



41st Year, 1971-2012

The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

** IMPORTANT DATES **

January 2012 NEWSLETTER

Club Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting..... Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012, 6:30 p.m.



Buon Anno - Happy New Year - 2012!

It's a New Year!

*May your New Year be the best you've ever had,
and may you have many more New Years
that are even better!*

A Safe, Prosperous and a Happy 2012

2012 Club Membership Dues



The 2012 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 a 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**. The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2012**.

For **Honorary Members**, (those with 25+ years of continued membership), the dues are \$15.00 for a single member and \$30.00 for a married couple. The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2012**.

One copy of the newsletter is mailed (or hand delivered) to the member's household. The newsletter is available at the club website, www.diac.us. Members that have internet access can read and download the newsletter, while saving the Club printing and postage cost. Let **Frank Giannotti** know if you want this option and wish to be notified by email when the newsletter becomes available at the club website.

Attached with this newsletter is an invoice to be returned with your dues. Your dues receipt and membership card(s) will be mailed in the upcoming newsletter.

Message from the Club President



Welcome to the New Year. As we enter 2012, I hope all is well with every Club member. The New Year gives us a chance to start over. For some that will be difficult. But it is a new beginning and we need to make the most of it.

Club members need to look for opportunities to help others with serious health or financial issues. We should not limit our help to family and club members, but need to look out into our community. Recent statistics indicate that in Michigan 25% of the children live in poverty. This has doubled in the last ten years. Of that 25%, 10% of the children live in homes with an income of \$11,000 or less. How can this be for such a wonderful country? How did we let this happen?

January through March are slow months for Club activities. We do have one event in February, which is the **Legends Live Valentines Show** on Friday, February 10, 2012 and another event in March on Sunday, March 18, 2012, the **St. Joseph Day Celebration**. Make an effort to come and support your Club.

I would like to wish all of the Club members a prosperous New Year.
Mark S. Grazioli, Club President

2012 Club Officers and Trustees

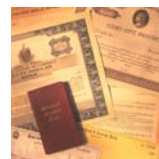
Club Officers and Trustees during 2012 are as follows:

- President: **Mark S. Grazioli**
- Vice President: **Florence Coleman**
- Secretary: **Linda Kerr**
- Fin. Corres. Secretary: **Frank A. Giannotti**
- Treasurer: (Vacant)
- Assist. Treasurer: **Leslie Lupo**
- Inside Guard: **Rose Pagano**
- Outside Guard: **Damiano Vitale**
- Guide: **Grace Pizzo**

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Trustees: Jim M. Bademian | Vivian Palazzolo |
| Sadie Kusic | Alfonso Stralle |
| Charles Lupo | Vito A. Trupiano |
| Leona Vizzini | (Vacant) |

Please congratulate the above Officers and Trustees and thank them for their leadership in guiding the Club through the coming years.

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 2011. If you do not

receive your letter by the end of January, please contact Guy at (734) 281-6554.

"Legends Live" 2012 Valentine Show



The Downriver Italian-American Hall will be hosting the "Legends Live" Valentine Show on Friday, February 10, 2012. **Mary Cottone** and **Diana Holmes** are chairing this event. The event begins with a superb dinner. Tickets and table reservations are now available. See flyer

contained in this newsletter for further information.

Make an effort to attend this fine event and please advise your family and friends. Voice impersonator (singer and comedian) that includes **Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Lou Rawls and Barry Manilow** and special Detroit own TV legend, **Johnny Ginger**.

Be sure to advise your family and friends. **This Event is open to the public.** This will be a fun night. For ticket sales, please contact **Mary Cottone** at (734) 285-1563 (home) (313) 689-5313 (cell), or **Diana Holmes** by calling the **Hall Office**. (734) 285-4044. Please send your reservation to:

Mary Cottone
c/o Downriver Italian-American Hall
646 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192-2727

St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 18



The 39th Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration - Sunday, March 18, 2012.

Pageant Admission Free - 2:00 p.m. The luncheon follows the pageant.

Meal: Adults: \$7.00, Children 10 years and under: \$3.50.

We will be celebrating St. Joseph Day Celebration on March 18th. 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 \$93,800 - all donations were 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 39th 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

Notice of Appreciation



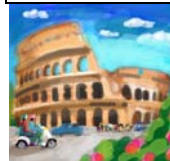
The Downriver Italian-American Club, including its Officers and the general membership, wish to extend sincere gratitude for the hard work, dedication and direction to the **DIA Hall**

Board. The Board consist of: Chairman **Nino Trupiano**; Vice Chairman **Tony Pietrangelo**; Secretary **Rocky Kaune**; Treasurer and Hall Setup **Mary Cottone**; and Directors **Nick Caputo** and **Tony Lumia**. Their effort is greatly appreciated at operating the Hall Business on a day-to-day basis. **Best Wishes for a brighter 2012.**

Many Thanks to Hall Coordinator, **Diana Holmes**, for the many years of continued service.

Best Wishes to our past Hall chef, **Jeanne Liedel, and her Staff**, for an excellent job over the many years. Please welcome the new Hall chef, **Greg Ivan**, of **Park Place Caterers**, of Dearborn, MI, who will be starting work in January 2012.

Vacancies in the Club Board



There exist two (2) vacancies in the Club Board – the position of **Treasurer** and that of **Trustee**, whose term will expire on December 31, 2012.

There are no alternate candidate(s) from the last election to fill these positions. If a club member is interested in filling a position, please contact **Mark Grazioli** at (734) 671-5884.



Hall Business Board Seeking a Table Setup/Maintenance Person



The Hall Business Board is seeking a person(s) to setup tables for events and/or perform minor maintenance at the hall building. If you wish to apply for either position(s) (or know of someone who might be interested), please contact **Diana Holmes** or **Mary Cottone** at (734) 285-4044.

Sick and Good Will



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

Joe Agrusa (of Brownstown), **Ted Brockway**, **Nick Caputo**, **Josie Klube**, **Sue Lupo** and **Mike Palazzolo**.

We wish good health to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo** (734) 379-9491 if you know of a member who is ill or if there is a death in their family.

A Special Thank-You to Our Members



A special thank-you to club members **Theresa Herbert**, **Teresa LeSage** and **Miriam Lumia** for bringing dessert to the November 27th membership meeting. The dessert was very much appreciated.

Phyllis Gandol, **Mary Lavine** and **Rosemary Prato** have volunteered to bring dessert to the **January 22nd 2012** membership meeting.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

We wish to extend our Congratulations and Best Wishes to our members who are celebrating their Birthdays.

<i>Nancy Cosentino (1/1)</i>	<i>Marie Vitale (1/14)</i>
<i>Anthony V. Vitale (1/2)</i>	<i>Grace Pizzo (1/16)</i>
<i>Emma Checchio (1/4)</i>	<i>Vincenzo Mannino (1/20)</i>
<i>Pat Mastrogiacomo (1/4)</i>	<i>Rose Pagano (1/20)</i>
<i>Gianna Trupiano (1/4)</i>	<i>Mark Grazioli (1/22)</i>
<i>Frank Giannotti (1/5)</i>	<i>Salvatore Randazzo (1/22)</i>
<i>Sam Randazzo (1/5)</i>	<i>Joyce Pietrangelo (1/23)</i>
<i>Jack Favazza (1/6)</i>	<i>Leta Bommarito (1/24)</i>
<i>Miriam Lumia (1/6)</i>	<i>Peter Badalamente (1/25)</i>
<i>Nino Vitale (1/6)</i>	<i>Marty Shimkus (1/25)</i>
<i>Johnpaul Finazzo (1/9)</i>	<i>Alice Patton (1/26)</i>
<i>Frank Pizzo (1/11)</i>	<i>Nino Trupiano (1/28)</i>
<i>Lilla Vitale (1/13)</i>	<i>Catherine Bagnasco (1/30)</i>
<i>Pierina Franzese (1/14)</i>	<i>Larry Simone (1/30)</i>
<i>Angela Scott (1/14)</i>	<i>Mamie Vitale (1/31)</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.

<i>Vincenzo and Lilla Vitale (1/4)</i>	<i>40th</i>
<i>Frank and Barbara Bianchi (1/9)</i>	
<i>Fioravante and Hermine Norscia (1/12)</i>	<i>60th</i>
<i>Larry and Joan Luzac (1/20)</i>	<i>50th</i>

Natalizie from Italian Consul of Detroit

2 Dicembre, 2011

Cari Connazionali,

In occasione delle imminenti festività Natalizie e di fine d'Anno desidero rivolgermi i miei auguri più sinceri.

L'anno che ci lasciamo alle spalle è stato ricco di avvenimenti.

Abbiamo celebrato insieme i 150 Anni dell'Unità d'Italia, con un programma che ha valorizzato la ricchezza e molteplicità delle sue ispirazioni e delle sue componenti. Ricordo in particolare gli eventi organizzati per la prima volta in questa circoscrizione consolare: la Giornata del Ricordo/10 Febbraio, e l'omaggio a Dante Alighieri.

Abbiamo avviato insieme un progetto per favorire ancor più la diffusione della lingua Italiana in quest'area. In tale azione ci sarà certamente d'aiuto la nomina a Ministro degli Affari Esteri del nostro Ambasciatore a Washington, **Giulio Terzi**.

Desidero quindi rinnovarvi i più calorosi auguri di Buon Natale e Felice Anno Nuovo anche a nome dell'intero Personale del Consolato

Il Console

Marco Nobili

Location of the Italian Consul of Detroit

Honorable Marco Nobili

Consolato D'Italia

535 Griswold, Buhl Building, Suite 1840

Detroit, Michigan, 48226

PHONE: (313) 963-8560

FAX: (313) 963-8180

E-MAIL: inform.detroit@esteri.it

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

The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center

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.

I Am Thankful for...

... For the mess to clean up after New Year's dinner, because it means that I have been surrounded by family.

... For the clothes that fit a little too snug, because it means that I have enough to eat.

... For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning, and gutters that need fixing, because it means I have a home.

... For all the complaining I hear about the government, because it means that we have freedom of speech.

... For the parking spot I find at the far end of the parking lot, because it means that I am capable of walking and have been blessed with transportation.

... For a large heating bill, because it means I am warm.

... For the pile of laundry and ironing, because it means I have clothes to wear.

... For weariness and aching muscles at the end of the day, because it means I have been capable of working hard.

... For the bills after Christmas, because it means I have a little extra money and friends to spend it on.

... For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours, because it means I am alive.

A Senior Moment

Two elderly ladies had been friends for many decades. Over the years, they had shared all kinds of activities and adventures. Lately, their activities had been limited to meeting a few times a week to play cards.

One day they were playing cards when one looked at the other and said, "Now don't get mad at me. I know we've been friends for a long time, but I just can't think of your name. I've thought and thought, but I can't remember it. Please tell me what your name is."

Her friend glared at her. For at least three minutes, she just stared and glared at her. Finally, she said, "How soon do you need to know?"



A Plain Old Kiss

Some people need a peck or two;
For others a simple smooch will do;
Too many, a graze will stimulate;
A few may want to osculate.

And then, there are those who need a smack;
For flowery words they have a knack.
But all I want from you is bliss,
Which you can give me with a plain, old kiss!

Another 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!"

Calendar of Coming Club/Hall Events

Feb. 10, 2012 "Legends Live" Valentine's Show.
Mary Cottone, Diana Holmes.

Mar. 18, 2012 39th Annual St. Joseph Celebration
F. Coleman, N. Cosentino, G. Pizzo

Jul. 21, 2012 DIAC Annual Golf Outing
Gaetano Vitale, T. Lumia, M. Grazioli

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 comment, correction 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

Valentines Show

Friday, February 10th, 2012

Featuring

LEGENDS LIVE

Michigan's #1 Tribute Show

Dean Martin



Voice Impersonator Singer and Comedian

Frank Sinatra



*Detroit TV Legend
Johnny Ginger*



Lou Rawls



Barry Manilow



TICKETS \$40.00 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 Diana or Mary at the
D.I.A Banquet Hall 734-285-4044 or email www.diahall10@yahoo.com

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

The 39th Annual
St. Joseph Day Celebration

Sunday, March 18, 2012

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 years and under): \$3.50

All Donations go 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, contact:

Hall Office: Diana Holmes - (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