The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

**** IMPORTANT DATES ****

May 2009 NEWSLETTER Board of Directors Meeting...... Tuesday, May 12, 2009, 7:00 p.m. General Membership Meeting Sunday, May 24, 2009, 6:30 p.m.

 \cap

DOWNRIVER ITALIAN-AMERICAN CLUB

38th Year, 1971-2009

_0



A Message from the Club President



Here we are in May and the weather started to warm up. Maybe a bit too early? I started seeding my plants in my sunroom and they are now ready to be transplanted to the garden. I took the fig trees out of the garage and they are now sprouting with new leafs and the first round of figs. Like a typical

Italian, we need to continue growing these plants as they bring back childhood memories. This year Joe and Dolly Chirco brought me a lemon tree from Florida. The plant has lots of little fruits and I will enjoy drinking water with the freshly squeezed lemons this summer.

In April, the Club had two Fish Fry events. We had a nice turn out. Then followed the Easter Brunch which was a huge success, with some 450 meals served.

I want to encourage our members, their friends and the public to attend the blood drive scheduled during June. This is an excellent opportunity for you to give the gift of life to someone in need of blood. See attached article regarding the blood drive for our member Phyllis Cottone.

The Club By-Laws changes were approved by the membership. See attached article.

Italy had a terrible earthquake in the region of Abruzzi. Many lives were lost, along with the destruction of homes, buildings, churches and medieval monuments. A relief fund has been set up. See attached article.

Mother's Day Buffet is on May 10th. Please join us. Bring your family and friends. This is open to the public. The food is second to none. Enjoy eating at our beautiful banquet hall.

This month's Pasta Event is on May 20th. Please come and help out during the preparation and the serving. Mark Grazioli has always stated we have a bunch of wonderful people who come every month. We do make a great team and the work gets done without any conflict. If you cannot help, then come and invite your friends to enjoy the delicious Barilla pasta with freshly made sauce and meatballs, along with a sausage. These monthly events are open to the public.

The Taste of Italy is scheduled for May 6th. Tony Lumia always has a good attendance. The food from local restaurants is simply outstanding. You will not be disappointed with the fine sampling from these vendors.

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

Frank Giannotti, Club President

Club By-Laws Changes Results

Voting took place at the April 26, 2009 General Membership Meeting to approve or reject the By-Laws changes proposed. Mark Grazioli provided an overhead presentation and a discussion session for the members in attendance. The members overwhelmingly approved all the changes proposed. The changes are needed to make the club viable in the coming years, while riding through these poor economic times

The By-laws committee consisted of Mark Grazioli, Frank Giannotti, Vito A. Trupiano, Sadie Kusic and Janice Labadie.

Abruzzi Earthquake Relief Fund

The region of Abruzzi, in central-east Italy, experienced a devastating earthquake on Monday, April 6, 2009 at around 3:32 AM (9:32 PM Sunday, Detroit time) reducing many homes, buildings, churches and other medieval landmarks to rubble. The magnitude 6.3 quake covered an area of 230 square miles, with the quake epicenter near the province city of L'Aquila. The surrounding towns in the regions were also hit by the quake. Tremors were observed as far away as Rome. Many people were asleep and became trapped from the caving of roofs and upper floors of building and homes. The death toll has reached over 300, including 20 children and teens. The aftershocks continue to be felt today. Many people are now housed in tents. Can you imagine a situation where you lost your house, car and loved ones to this nature's catastrophe?

The Downriver Italian-American Club has organized a relief fund, the Abruzzi Earthquake Relief Fund, to collect monetary donations to help out the earthquake victims. We will coordinate our effort with the ItalianAmerican Cultural Society, Clinton Township, MI (586) 228-3030, along with the Consul of Italy, Dr. Marco Nobili (313) 963-8560, of Detroit.

If anyone wishes to make a donation, please send a check or money order to:

ABRUZZI EARTHQUAKE RELIEF FOUND

c/o Downriver Italian-American Club

646 Biddle Avenue

Wyandotte, MI. 48192-2727

We will see that the donations go to the needy people of this devastating event. The Club can be reached at (734) 285-4044 for any questions.

Thank you for your kind generosity, **Frank A. Giannotti, Chairperson**

Mother's Day Buffet - Sunday, May 10

There will be a Mother's Day Dinner Buffet on **Mother's Day, Sunday, May 10, 2009** between the hours of 12:00 noon and 5:00 p.m. at the **Downriver Italian**-**American Hall**. See the attached flyer for the meal selection. Advanced tickets are:

\$17.00 per Adult, \$16.00 for Seniors, and \$8.00 for Children between 4 and 10 years of age. Tickets purchased at the door are \$1.00 more. See the attached flyer for further information. It is suggested you call early and make your reservation. Last reservation is at 4:00 pm.

This event is open to the <u>General Public</u>. Advise your family, friends and neighbors. There is no need to spend time waiting in long lines at restaurants, when you can be accommodated immediately at the Hall. Your seating time will be based on a schedule to avoid over-crowding. Make your reservations early.

For further information and ticket sales, please contact **Diana Holmes** at the Hall (734) 285-4044.

Pasta Event - Wednesday May 20, 2009



Our first Spaghetti Lunch and Dinner of the year was held on Wednesday April 15, 2009. We served a total of 500 dinners.

Seventy Club members volunteered their time for this event, either on Tuesday when we do most of the cooking or on Wednesday when we are open to the public. Included were three members who had not previously worked at the Spaghetti Dinners. They were **Maria** (Giannotti) Chirco, Rosalie Martino and her mother Rosina Martino. The dinners are always on the third (3rd) Wednesday of the month through October. Our next Spaghetti Dinner will be Wednesday May 20, 2009. <u>On</u> Wednesday, lunch is from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and dinner is from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. If you have any ideas on how to improve the event, please give me, Mark Grazioli, a call at (734)671-5884. New faces are always welcome. Those of you who have helped in the past are greatly appreciated – we have one of the finest group of members who support us month after month. Thank you.

If you cannot work, another way to support our Pasta Event is to come yourself (and your spouse) and bring as many new friends as possible. Where else can you get a meal for that cost? **Mark Grazioli - Chairman**

A Blood Drive for Phyllis Cottone

Club member, **Phyllis Cottone**, is hospitalized with a blood disorder. She has been in the hospital for some time and is very sick. She needs fresh supply of blood to stay alive. **Mary Cottone** (her niece) suggested DIAC do a blood drive at the Club hall to provide blood for Phyllis and others like her.

The American Red Cross will schedule a blood drive sometime in June at the hall. If you can give blood, please call **Mary Cottone at (734)285-1563** and she will let you know the date and time for this drive. Please advise your family and friends of this important life-giving donation.

Mary asked if Club members can bake and bring cookies a minimum of 45 donors are needed to make this blood drive a go. Phyllis thanks you for your kind deed.

DIAC Golf Outing – July 25, 2009

The Young Members of the Club are sponsoring a **Golf Outing** on **Saturday**, **July 25**, **2009**, at **Westburn Golf Club** in South Rockwood. It includes 18 holes of Golf, a Power Cart, Lunch prior to shotgun start, and Steak/Chicken Barbeque Dinner after the golf. It will be a team (4 Person) scramble

with a shotgun start in the morning.

The cost is \$65 for members and \$70 for non-members.

We are also looking for companies to sponsor a hole. The cost is minimal. What a deal! See the attached flyer for more details.

If you want to golf, but do not have a foursome give us a call and we will fit you in with other golfers.

Deadline for reservation and payment is July 11th.

For further information, please contact: Gaetano (Guy) Vitale (313) 914-2400 Tony Lumia (313) 565-0671

Bus Trip on the Horizon



Windsor Raceway – Wednesday, May 29, 2009 – Windsor, Ontario Canada.

This is a one day event. Round trip

transportation provided via a deluxe highway motor coach. Restroom equipped and reclining seats.

The cost is \$15.00 per person. Each passenger will receive a \$15.00 lunch voucher and a \$10.00 slot voucher.

The Bianco Bus will be departing at 11:00 am and returning at around 7:00 pm.

DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENT:

Your tour will be taking you into Canada. All passengers are required to present proof of citizenship. The following forms are acceptable:

1 – Passport.

2 - Certified Birth Certificate (not a photocopy).

3 - Certificate of Naturalization or Certificate of Citizenship.

You should <u>ALSO</u> have a **valid driver's license** or **government I.D. card**. It is essential that you have on of these forms of proof. A passport is the best documentation.

A Niagara Falls trip is tentatively scheduled for October 28, 2009. Please contact **Nancy DiPasquale at (734) 282-1644**. Mail your check (made out to: **Bianco Tours**) to: Nancy DiPasquale 13426 Mulberry

Southgate, MI 48195-2499.

May In Bloom

May is so beautiful: Orchards are fair; Branches of fruit trees Make gardens of air. Flowers of fragrance Bloom in the light; *Fall like the snowflakes* Showering white. Orchards of heaven Grow with a grace, And like a blessing Perfume the place. Each tree in blossom, Each lovely spray, In this month of Our Lady, Bring glory to May. Helen Maring

Festa Della Repubblica

The Italian-American Cultural Society will once again be hosting the Italian Independence Day, Festa Della Repubblica, on Sunday, June 7, 2009, at the Italian American Cultural Center, 43843 Romeo Plank Rd, Clinton Township, MI 48038. The program begins at 2:00 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. This is a yearly event at the Cultural Center. Many Italian clubs will be represented, along with prominent guest speakers, live entertainment, with ethnic food and desserts from the various clubs. The event is open to the general public. This event is co-sponsored by **The Council of Presidents**, **COMITES**, **I.C.S.A. and the Italian-American Cultural Society**.

Our Club would like to rent a 13 passenger van to take club members and/or guests to this event, from the Club parking lot. The cost for this transportation is unknown at this time. Hopefully we can fill the van and share the travel expenses. We will discuss this event at the May 24th membership meeting.

Feast of the Assumption



Cleveland's **Feast of the Assumption**, held each year in mid-August in the city's Little Italy neighborhood, is a four-day street fair that celebrates the Catholic Day of Assumption (August 15), when the Virgin Mary died and assumed her place beside Jesus.

The **Santa Rosalia Club** is scheduling a bus trip on August 15, 2009 that leaves from the parking lot of Sam's Club (Northline and I-75 in Southgate) at 6:00 AM and returns at 10:00 PM, that same day. The cost is \$28.00 per person. There is a mass at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church at 10:00 am, followed by a 2-mile procession, where the likeness of Virgin Mary is carried thought the neighborhood, accompanied by music and costumed marchers.

During the festivity, there are carnival rides, delicious Italian-themed food vendors, arts and crafts booths, and live music stages.

Deadline to make your reservation is July 1st. The bus seats 52 people. Make your reservation early.

For further information, please contact **Josie or Joe Vitale** at (734)374-9568.

A Message from Fay Palazzolo



Fay would like to thank Mary Caparaotta, Phyllis Gandol, Teresa LeSage and Mimi Kerr for bringing dessert to the April membership meeting - all were very delicious. All complimented how good the

dessert was.

Joyce Mitra, Hermine Norscia, Rosalie Shimkus and **Carmela Stralle** have volunteered to bring dessert to the May membership meeting. If you would like to bring a dessert, please contact **Fay Palazzolo** at **(734) 282-0539**.

Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

Clarice Silveri of Lincoln Park, MI. Sponsored by Frank and Liliana Giannotti.

Scott (Micale) Emmons of Romulus, MI. Sponsored by **Frank and Liliana Giannotti**.

Do You?

Do you pause to see the sunrise? As you start each golden day? Do you stop to watch the sunset In the midst of work or play?

Do you listen to the others As they share their dreams with you? Do you give them inspiration For the great deeds that they do?

Do you give a cheerful greeting To the persons who are sad? Do you reach out, smile and touch them? Do you leave them feeling glad?

Do you give yourself in service? Are your motives good and true? When you spend life helping others They will se God's love in you!

Wm. Arthur Ward

Faith S. Karawan - Born Oct. 8, 2008

Congratulations to Jason and Rosalie (Vitale) Karawan on the birth of their daughter, Faith SaraAnn Karawan – born October 8, 2008. Faith weighed in at 5 lbs – 8 oz, and was 17 ½ inches long. Congratulations to the grandparents Nino and Fara Vitale, along with aunts and uncles: Sam and Serafina Badalamenti, Marco and Jenifer Vitale and Guy and Maria Vitale.

Sick and Good Will



Best Wishes to our members who we have not seen in a long time. Leo DeJohn and Phyllis Cottone remain hospitalized. Marty Shimkus had a hip replacement. Vivian Palazzolo is recuperating from a back surgery. Please keep

them in your prayer. Get Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491 of anyone is ill or will be hospitalized.

Condolence to the family of **Peter S. Badalamente** on the death of his brother **Joseph P. Badalamente**, who passed away on April 19, 2009, in Chicago, at the age of 59. His parents, **Pete and Rosalie Badalamente**, who are both deceased, were very influential club members. Memorial services to be held in Michigan during this summer.

Condolence to the family of **Giuseppe (Joe) and Maria Giammalva** on the death of Maria's brother **Calogero Maenza**, who passed away on April 15, 2009 at the age of 72. Condolence to the family of **Giorlando (Joe) and Rosalie Giammalva**.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

Steven Erno (5/1) Michael Loria (5/1) Mamie Misuraca (5/1) Rosalie Shimkus (5/1) Salvatore Finazzo (5/2) Diana Giaimo (5/2) Vivian Palazzolo (5/2) Bily Tsikaris (5/2) Frank Checchio (5/3) Colleen Tabaka (5/5) Gregory Saucier (5/6) Theresa Talluto (5/8) John Fracassa (5/11) Theresa Klavon (5/11) Viola Birkett (5/13) Joseph Caparaotta (5/13) Barbara Biundo (5/14) Annette Fracassa (4/14) Giovanni Russo (5/14) Pina Tsikaris (5/14) Martha Guastella (5/16) Nancy McFaul (5/19)

Rose Vitale (5/20) Clarice Silveri (5/21) Alfonso Stralle (5/21) Guy A. Vitale (5/21) Rose Zerilli (5/21) Teresa LeSage (5/22) Sam Badalamenti (5/23) Milieo (Leo) DeJohn (5/23) Catherine Sclafani (5/23) Joseph Ventimiglia (5/24) Salvatore Vitale (5/24) Joseph Cacioppo (5/25) Grace Badalamente (5/26) Amy Cosentino (5/27) Gail Melzer (5/27) Jeanette Schiraldi (5/28) Veto Giannola (5/29) Barbara Lawrence (5/29) Lisa Vespa (5/29) Anthony Lazzarino (5/30) Carmela Stralle (5/31)

Happy Anniversary - Felice Anniversario

We wish to extend our Best Wishes for many Happy and Healthy Years together, to our couples who will be Kenneth and Angela Scott (5/01) Gerald and Susan Conz (5/02) Eugene and Catherine Kling (5/05) Gaetano and Laurie Randazzo (5/09) Gaetano and Maria Chirco (5/11) Charles and Gina Cosner (5/12) Patrick and Nina McMahon (5/12) Anthony and Robyn Vitale (5/15) Steven and Marlene Erno (5/17) Antonio and Anna Ventura (5/17) Giovanni and Gertrude Ventura (5/24) Salvatore and Giovanna Vitale (5/24) Marco and Jennifer Vitale (5/24) Douglas and Gail Melzer (5/27) Mike and Nina Palazzolo (5/29) Frank and Emma Checchio (5/31) Frank and Fara Pizzo (5/31)

The Purple Hat

When a woman looks in the mirror...

AGE 3: She looks at herself and sees a Queen!

AGE 8: She looks at herself and sees herself as Cinderella/Sleeping Beauty.

AGE 15: She looks at herself and sees herself as Cinderella/Sleeping Beauty/Cheerleader or if she is PMS'ing sees Fat/Pimples/Ugly ("Mom I can't go to school looking like this!)

AGE 20: She looks at herself and sees too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly - but decides she's going anyway.

AGE 30: She looks at herself and sees too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly – but, decides she doesn't have time to fix it, she's going anyway.

AGE 40: She looks at herself and sees too fat/too thin, too short/too tall, too straight/too curly – but says, "At least I'm clean" and goes anyway.

AGE 50: She looks at herself and sees "I am" and goes wherever she wants to go.

AGE 60: She looks at herself and reminds herself of all the people who can't even see themselves in the mirror anymore. She goes out and conquers the world.

AGE 70: She looks at herself & sees wisdom, laughter and ability, goes out and enjoys life.

AGE 80: She doesn't bother to look. She just puts on a purple hat and goes out to have fun with the world.

How Spring Arrived

My sweet dreams of sleep drifted off with the moon, as the warm sun arose like a golden balloon.

Then the soft, morning light made the stars pale and dim while a musical breeze hummed a soft, joyous hymn, and a choir of birds sang a chorus or two till the grey light of dawn turned a heavenly blue.

Soon, all I surveyed held a beauty to see from the dew on the grass to a blossoming tree, and a delicate fragrance, again, filled the air as the cold woes of winter had said their last prayer.

Then, a spirit within me said, "Yes, you've survived," and that was how spring, with its pleasures, arrived. Charles Roach

If I Had My Life To Live Over...

(Written after she found out she was dying from cancer)

- I would have gone to bed when I was sick instead of pretending the earth would go into a holding pattern if I weren't there for the day.
- I would have burned the pink candle sculpted like a rose before it melted in storage.
- I would have talked less and listened more.
- I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained, or the sofa faded.
- I would have eaten the popcorn in the 'good' living room and worried much less about the dirt when someone wanted to light a fire in the fireplace.

- I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.
- I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband.
- I would never have insisted the car windows be rolled up on a summer day because my hair had just been teased and sprayed.
- I would have sat on the lawn with my grass stains.
- I would have cried and laughed less while watching television and more while watching life.
- I would never have bought anything just because it was practical, wouldn't show soil, or was guaranteed to last a lifetime.
- Instead of wishing away nine months of pregnancy, I'd have cherished every moment and realized that the wonderment growing inside me was the only chance in life to assist God in a miracle.
- When my kids kissed me impetuously, I would never have said, 'Later. Now go get washed up for dinner.' There would have been more 'I love you's' More 'I'm sorry's.'
- But mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute, look at it and really see it... live it and never give it back. STOP SWEATING THE SMALL STUFF!!!
- Don't worry about who doesn't like you, who has more, or who's doing what. Instead, let's cherish the relationships we have with those who do love us. Erma Bombeck

Calendar of Coming Events

May 20, 2009 May Pasta Event.
Pasta Committee + Club Membership.
June 17, 2009 June Pasta Event.
Pasta Committee + Club Membership.
July 4, 2009 Wyandotte Independence Day Parade.
Mary Cottone and Friends.
July 25, 2009 Annual Golf Outing.
Gaetano Vitale, T Lumia, M Grazioli.
July 26, 2009 Annual Picnic Event.
Mike/Vivian Palazzolo + Club Board.
Oct. 3, 2009 "Dancing with the Stars".
Phyllis Gandol, J Labadie, M Wierzba

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

©2009 Downriver Italian-American Club. All rights reserved. The D.I.A.C. logo is a trademark of the Downriver Italian-American Club.



Downriver Italian-American Club

Presents the Fifth Annual:

2009 DIAC Golf Outing **"Get into the Swing of Things"** Golf Scramble

Saturday, July 25th, 2009

Westburn Golf Club 5617 S. Huron River Drive South Rockwood, MI (Located between Telegraph & I-75, Exit 26)

Registration and Lunch: 12:30-1:30pm Shotgun Start: 1:30pm Dinner & Awards immediately following



Includes: 18 holes of golf Powered golf cart Lunch prior to shotgun start Steak/Chicken Barbeque Dinner Contests, raffles and prizes!



Cost: \$65 per member & \$70 per non-member

Reservations with payment only, due: July 11th, 2009 Four-some groups preferred.

Sign Sponsorship: Have your company sign advertised at a tee box for only \$50. (Non-members will receive member's cost for golf with a sign sponsorship)

For more information, contact: Gaetano Vitale – (313) 914-2400 home or (248) 320-2196 mobile Tony Lumia – (313) 565-0671

I (We) will be attending the **DIAC Golf Scramble on Saturday**, **July 25th**, **2009** This ticket and payment must be received <u>no later than July 11th</u>, 2009.

Team Members (Player1 to be main contact)	Steak or Chicken?	Phone Number	Payment Enclosed?
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			

Sign Sponsorship – Company Name: ______ Contact Phone #:_____

Make checks payable to: Downriver Italian-American Club. Total Amount Enclosed: \$_____

Mail form and check to: Gaetano Vitale 🕭 8920 Robert St. 🅭 Taylor, MI 48180



Jeanne's Catering and the



Wyandotte, MI 48192



Mother's Day Buffet (All You Can Eat)

Sunday May 10, 2009 12:00 noon – 5:00 pm (Last Reservation at 4:00 pm) Call Now for Your Reservation - (734) 285-4044

Chef Carved Beef Sirloin, Baked Ham with Pineapple Sauce, Fish Florentine, Italian Sausage w/Peppers and Onions, Chicken Chablis, Pork Marsale, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy, Bow Tie Pasta with Pesto Sauce, Salads, Relishes, Cheese & Crackers, Chicken Noodle Soup, Peel & Eat Shrimp. Dessert Table Which Includes Jeanne's Signature "Carmel French Toast," Coffee & Tea

Cash Bar Available



Adults – \$17.00 in Advance / \$18.00 at the Door Seniors (62+) – \$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



2009 Pasta Events

Choice of Spaghetti or Penne Pasta Meatballs, Salad, Roll, Dessert, Coffee or Tea

The Downriver Italian-American Club

646 Biddle Avenue (North of Goddard) Wyandotte, MI 48192-2727

(734) 285-4044

Wednesday, April 15, 2009	Wednesday, May 20 2009
Wednesday, June 17, 2009	Wednesday, July 15, 2009
Wednesday, August 19, 2009	Wednesday, September 16, 2009
Wednesday, October 21, 2009	3 rd Wednesday of each Month



Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Dinner: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.



Adults: \$7.00 (Same Low Price as Last Year) Children 10 & Under: \$4.00 Sausage addition for \$1.50





Delicious Meat Sauce and Meatballs Available for Take-Home Enjoy a Delicious Italian Home Cooked Meal Public Welcome – Advise and Bring Your Friends



Banquet Hall Available for Public Rental

 \land