



40th Year, 1971-2011

# The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

## \*\* IMPORTANT DATES \*\*

## February 2011 NEWSLETTER

Club Board of Directors Meeting ..... Tuesday, Feb. 8, 2011, 7:00 p.m.  
General Membership Meeting..... Sunday, Feb. 27, 2011, 6:30 p.m.



## "Legends Live" Valentine Show - Feb. 12

### 2011 Club Membership Dues



The 2011 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: **Frank A. Giannotti, 14823 Williamsburg Blvd., Riverview, MI 48193-7703**. 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, 2011**.

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, 2011**.

The newsletter is available at the club website, [www.diac.us](http://www.diac.us). Members that have internet access can read and download the newsletter, while saving the club in printing and postage. Let **Frank Giannotti** know if you wish to be notified when the newsletter is available at the website.

### A Message from the Club President



The **Presidential Ball** was a very nice event and the officers were sworn in by the **Honorable Judge Christopher Dingell**, for the next two years. In April of this year, the Club will have been in existence for forty (40) years. One suggested celebration is to take a cruise on the Detroit River from downtown Wyandotte, with a

dinner either before or after the cruise. A committee is looking into the cruise and other options. One other option of course would be a trip to Italy. If you have any suggestions, please call **Florence Coleman** or **Leslie Lupo**.

Upcoming events in February and March include the following:

**Legends Live Valentine Show** - Saturday February 12, 2011.

### St. Joseph Celebration - Sunday March 20, 2011.

At the January General Membership meeting, there was a discussion about renting a bus and attending a Tiger baseball game as a group, this summer. We would need 15 or more to participate in the Tigers Senior Program. I will be checking on the availability and cost for a bus. Based on the reaction at the meeting, it looks like we may be going to a game this June.

**Frank Giannotti**, the Financial Corresponding Secretary, is now accepting dues for the year 2011.

**Mark S. Grazioli, Club President**

### The Gift of Valentine

A Valentine is so much more  
Than a box of candy and a card,  
It's a feeling you'll always cherish  
A love you'll always guard.  
It's a shame we have to wait all year  
Just so we can say,  
I think you're someone special  
In a very special way.  
So here's saying Happy Valentine's Day  
Each day the whole year through,  
And may everyone have someone to love  
As warm and kind as you.

[www.tcastle.com](http://www.tcastle.com)

### "Legends Live" Valentine Dinner Show



The **Downriver Italian-American Hall** will once again host the "**Legends Live**" on Saturday, February 12, 2011. This will be the **Valentine Show**, complete with dinner, featuring tributes to: **Patsy Cline, the Everly Brothers, Roy Orbison, Johnny Mathis and Gene Pitney**. It's a wonderful combo of their oldies songs and performance. A great opportunity to reflect on the moments in your life when they were a huge hit.

**Nick Caputo** and **Tony Lumia** are chairing this event. The event begins with a superb dinner. Tickets and table reservations are currently available. A flyer will appear in this newsletter.

Be sure to advise your family and friends. **The Event is open to the public.** This will be a fun night. Tickets are now available by calling **Nick Caputo** at (734)281-3556, or **Tony Lumia** (313)565-0671 or by calling the Hall office. (734)285-4044.

Please send your reservation to:

**Nick Caputo**  
16400 Dix-Toledo Rd. Apt 401  
Southgate, MI 48195-2992

### "Legends Live" Spring Show



The Downriver Italian-American Hall will be hosting the "Legends Live" on Saturday, April 30, 2011. This will be the **Spring Show**, complete with dinner, featuring tributes to: **Frankie Valli (of the 4 Seasons)**, **Ray Charles**, **Aretha Franklin**, **Cal Roberts (of the Platters)** and our Detroit own, (local singer, comedian and TV Legend), **Johnny Ginger**. More information is forthcoming in the March newsletter.

### St. Joseph Day Celebration - Mar. 20



The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration - Sunday, March 20, 2011. 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 20<sup>th</sup>. 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 \$92,000.00 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 38<sup>th</sup> 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**

### Are You an Active Member?

Are you an active member,  
the kind that would be missed?

Or are you just contented  
that your name is on the List?

Do you attend the meetings  
and mingle with the flock?

Or do you stay at home  
And criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part  
to help the work along?

Or are you satisfied to be  
the kind who just belongs?

Do you ever work on committees  
to help the job go quick?

Or leave the work for just a few  
and talk about the clique?

So come to the meetings often  
and help with hand and heart.

Don't be just a member,  
but take an active part.

(At the request of Sam and Grace Pizzo)

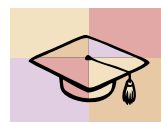
### Congratulating New DIAC Members



Please welcome the following members who recently joined the Downriver Italian American Club:

**David and Rose (Caputo) Zahara** of Woodhaven, MI. They are sponsored by **Nick and Karen Caputo.**

### Educational News



**Angiolina Carlone** proudly announces that her grandson, **Daniel J. Scipione**, is a recipient of this year's **Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship**. Applicants are evaluated on academic record, financial need, caddie record, extracurricular activities, character and presentation during an interview. The scholarship includes tuition and housing and is renewable for up to

four years. Daniel is currently a senior at Woodhaven/Brownstown High School and will be attending University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) this fall. Daniel is the son of **Anselm and Lena Scipione** and is the grandson of **Gilda Scipione** and the late **Victor Scipione**. Daniel is also the grandson of the late Valerio Carbone. The Meadowbrook Country Club in Northville nominated Daniel.

### For You on Valentine's Day

May cupid smile upon you  
And fill your day with cheer,  
And may he whisper softly  
Sweet love thoughts in your ear.

May all of love's enchantment  
Be yours to now possess  
The warmth of fond caresses  
And joys of happiness.

May heaven look upon you  
With everlasting grace,  
And let you find contentment  
In all that you embrace.

### Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were/are ill or hospitalized:

**Grace Pizzo, Joe Kusic, Mike Palazzolo, Vito Trupiano, Sue Lupo and Fara Vitale.**

Get Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491 if you know of anyone who is ill or if there is a death in the family. Please notify the Hall Office regarding a death in the family (734)285-4044. This is a minimum for the Club to spread the news to the membership.

Condolences to the family of **Alfonso and Carmela Stralle** on the death of Alfonso's brother, **Quirino (Jerry) Stralle**, who passed away on January 19, 2011, at the age of 72. Jerry was a former club member.

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

### 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.

*Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)*

*Pietro and Filocia Biundo (2/23)*  
*Martin and Rosalie Shimkus (2/25)*

### 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 (Ciccina) Vitale (2/4)</i>	<i>Rosalie Lopetrone (2/18)</i>
<i>Grace Asteriou (2/5)</i>	<i>Shirley Bommarito (2/19)</i>
<i>Elisa Norscia (2/6)</i>	<i>Gerald Conz (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>Rose Prato (2/9)</i>	<i>Florence Coleman (2/23)</i>
<i>John Graziani (2/10)</i>	<i>Fara Parrino (2/23)</i>
<i>Don Capezza (2/12)</i>	<i>Connie Militello (2/24)</i>
<i>Fara DiMaria (2/12)</i>	<i>Henry LeSage (2/25)</i>
<i>Gloria Frassetto (2/12)</i>	<i>Pat Mastrogiacomo (2/25)</i>
<i>Appolonia Lentini (2/12)</i>	<i>Don Jenson (2/26)</i>
<i>Joan Cadorin (2/13)</i>	<i>Marie Pagnucco (2/26)</i>
<i>Christopher Dingell (2/13)</i>	<i>Sam Cosentino (2/27)</i>
<i>Rose Lupo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sue Lupo (2/27)</i>
<i>Antonio Palazzolo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sam G. Randazzo (2/27)</i>
<i>Frank Bianchi (2/15)</i>	<i>Joe J. Agrusa (2/28)</i>
<i>Raymond Lucarelli (2/15)</i>	<i>Vita Alastra (2/28)</i>
<i>Norman Tabaka Sr. (2/16)</i>	<i>Maria Chirco (2/28)</i>
<i>Anthony Militello (2/17)</i>	

### A Special Thank-You to Our Members



A special Thank-You to club members, **Shirley Cavataio, Mary Lavine and Joyce Mitra**, for bringing dessert to the November membership meeting. The members enjoyed the sweet treat.

**Elisa Norscia, Hermine Norscia and Theresa Herbert** have volunteered to bring dessert to the February 27<sup>th</sup> membership meeting.

### DIA Hall Banquet Facility



If you have a relative, such as a niece, nephew, or grandchild who is 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 closely with them. The Hall does need the business. **DIA Hall** is a beautiful banquet facility and provides long lasting memories for those special occasions in your life.

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.

### Valentine's Love Quotations

"To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead." *Bertrand Russell*

"Love is friendship set to music." *E. Joseph Crossmann*

"Friendship often ends in love; but love in friendship - never." *Charles Caleb Colton*

### A Message of Love for February

In all the world, there is no love for you like mine.

In all the world, there is no love for me like yours.

American poet and author: **Maya Angelou**

### Contacting the DIA Hall During Emergency Situation

Members who wish to contact the Hall during an emergency situation (when the Hall is not staffed), please contact **Mary Cottone** at (313) 689-5313 (cell) or (734) 285-1563 (home). She will forward the information to the Hall coordinator, **Diana Holmes**, the next day. Diana will contact the people and check the Hall for availability. Please provide as much lead time as possible. The Hall telephone number is (734) 285-4044.

### We've Learned that...

We've learned:

*What counts in life is not what we have, but who we have.*

We've Learned:

*There are two ways of spreading light; To be the candle, or the mirror that reflects it.*

We've Learned:

*That unlike opportunity, temptation will knock more than once.*

We've Learned:

*That credentials on the wall do not make us decent human beings.*

We've Learned:

*We don't have to change friends, if we understand that friends change.*

We've Learned:

*No matter how much we care, some people just don't care back.*

We've Learned:

*That even when we think we have no more to give, we find the strength to help, when friends cry out to us.*

We've Learned:

*Sometimes when we're angry we have the right to be angry, but that doesn't give us the right to be cruel.*

We've Learned:

*It takes years to build up trust, and only seconds to destroy it.*

We've Learned:

*We should always leave loved ones with loving words - it may be the last time we see them.*

We've Learned:

*We cannot make someone love us. All we can do is be someone who can be loved. The rest is up to them.*

### To report membership information, please contact:

Member Illness, Death: **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491

Member Death. Notif: **Grace Randazzo** (734)284-7251

Membership Info: **Frank Giannotti** (734)283-7394

**Diana Holmes** (Hall) (734)285-4044

Change of address and

newsletter information: **Frank Giannotti** (734)283-7394

### Calendar of Coming Club/Hall Events

**Feb. 12, 2011** ..... **"Legends Live" Valentine Show.**  
Nick Caputo, Tony Lumia.

**Mar. 20, 2011** ..... **St. Joseph Day Celebration.**  
F. Coleman, N. Cosentino and G. Pizzo and members.

**April 20, 2011** ..... **April – First Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.

**April 30, 2011** ..... **"Legends Live" Spring Show.**  
Nick Caputo, Tony Lumia.

**May 11, 2011** ..... **Taste of Italy – Charity Event.**  
Tony & Miriam Lumia.

**May 18, 2011** ..... **May Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & 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  
Reviewing Editor: CK  
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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The 38<sup>th</sup> Annual  
**St. Joseph Day Celebration**

Sunday, March 20, 2011



Presented by:

The Downriver Italian-American Club

646 Biddle Avenue

Wyandotte, MI 48192

Pageant at 2:00 pm - Admission Free

Buffet Dinner following the Pageant

Adults: \$7.00

Children (10 yr and under): \$3.50

All Donations given to charities.  
Helping children and needy families in our community.

This event is open to the public.  
Invite your family and friends!

Tickets are available for purchase at the door.

For more information, call  
Florence Coleman - (734) 281-7126  
Nancy Cosentino - (313) 383-0350  
Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491  
(734) 285-4044

May St. Joseph Bless You and Bring You Joy

# Downriver Italian-American Banquet Hall

646 Biddle Ave. Wyandotte, MI 48192

# Valentines Show

Saturday February 12th, 2011

Featuring

## LEGENDS LIVE

*Michigan's #1 Tribute Show*



Patsy Cline



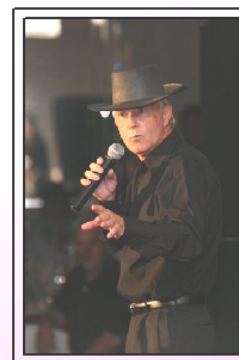
Everly Brothers



Roy Orbison



Johnny Mathis



Gene Pitney

**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 ([www.legendslive.com](http://www.legendslive.com))**