



39th Year, 1971-2010

The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

** IMPORTANT DATES **

January 2010 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Jan. 12, 2010, 7:00 p.m.

General Membership Meeting..... Sunday, Jan. 24, 2010, 6:30 p.m.



Buon Anno - Happy New Year, 2010!

2010 Club Membership Dues

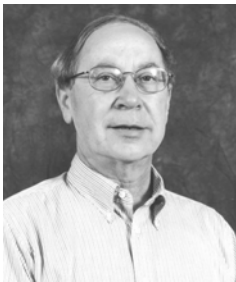
The 2010 membership dues are now payable. The dues are \$30.00 for a member who is single and \$60.00 for a married couple. The dues can be paid at the general membership meeting or you can mail a check or money order, payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club**, to: **Leslie Lupo, 459 Cedar, Wyandotte, MI 48192-4301**. Your receipt and membership card(s) will be mailed with the upcoming newsletter the month after we process your dues. The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2010**.

For Honorary Members, the dues are \$15.00 for a single member and \$30.00 for a married couple. Members who pay dues will receive the newsletter mailed to their house. The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2010**.

The newsletter is available at the club website, www.diac.us. Members that have internet access, can read or download the newsletter and thus save the club printing and postage cost. Let **Frank Giannotti** know.

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.

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**, along with their son, daughter and her family. We enjoy the family gathering and traditions.

The **Member's Christmas Dinner Dance** was a big success, good food, good music, wonderful gifts and a fine atmosphere. Many thanks to **Sadie Kusic** and **Leona Vizzini** for the excellent decorations, the beautiful chair covers, and the lovely prizes. Photos taken at the event can be viewed at the club website.

The Children's Christmas party was another successful event. Thanks to **Sera Badalamenti** and **Jenifer Vitale** (and the many helpers) for providing an excellent atmosphere for the children. Special guest was Santa. Photos taken at the event can be viewed at the club website.

A special thank-you to **Nick and Karen Caputo** for cleaning the scuff marks on the dance floor and restoring the surface to a near new condition. Nick and Karen donated all the materials for the restoration.

Our first **Winter Luncheon** is coming up on January 20. Please attend and invite your family and friends - make this a successful event.

In 2010, 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 successful year. We will continue to ride through the poor economic times. We would love to see more young members at our events or see them organize event(s) for which they'll participate and enjoy.

We hope this newsletter finds all of you in good health. My wife Lilibian and I (and my family) wish you the Very Best for the New Year and may God Bless you and your family.

Frank A. Giannotti, Club President

2010 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**

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- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 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 thank them for their leadership in guiding the Club through the coming year.

Soup and Salad Luncheon



The Hall Board will be sponsoring a Winter **Luncheon** on Jan. 20, Feb. 24 and Mar. 17. The meal entries are: Chicken Noodle Soup, Minestrone Soup, Antipasto Salad along with a dessert. In March, the meal is Corned Beef and cabbage. **Mary Cottone** is chairing this event. Club Chef **Jeanne Liedel** will prepare the food. **Mary** is looking for volunteers to help out. See attached flyer and make the flyer available for display at bulletin boards of your favorite business establishment.

Contact **Mary Cottone** at (734)285-1563 or (734)285-4044.

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 2009. 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 21, 2010.

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 21st. 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 35 years. We have donated nearly \$90,000.00 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 35th 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** (Cora St.) at (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 helping the needy in this area.

Florence Coleman -- (734) 281-7126

Nancy Cosentino -- (313) 383-0350

Grace Pizzo -- (734) 379-9491

"Bring in the Spring Dinner Show"

There will be a "Bring in the Spring Dinner Show" at the DIA Hall on Saturday, March 27, 2010. The show will host the personalities of celebrities like **Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Buddy Holly, Cal Roberts** (the Platters) and **Gene Pitney**. They will sing songs that made them famous. It will be like walking back in time and remembering the moments in your life when they were popular hits.

The chairpersons for this event are **Nick Caputo** and **Tony Lumia**. The show will begin with a fine buffet meal. See attached flyer for details.

Be sure to advise your family and friends. This will be a fun night. Tickets are available in January. Please send your reservation to:

Nick Caputo

16400 Dix-Toledo Rd. Apt 401

Southgate, MI 48195-2992

A Blood Drive in January

The American Red Cross will schedule a blood drive on January 6, 2010 at the hall, between the hours of 12:00 noon and 6:00 pm. If you can give blood, please call **Mary Cottone** at (734)285-1563 or **Diana Holmes** at the Hall (734)285-4044 and they will confirm your appointment. Please advise your family and friends of this important life-giving donation.

Mary asked if Club members can bake and bring cookies – the club will provide orange juice. A minimum of 45 donors are needed to make this blood drive a go. God Bless for your kind deed.

Notice of Appreciation

The **Downriver Italian-American Club**, including its Officers and the general membership, wish to extend sincere gratitude for the hard work, dedication and direction to the **DIA Hall Inc.** Board: Chairman **Nino Trupiano**; Vice Chairman **Tony Pietrangelo**; Secretary **Rocky Kaune**; Treasurer **Mary Cottone**; and Director

The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center

Tony Lumia. Their effort is greatly appreciated at operating the Hall Business on a day-to-day basis. Best Wishes for a brighter 2010.

Many Thanks to the Hall Coordinator **Diana Holmes.**

Thanks to our Club Chef **Jeanne Liedel,** who has done an excellent job at meeting the catering needs of the Hall.

2009 was a disappointing year in terms of being profitable. For 2010, we can only hope for an economic upturn that will once again make our Hall Business profitable.

2009 Pasta Events Summary

The final Spaghetti Dinner of the year was held on Wednesday November 11, 2009. We served 588 dinners, for a total of 4,973 dinners for the year. The chairpersons: **Jim Bademian, Frank Giannotti, Mark Grazioli and Tony Lumia** each worked every month and spent many hours in between events, ordering and picking up supplies etc. A special thanks to all of the ninety-five Club members that managed to work at least one monthly event on either Tuesday, Wednesday or both. Also, thank you to the many Club members that attended the events with neighbors and friends. **Our next Spaghetti Dinner will be on Wednesday, April 21, 2010.**

Here are some interesting facts about our dinners. Forty-four of our Club members worked seven of the eight months, for which we held the dinners. Thirty of our Club members worked either Tuesday or Wednesday of each month and eleven of our club members worked every Tuesday and Wednesday of each month. Again thanks, because without this kind of commitment there would be no dinners.

At our last dinner, we shared the profits with **Saint Elizabeth's Parish,** which is in need of funds for a roof repair. We donated \$1,189 to the church for this project. An unidentified benefactor has pledged to match the sales at the door, which exceeded \$5,000. We hope to see all of our helpers in 2010. May we have a better year.

Lead Chairperson, Mark S. Grazioli

Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: **Lil Agrusa, Grace Asteriou, Pauline Barraco, Rosalie Giaimo, Joe Kusic, Ann Lepidi, Nancy Kaune, Vivian Palazzolo, Fara Pizzo, Sam G. Randazzo, Maria Sclafani and Caterina Vitale.** 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 family of **Joann Pagano** on the death of her mother, **Connie Pagano,** who passed away on December 7, 2009 at the age of 82. Connie and her late husband **Paul** were original members of club. They were very active in our club, until they moved to Florida. They would always keep our club in high regards.

Condolences to the family of **Damiano and Piera Vitale** on the death of Piera's sister, **Giovanna (Vitale) Manzella,** who passed away on December 12, 2009, in Cinisi, Sicily, at the age of 73. Condolences to **Angelo and Rosalia (Lia) Giannotti** and baby **Nicholas,** on the death of Lia's aunt.

Our deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of our deceased members. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed thru the mercy of God, rest in peace.

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>Marie Vitale (1/14)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (1/2)</i>	<i>Grace Pizzo (1/16)</i>
<i>Emma Checchio (1/4)</i>	<i>Rosalie Agrusa (1/18)</i>
<i>Pat Mastrogiacomo (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>Mark Grazioli (1/22)</i>
<i>Jack Favazza (1/6)</i>	<i>Salvatore Randazzo (1/22)</i>
<i>Miriam Lumia (1/6)</i>	<i>Joyce Pietrangelo (1/23)</i>
<i>Anthony Vitale (1/6)</i>	<i>Leta Bommarito (1/24)</i>
<i>Johnpaul Finazzo (1/9)</i>	<i>Peter Badalamente (1/25)</i>
<i>Frank Pizzo (1/11)</i>	<i>Marty Shimkus (1/25)</i>
<i>Joe Pagano (1/12)</i>	<i>Catherine Rotondo (1/26)</i>
<i>Lina Scipione (1/12)</i>	<i>Rita (Trupiano) Dauss (1/27)</i>
<i>Maria Sclafani (1/12)</i>	<i>Nino Trupiano (1/28)</i>
<i>Caterina Vitale (1/12)</i>	<i>Catherine Bagnasco (1/30)</i>
<i>Penny Bardinelli (1/13)</i>	<i>Giacinto Simone (1/30)</i>
<i>Lilla Vitale (1/13)</i>	<i>Noreen Battaglia (1/31)</i>
<i>Pierina Franzese (1/14)</i>	<i>Mamie Vitale (1/31)</i>
<i>Angela Scott (1/14)</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 anniversaries this month.

Veto and Rita Giannola (1/4)
Vincenzo and Lilla Vitale (1/4)
Frank and Barbara Bianchi (1/9)
Fioravante and Hermine Norscia (1/12)
John and Barbara Russo (1/12)
Larry and Joan Luzac (1/20)

Fay's Angels

Special thanks to the members who help prepare the snack at the monthly membership meetings. Attached is a note from Fay Palazzolo.

I'd like to take this time to thank my Angels for helping setup and serve: **Nancy Marcantonio, Mary Cottone, Pina Milewski, Shirley Cavataio, Stella Marzano, Grace Pizzo, Piera Vitale and Rose Pagano.**

And last, but not least, the gentlemen who helped set up the tables: **Damiano Vitale and Vincenzo Vitale.**

Fay would like to thank all the ladies that brought dessert to the membership meeting this year - everyone was delighted.

Another Message from Fay Palazzolo

Fay would like to thank **Shirley Cavataio, Theresa (Caparaotta) LeSage, Nancy Marcantonio and Pina Milewski** for bringing dessert to the November membership meeting. The dessert was very delicious.

Phyllis Gandol, Mary Lavine and Francesca (Ciccina) Vitale have volunteered to bring dessert to the January 24th membership meeting. If you would like to bring a dessert, please contact **Fay Palazzolo** at (734) 282-0539.

A Senior Moment

A spinster of 92, had finally consented to go to a rest home, but strictly on a two week trial basis. Consequently, she took a small overnight case with only the bare essentials.

A couple of days later her niece was surprised to get a phone call from her demanding more clothes.

"Please bring me that good black silk, my lavender print, the brown wool..." and she went on and on. Finally, after a brief questioning from her niece, Aunt Mary expostulated: "There are MEN in this place!"

Letter from the Consul of Italy - Detroit

This letter was received from the Italian Consulate of Detroit regarding our Club's effort in organizing the Abruzzo Earthquake Relief Fund.

Dear Mr. Giannotti:

I wish to thank you once again for your message wherein you kindly advised me of the efforts of the Downriver Italian-American Club on behalf of the victims of the devastating earthquake in the Abruzzo Region.

Please accept my heartfelt gratitude for the generosity of all the members of the Club. The allocation of the funds to build a school in Cugnoli is particularly touching, as the charitable contributions of your organization will benefit the youngest residents of the ravaged area.

In thanking you for the courtesy shown me, I convey to you and to all the members of the Downriver Italian-American Club my renewed appreciation for your generous relief efforts for the Abruzzo Earthquake.

Sincerely, **Consul of Italy, Marco Nobili**

DIA Hall 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** or **Mary Cottone** at (734) 285-4044. We would like to book your party and give us an opportunity to serve you.

Calendar of Coming Club Events

- Jan. 20, 2010** **2010 Winter Buffet Luncheon.**
Mary Cottone, Helpers, DIA Hall Board.
- Feb. 24, 2010** **2010 Winter Buffet Luncheon.**
Mary Cottone, Helpers, DIA Hall Board.
- Mar. 17, 2010** **St. Patrick's Corned Beef Buffet Meal.**
Mary Cottone, Helpers, DIA Hall Board.
- Mar. 21, 2010** **St. Joseph Day Celebration.**
F. Coleman, N. Cosentino and G. Pizzo families.
- Mar. 27, 2010** **"Bring in the Spring Dinner Show."**
Nick Caputo, Tony Lumia and Others.

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

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Downriver Italian-American Banquet Hall

646 Biddle Ave. Wyandotte, MI 48192

Proudly Presents

Bring in the Spring Dinner Show

Saturday, March 27, 2010

Featuring:

LEGENDS LIVE

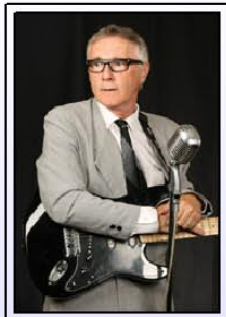
Michigan's #1 Tribute Show



Dean Martin



Frank Sinatra



Buddy Holly

Cal Roberts



Gene Pitney



Singing the hits of the Platters

TICKETS \$38.00 Includes Dinner & Show (Cash Bar) Beer \$2.00 / Well Mix Drinks \$3.00

DINNER @ 6:30 PM - SHOW @ 8:00 PM

For reservations or more information please call

D.I.A Banquet Hall 734-285-4044 / Nick Caputo 734-281-3556 / Tony Lumia 313-565-0671

Legends Live is produced by Empire Entertainment & JC Productions (www.legendslive.com)

The Downriver Italian-American Hall®

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

2010 Winter Luncheon

Wednesday - January 20, 2010

Wednesday - February 24, 2010

Meal prepared by Hall Chef Jeanne Liedel

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



~ Menu ~

Chicken Soup
Minestrone Soup
Antipasto Salad
Coffee or Tea
Dessert

Beverage Available



Wednesday - March 17, 2010

St. Patrick Celebration

Buffet Meal from 11:00 am to 7:00 pm



~ Menu ~

Corned Beef and Cabbage
Coffee or Tea
Dessert

Beverage Available



♣ **Open to the General Public** ♣

\$8.00 per Person



Bring your family and friends

For sales & information, please contact:

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

The Downriver Italian-American Banquet and Conference Center®

