



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 \*\*

## March 2011 NEWSLETTER

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



## St. Joseph Day Celebration - March 20<sup>th</sup>

### 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 cost. Let **Frank Giannotti** know if you wish to be notified when the newsletter is available at the website.

### A Message from the Club President



As February comes to a close in Michigan, we should be able to say goodbye to the cold weather. That's the good news. The bad news is that we could still get snow storm in March.

We have been in discussions with the City of Wyandotte on the vacant property, with 90 feet of frontage on Bennett Street, adjacent to the hall. The city tore down the home last fall. The Board has approved moving forward on acquiring the land. The originally asking price was \$14,400. After some discussion, the City has agreed to a price of \$9,000. In other dealings with the City, **Frank Giannotti** and I appeared before the Wyandotte Municipal Service Commission. Frank spoke on our high electric bills. The Commission charged the General Manager with doing a

study of the problem and will be reporting back to us in three months.

Some have described the February **Legends Live Valentine Show** as the best ever. Big thanks to **Nick and Karen Caputo** along with **Tony and Marian Lumia**. **Jim and Julie Bademian** helped out with the excellent snacks.

In April of this year, the Club will have been in existence for forty years. We are looking into options for a celebration. If you have any ideas give **Florence Coleman** or **Leslie Lupo** a call. We are also planning to attend Tiger Baseball game on June 16th. See the article in this Newsletter concerning the game.

Upcoming events in March and April include the following:

**St. Joseph Day Celebration**, Sunday March 20, 2011.

**First Spaghetti Dinner**, Wednesday April 20, 2011.

**Legends Live Spring Show**, Saturday April 30, 2011.

Yes, you heard it right. The Spaghetti Dinners are only seven weeks away. I got so excited with February ending; I went out and made my first purchase of supplies for the April Dinner.

The Board at its February meeting approved adding a non-salaried advisory position of Consigliere or Legal Counsel, to the Board. A letter was sent to attorney **John Graziani**, who is one of our members, and he has accepted the position.

**Frank Giannotti**, the Financial Corresponding Secretary, is accepting dues for the year 2011. Please send your dues as soon as possible. **March 31** is the deadline.

**Mark S. Grazioli, Club President**

### 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.**

The Club 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.

Hall Office -- (734) 285-4044  
 Florence Coleman -- (734) 281-7126  
 Nancy Cosentino -- (313) 383-0350  
 Grace Pizzo -- (734) 379-9491

### The "Legends Live" Spring Show



The Downriver Italian-American Hall will be hosting another "Legends Live Show" on Saturday, April 30, 2011. This will be the **Spring Show**, complete with dinner, featuring tributes to: **Frankie Valli (of the Four Seasons)**, **Ray Charles**, **Aretha Franklin**, **Cal Roberts (of the Platters)** and our Detroit own, (local singer, comedian and TV Legend), **Johnny Ginger**. It's a wonderful combo of their oldies songs and performance, and a great opportunity to reflect on the moments in your life when they were a huge hit.

**Nick Caputo**, **Tony Lumia** and **Jim Bademian** are chairing this event. The event begins with a superb dinner. Tickets and table reservations are currently available. Tickets must be paid at time of reservation. A minimum of 8 people is required to reserve a table, all others will be seated where space is available.

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, **Jim Bademian** at (313)388-2264 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**

### Club First Pasta Event - April 20, 2011



This year's first **Pasta Lunch and Dinner** of the year will be held on **Wednesday April 20, 2011**. It feels like each year the event starts too early. April will soon be here. The following is a summary of how successful the pasta events were in 2010.

**Mark Grazioli**, (Lead Chairman) reported the past November event sold 556 dinners, contributing to a grand total of 4,540 dinners in 2010. Eighty-Nine (89) club members worked at least one day, while 49 members worked at least 2 days. The December membership meeting recognized these members. Mark also stated that eight (8) members worked 2 days each month.

Mark stated the pasta events were very successful and much needed to support the club and hall operations financials this year.

God Bless all the members who come each month and donate their time and effort to make these fundraisers a success.

### Tiger Baseball Game, Thurs June 16<sup>th</sup>

The Club is planning on going to a Tiger Baseball game on **Thursday June 16, 2011**. The game starts at 1:05 pm and is against Cleveland. The Group Senior (over 60) price is \$25 per ticket. The package includes a Lower Baseline Box seat, and one soft drink and hot dog for each person. Each person will be responsible for their own transportation. At the February General Membership meeting, 15 people signed up. Please contact me as soon as possible at (734)671-5884, so that I can order the tickets. Checks should be made out to **Mark Grazioli** and can be mailed to my address which is **21934 Knudsen; Grosse Ile MI 48138**. I will need your money by Sunday, April 17, 2011, which is Palm Sunday.

Thank you,

**Mark Grazioli**

### Congratulating New DIAC Members

Please welcome the following new member who recently joined The Downriver Italian-American Club:

**Augustine Falzone** of Taylor, MI. She is sponsored by **Leona Vizzini**.

### Welcoming the Spring

Translucent rivulets of water,  
Their snowy-whiteness but a memory,  
Seep into secret places,  
Crevices and entranceways,  
Enriching loamy soil,  
Preparing the receiving earth.

Moisture saturates sleeping hyacinth,  
Brings forth tulip and daffodil,  
And coaches crocus from deep inside  
It's resting place.

Warm gentle rains  
Whisper a scent of lilac  
Amid the leafy greens.  
Apples blossom, dogwood blooms.  
Awakening the season,  
Welcoming the Spring.

by Chava Kaye, March 2011

### Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Rosalie Giammalva (3/4)</i>	<i>Joseph Susin (3/19)</i>
<i>Helen Grasso (3/4)</i>	<i>Chava Kaye (3/20)</i>
<i>Italia (Ann) Lepidi (3/4)</i>	<i>Edith Gendron (3/22)</i>
<i>James Jenson (3/5)</i>	<i>Charlie Lupo (3/22)</i>
<i>Nancy Marcantonio (3/6)</i>	<i>Joseph Bardinelli (3/24)</i>
<i>Stephanie Badalamenti (3/10)</i>	<i>Nick Caputo (3/24)</i>
<i>Josie Favazza (3/10)</i>	<i>Sal DiPasquale (3/24)</i>
<i>Giuseppe (Joe) Vitale (3/10)</i>	<i>Jason Karawan (3/24)</i>
<i>Rose Vitale (3/10)</i>	<i>Joe Chirco (3/25)</i>
<i>Connie DeLiz (3/13)</i>	<i>Filocia Biundo (3/26)</i>
<i>Danny Herbert (3/14)</i>	<i>Luigi Biundo (3/28)</i>
<i>Matteo Giaimo (3/15)</i>	<i>Florence Costa (3/29)</i>
<i>Joe Evola (3/16)</i>	<i>Gaetano A. Vitale (3/29)</i>
<i>Anthony J. Vitale (3/17)</i>	<i>Douglas Melzer (3/30)</i>
<i>Joseph Leone (3/19)</i>	

### Sick and Good Will



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

**Tony Lumia, Vito Trupiano Sr., Mike T Palazzolo, Joe Kusic, Mary Randazzo and George Lavine.**

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 **Giuseppe (Joe) and Providence (Perl) Evola** on the death of Joe's sister, **Benedetta Iacopelli**, who passed away on February 11, 2011, at the age of 76.

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.

*George and Rosemary Menna (3/3)*

*Johnpaul and Liesa Finazzo (3/4)*

*Algie and Rose Prato (3/14)*

*Sal and Nancy DiPasquale (3/22)*

### A Special Thank-You to Our Members



A special Thank-You to club members, **Elisa Norscia, Hermine Norscia and Theresa Herbert** for bringing dessert to the November membership meeting. The members enjoyed the sweet treat.

**Karen Caputo, Francesca (Ciccina) Vitale and Piera Vitale** have volunteered to bring dessert to the March 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.

### Proverbi di Marzo

*Marzo Pazzarello*

*Vedi il sole e*

*Prendi l'ombrello*

Proverb provided by Giuseppe Agrusa

*The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center*

### For Lo

For lo, the winter is past  
The rains are over and gone  
The blossoms have appeared in the land  
The time of pruning has come  
And the song of the turtledove  
Is heard in our land

The Song of Songs, Ch. 2, vs. 10-12

### A Special Thank-You to our Club Webmaster - Anthony A. Vitale

The DIAC membership wishes to express their appreciation to club member, **Anthony V. Vitale** who has been maintaining and updating the club website, [www.diac.us](http://www.diac.us), for a number of years. The website has so many features, including the club newsletters, important dates, club events, flyers and most important, photos taken at these events. The site also has links to other local, state and international Italian clubs, links to Italian Consulate in Detroit, Washington DC and Italy, Italian newspapers, links to Italian cities, Italian music, etc. There is section that has Italian recipes. Please take the time and browse all that is available.

### Simple Friends vs. Italian Friends

**Friends:** Never ask for food.

**Italian Friends:** Always bring the food.

**Friends:** Will say 'hello'.

**Italian Friends:** Will give you a big hug and a kiss.

**Friends:** Call your parents Mr. and Mrs.

**Italian Friends:** Call your parents Mom and Dad.

**Friends:** Have never seen you cry.

**Italian Friends:** Cry with you.

**Friends:** Will eat at your dinner table and leave.

**Italian Friends:** Will spend hours there, talking, laughing, and just being together.

**Friends:** Know a few things about you.

**Italian Friends:** Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

**Friends:** Will leave you behind if that is what the crowd is doing.

**Italian Friends:** Will kick the whole crowd's back-ends that left you.

**Friends:** Will knock on your door.

**Italian Friends:** Walk right in and say, 'I'm home!'

**Friends:** Will visit you in the hospital when you're sick

**Italian Friends:** Will cut your grass and clean your house, then come spend the night with you in the hospital.

**Friends:** Are for a while.

**Italian Friends:** Are for life.

**Friends:** Might ignore this.

**Italian Friends** will forward this to their **ITALIAN** friends and those who wish they were **ITALIAN**... \*

Provided by Lena Scipione

### A Pre-School Moment

For weeks, a five-year-old child kept telling his kindergarten teacher about the baby sister or brother that was expected at his house. One day his mother allowed the child to feel the movements of the unborn baby. The five-year-old was obviously impressed, but made no comment. Moreover, he stopped telling the teacher about the awaiting event. Finally, the teacher sat the child on her lap and said, "Lucas, whatever has become of that baby brother or sister you were expecting at home?"

"Lucas burst into tears and confessed, "I think Mommy ate it!"

### 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.**  
N. Caputo, T. Lumia, J. Bademian

**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.  
Editor: Frank A. 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

Following the Pageant, a traditional Sicilian  
Pasta & Beans Dish will be served, including a  
Grapefruit, Orange and Roll.



By tradition, the food is blessed in the kitchen by a Catholic priest.

**Adults: \$7.00**

**Children (10 yr and under): \$3.50**

All Donations are 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

Hall Office - (734) 285-4044

Florence Coleman - (734) 281-7126

Nancy Cosentino - (313) 383-0350

Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491

May St. Joseph Bless You and Bring You Joy

# Downriver Italian-American Banquet Hall

646 Biddle Ave. Wyandotte, MI 48192

**PROUDLY PRESENTS**

**LEGENDS LIVE**

*Michigan's #1 Tribute Show*



**Saturday, April 30, 2011**

**Frankie Valli**



**Voice Impersonator  
Singer & Comedian  
Detroit TV Legend  
Johnny Ginger**



**Ray Charles**



**Aretha Franklin**



**Cal Roberts**



**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 / Jim Bademian 313-388-2264**

**Legends Live is produced by Empire Entertainment ([www.legendslive.com](http://www.legendslive.com))**