



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 **

February 2012 NEWSLETTER

Club Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2012, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting..... Sunday, Feb. 26, 2012, 6:30 p.m.



"Legends Live" Valentine Show - Feb. 10

2012 Club Membership Dues



A second reminder. 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. You can pay your dues 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 each member's household. The newsletter is available at the club website, www.diac.us. Members who 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. You will be notified by email when the newsletter is available at the club website.

Your dues receipt and membership card(s) will be mailed in the upcoming newsletter.

Message from the Club President



Well we finally had our first good snowfall on the 20th of January. Last week I was in Saulte Saint Marie to witness a real winter storm. It made me thankful for living in the downriver area.

Leslie has been appointed the new Club Treasurer. We still have two vacancies on the Board (Assistant Treasurer and Trustee).

Thanks to:

Emalie Shifflett for the Arts and Crafts Show.

Rosalie Karawan and helpers for the Children's Christmas Party.

Mary Cottone and **Giovanna Trupiano** for the Club Christmas Party.

Nick Caputo and **Tony Lumia** for the New Year's Legend Show.

Vince Vitale for volunteering his time and labor to expand the storage room.

Frank Giannotti and his crew who have setup tables for Hall events for over two years.

Without volunteers from the Club membership, it would be very expensive to operate our beautiful facility.

Upcoming events include:

The **Valentine's Legend Show** in February.

The **Saint Joseph's Pageant** in March.

The **Spaghetti Dinners** starting in April.

Make an effort to come out and support your Club.

Mark S. Grazioli, Club President

Friends Forever

Are we friends,

Are we not.

You told me once, but I forgot.

So tell me now and tell me true,

So I can say I'm here for you.

And if I die before you do,

I'll go to heaven and wait for you.

I'll give the angels back their wings,

And risk the loss of everything.

Just to prove my friendship is true,

Just to have a friend like you.

Sadie

"Legends Live" 2012 Valentine Show



One last reminder, the **Downriver Italian-American Hall** board 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 impersonators (singers and comedians) include **Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Lou Rawls and Barry Manilow** and Detroit's own special 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. A luncheon follows the pageant.

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

We will be celebrating St. Joseph Day on March 18th. As most of you know, this is a

Sicilian custom passed down by our parents and grandparents. They set up altars with statues of saints and opened their homes to friends and neighbors. After a short pageant, they enjoyed 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 fruits are placed on the altar. We serve a meal of pasta and beans. Each person is given a roll, a 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 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

News About our Membership



The family of our deceased club member, **Roger Zampieri**, has sent a monetary donation to the Club, in his honor. A committee will consider what option to take and make a recommendation to the membership. If you have a suggestion or would like to be on the committee, please contact **Florence Coleman** at (734)281-7126.

Sick and Good Will



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

Rino Pagnucco (who underwent back surgery and is now at home recuperating),

Mike Palazzolo (Vivian's husband) who is back in the hospital, **Catherine Mannino**, **Emma Checchio**, and **Florence Costa** who is at Terrace Nursing Home, Riverview, MI .

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.

Condolences to the family of **Nancy Capezza** on the death of her husband, **Donald (Don) Cappezza**, who passed away on January 2, 2012, at the age of 75. There are numerous accomplishments that Don (and Nancy) provided. They were both very active in the club years ago. Don was a club Officer for a number of years. He became club President during 1987-1988, and again in 1991-1992. Don oversaw the DIA Hall Renovation of 1991, which included the construction phase of the Menna Room addition, the remodeling of the main Banquet Hall, Dance Floor and Stage, along with the kitchen renovation. Later in life, Don became involved in local politics. Don was well respected by members and provided much guidance to the Club. We will all miss the spirit of our fellow club member.

Condolences to the family of **Joe and Sadie Kusic** on the death of Joe's sister, **Anna Kusic**, who passed away on January 12, 2012 at the age of 88.

Condolences to the family of **Lenny and Rose Zerilli** on the death of Rose's brother-in-law, **Richard Schaze**, who passed away on January 13, 2012.

A Special Thank-You to Our Members



A special thank-you to club members **Phyllis Gandol, Mary Lavine and Rosemary Prato** for bringing dessert to the January 22nd membership meeting. The dessert was very much appreciated and was very delicious.

Shirley Cavataio, Hermine Norscia and Rosemary Prato have volunteered to bring dessert to the **February 26th** membership meeting.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



We wish to extend our Congratulations and Best Wishes to our club members who are celebrating their upcoming birthdays this month. *Auguri per tutti i Compleanni.*

<i>Frances (Ciccina) Vitale (2/4)</i>	<i>Gerald Conz (2/19)</i>
<i>Grace Asteriou (2/5)</i>	<i>Leona Vizzini (2/19)</i>
<i>Elisa Norscia (2/6)</i>	<i>Stephanie Parrino (2/22)</i>
<i>Marianna Curcuru (2/7)</i>	<i>Ted Brockway (2/23)</i>
<i>Frank Liberati (2/7)</i>	<i>Florence Coleman (2/23)</i>
<i>Michael Olevnik (2/9)</i>	<i>Fara Parrino (2/23)</i>
<i>Rose Prato (2/9)</i>	<i>Connie Militello (2/24)</i>
<i>John Graziani (2/10)</i>	<i>Henry LeSage (2/25)</i>
<i>Fara DiMaria (2/12)</i>	<i>Pat Mastrogiacomo (2/25)</i>
<i>Joan Cadorin (2/13)</i>	<i>Don Jenson (2/26)</i>
<i>Christopher Dingell (2/13)</i>	<i>Marie Pagnucco (2/26)</i>
<i>Rose Lupo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sam Cosentino (2/27)</i>
<i>Antonio Palazzolo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sue Lupo (2/27)</i>
<i>Frank Bianchi (2/15)</i>	<i>Sam G. Randazzo (2/27)</i>
<i>Raymond Lucarelli (2/15)</i>	<i>Joe J. Agrusa (2/28)</i>
<i>Anthony Militello (2/17)</i>	<i>Vita Alastra (2/28)</i>
<i>Rosalie Lopetrone (2/18)</i>	<i>Maria Chirco (2/28)</i>
<i>Shirley Bommarito (2/19)</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. *Congratulazioni per tutti gli Anniversari.*

Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)
Pietro and Filocia Biundo (2/23)
Martin and Rosalie Shimkus (2/25)

DIA Hall Banquet Facility



Club members who have a relative, such as a niece, nephew, or grandchild, who is getting married and looking for a good place to hold a party - we will give them the

The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center

same discount price as a club member. The Hall is willing to work very closely with them. The Club 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. Give us an opportunity to serve you.

A Short History of Valentine's Day



The history of Valentine's Day is part fact, part legend. The holiday's roots are in the ancient Roman feast of Lupercalia, a fertility celebration commemorated on February 15th. The Catholic Church recast this pagan festival as a Christian feast day c. 496, declaring February 14 to be St. Valentine's Day.

As there were three Christian saints by that name, historians are not quite sure which one was to be honored by this, all three were astonishingly martyred on Feb. 14. Most scholars believe the St. Valentine of the holiday was a priest who was disfavored by the Roman emperor Claudius II around 270. There are several romantic Myths surrounding him, but most likely, he was put to death for refusing to renounce his faith in God. In the 14th century, Chaucer first linked Valentine's Day with Love... in 1381, he composed a poem to celebrate the engagement of England's Richard II and Ann of Bohemia.

Provided by Chava Kaye -Author Unknown

Time is...

*Time is too slow for those who wait,
 too swift for those who fear,
 too long for those who grieve,
 too short for those who rejoice,
 but for those who love, time is eternity.*

~ Henry Van Dyke ~

Keeping Things in Perspective

The following are thoughts to ponder:

- ⌘ If you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead and a place to sleep ... you are richer than 75% of this world.
- ⌘ If you have money in the bank, in your wallet, and spare change in a dish somewhere... you are among the top 8% of the world's wealthy.
- ⌘ If you woke up this morning with more health than illness... you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

- ⌘ If you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation... you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.
- ⌘ If you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death... you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.
- ⌘ If you hold up your head with a smile on your face and are truly thankful... you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.
- ⌘ If you can hold someone's hand, hug them or even touch them on the shoulder... you are blessed because you can offer a healing touch.

Submitted by MMF

In My Dream

*In my dream,
Softly falling snow
Sings a melody of Love.
In the stillness,
I listen.
Come dream with me,
Dolce Sogni
Hear the silent snow,
And sing with me
The song.
~ Chava Kaye ~*

God's Sense of Humor

While creating wives,
God promised men that
obedient wives would be found
in all corners of the world.
And then, He made the earth round.

Famous Quotes for the Month

There is a place you can touch a woman that will drive her crazy. Her heart!" *– Melanie Griffith*

"Love is grand; divorce is a hundred grand."

– Anonymous

"I was nauseous and tingly all over. I was either in love or I had smallpox!" *– Woody Allen*

The great question, which I have not been able to answer is, "What does a woman want?" *– Sigmund Freud*

"Marriage is the triumph of imagination over intelligence. Second marriage is the triumph of hope over experience."

– Samuel Johnson

"An archeologist is the best husband any woman can have; the older she gets, the more interested he is in her."

– Agatha Christie

You Know You're Getting Old When...

- ❖ Everything hurts; and what doesn't hurt, does not work.
- ❖ The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals.
- ❖ You feel like the morning after and you haven't been anywhere.
- ❖ Your little black book contains only names ending in M.D.
- ❖ Your children begin to look middle aged.
- ❖ You finally reach the top of the ladder and find it leaning against the wrong wall.
- ❖ Your mind makes contracts that your body can't meet.
- ❖ You look forward to a dull evening.
- ❖ Your favorite part of the newspaper is "20 years ago today."
- ❖ You turn out the lights for economic rather than romantic reasons.
- ❖ You sit in a rocking chair and can't get it going.
- ❖ Your knees buckle and your belt won't.
- ❖ You're 17 around the neck, 42 around the waist, and 106 around the golf course.
- ❖ Your back goes out more than you do.

Calendar of Coming Club/Hall Events

Feb. 10, 2012 **"Legends Live" Valentine Show.**

Mary Cottone, Diana Holmes.

Mar. 18, 2012 **39th Annual St. Joseph Celebration**

F. Coleman, N. Cosentino, G. Pizzo

April 18, 2012 **April – First Pasta Event.**

Pasta Committee & Membership.

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