cottone** is the chairperson of this event. You can contact Mary at (734)285-1563.

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) Dauss**. There will

be food and music with a New Orleans 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. **This event is open to the public.**

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 bring 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. Food preparation is on March 14. Anyone wanting to help, please come.

Nancy Cosentino – (313) 383-0350

Florence Coleman – (734) 281-7126

Sal DiPasquale – (734)282-1644

Grace Pizzo – (734) 379-9491

DIAH Fish Fry – April 3, 10, 2009

Jeanne's Catering and the **DIA Business Board** will be hosting two **Fish Fry** events during Easter Lent. Details are not complete. Please jot these dates on your calendar.

On April 12, an **Easter Buffet** is being planned. Details forthcoming in a future newsletter.

Thoughts on Valentine Day

*I used to doubt you cared for me
When love was bright and blue.
We ran like puppies through a field,
But this I never knew.*

*We both said we were friends for life,
Not knowing what it meant,
Not knowing how to go through hell
And not somehow repent;*

*Not knowing love was something hard,
Like stone against the wind,
And life itself might be a prize
The heart would leave behind.*

*But now I know the depth of love,
And it was worth the pain,
Though not for love nor life would I
Go through that hell again!*

Poem provided by MMF

DIAH Banquet Facility

If you have a relative, such as a niece, nephew, or grandchildren who are getting married and looking for a nice place to hold a party - we will give them the same discount price as a club member. The Hall is willing to work very close with them. The Club does need the business. **DIA Hall** is a beautiful banquet facility and provides long lasting memories - for those special occasions.

For further information, please call **Diana Holmes** at (734) 285-4044. We would like to book your party and give us an opportunity to serve you.

A Message from Fay Palazzolo

Fay would like to thank **Pina Milewski, Elisa Norscia, Hermine Norscia, Lina Frassetto, Joyce Mitra, Rosalie Martino and Leona Vizzini** for bringing dessert to the January membership meeting - all were very delicious.

Grace Asteriou and Vincenza (Vinnie) DiClaudio have volunteered to bring dessert to the February membership meeting. If you would like to bring a dessert, please contact **Fay Palazzolo** at (734) 282-0539.

Memorial Mass for the Club Deceased

Florence Coleman suggested the Club have an annual Memorial Mass for the deceased club members. The mass will be at a local church. After the mass, there will be a luncheon. This will be in early November.

We are looking for the names of members who passed away in the 70's, 80's and early 90's.

Florence is looking for suggestions; please give her a call at (734)281-7126

Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: **Leta Bommarito, Charlie Lupo, Fara Parrino, and Fannie Passalacqua.** Get Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491 of anyone who is ill.

Condolence to the family of **Don and Emilia (Mimi) Kerr** on the death of Don's father, **James S. Kerr**, who passed away on January 20, 2009 at the age of 93. Condolence to **Linda Kerr** on the death of her father-in-law.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Frances Vitale (2/4)</i>	<i>Gerald Conz (2/19)</i>
<i>Grace Asteriou (2/5)</i>	<i>John Gustaf (2/19)</i>
<i>Elisa Norscia (2/6)</i>	<i>Anthony Salvati (2/19)</i>
<i>Marianna Curcuru (2/7)</i>	<i>Leona Vizzini (2/19)</i>
<i>Frank Liberati (2/7)</i>	<i>Stephanie Parrino (2/22)</i>
<i>Michael Olevnik (2/9)</i>	<i>Ted Brockway (2/23)</i>
<i>Don Capezza (2/12)</i>	<i>Florence Coleman (2/23)</i>
<i>Fara DiMaria (2/12)</i>	<i>Fara Parrino (2/23)</i>
<i>Gloria Frassetto (2/12)</i>	<i>Connie Militello (2/24)</i>
<i>Appolonia Lentini (2/12)</i>	<i>Henry LeSage (2/25)</i>
<i>Joan Cadorin (2/13)</i>	<i>Don Jenson (2/26)</i>
<i>Christopher Dingell (2/13)</i>	<i>Marie Pagnucco (2/26)</i>
<i>Rose Lupo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sam Cosentino (2/27)</i>
<i>Antonio Palazzolo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sue Lupo (2/27)</i>
<i>Frank Bianchi (2/15)</i>	<i>James Morrin (2/27)</i>
<i>Raymond Lucarelli (2/15)</i>	<i>Sam G. Randazzo (2/27)</i>
<i>Norman Tabaka Sr. (2/16)</i>	<i>Joe Agrusa (2/28)</i>
<i>Anthony Militello (2/17)</i>	<i>Vita Alastra (2/28)</i>
<i>Rosalie Lopetrone (2/18)</i>	<i>Maria Chirco (2/28)</i>
<i>Shirley Bommarito (2/19)</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>Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)</i>
<i>Salvatore and Caterina Vitale (2/14)</i>
<i>Edward and Susan Palermo (2/20)</i>
<i>Pietro and Filocia Biundo (2/23)</i>
<i>Gaetano (Tony) and Gina DiCarlo (2/25)</i>
<i>Martin and Rosalie Shimkus (2/25)</i>

Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

Barbara (Ferrara) Lawrence of Southgate, MI. Sponsored by **Frank Giannotti**.

Patricia Graziani of Southgate, MI. Sponsored by **Alfonso Stralle**.

Rosalie Martino of Dearborn, MI. Sponsored by **Mary Cottone**.

Financial Planning

Dan was a single person living at home with his father and working in the family business. When he found out he was going to inherit a fortune when his sickly father dies, he decided he needed a wife with which to share his fortune.

One evening at an investment meeting, he spotted the most beautiful woman he had ever seen. Her natural beauty astounded him.

"I may look like just an ordinary man," he said to her, "but in just a few years, my father will die, and I'll inherit \$20 million."

Impressed, the woman obtained his business card...and three days later, she became his stepmother.

Women are so much better at financial planning than men.

Calendar of Coming Events

Feb. 19, 2009 **Soup and Salad Luncheon.**

Mary Cottone + Membership.

Feb. 21, 2009 **Mardi Gras Celebration.**

Lina M Giannotti, Nick Rigney, Stephen and Rita (Trupiano) Daus.

Mar. 15, 2009 **St. Joseph Day Celebration.**

F. Coleman, N. Cosentino, G. Pizzo and S. DiPasquale + Membership.

Mar. 19, 2009 **Soup and Salad Luncheon.**

Mary Cottone + Club Membership.

Apr. 3, 10, 2009 .. **Easter Lent Fish Fry.**

Jeanne Catering and DIA Hall Board.

April 12, 2009 **Easter Brunch.**

Jeanne Catering and DIA Hall Board.

April 15, 2009 **April Pasta Event.**

Pasta Committee + 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, February 19, 2009

Thursday, March 19, 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

is Presenting the

36th 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

Buffet Dinner Follows the Pageant

Adults: \$7.00

Children – 10 and under: \$3.50

All donation is given to charities - helping children and needy families in our community.

This event is open to the public

Invite your family and friends

May St. Joseph Bless You and Bring You Joy



MARDI GRAS CELEBRATION



Saturday, February 21st, 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!
"The Cakewalkin' Jass 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 Andoullie 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.