



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 \*\*

## March 2012 NEWSLETTER

Club Board of Directors Meeting ..... Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m.  
General Membership Meeting..... Sunday, March 25, 2012, 6:30 p.m.



## St. Joseph Celebration - Sun. March 18, 2012

### 2012 Club Membership Dues



This is the last 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](http://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. **You will no longer be a member if your dues are not paid.**

### Message from the Club President



Welcome to March and the coming of spring. We had a very mild winter and it's time to look forward to spring, which in Michigan is a beautiful time of the year.

At the January Club meeting I asked for volunteers to spring clean our kitchen and inventory all the items in the kitchen including the dishes. The response was outstanding. A total of 23 members responded. We worked two 5 to 6 hour days, with 17 to 19 members each day, in early February and the results were amazing. All the equipment is spotless and every dish in the dish room was washed. We saved our club several thousand dollars

by doing the job ourselves. A separate article is in the Newsletter listing all that helped.

With the changing of caterers, certain locks on the facility required changing. **Jim Gandol** made the changes as he has done so in the past. Thanks Jim. Also, I would like to thank **Joe Alastra** for helping solve the hot water heater problem in the kitchen. Volunteers are what make our Club so great.

Upcoming events include:

**St. Joseph's Pageant** Sunday March 18, 2012.

**Taste of Italy** May 9, 2012.

**Spaghetti Dinners** start on April 18, 2012.

I look forward to seeing everyone at these events.

**Mark S. Grazioli, Club President**

### A Springtime Poem

*Golden sun sinks in a blaze of glory  
into the welcoming west,  
giving rise to a silvery moon  
and putting the day to rest.*

*Cherry blossoms fall slowly  
on grasses moist with morning dew.  
Spring walks in on silent slippers  
and the world begins anew.*

Chava Kaye - March 2012

### St. Joseph Day Celebration - Mar. 18



**The 39<sup>th</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 39<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.

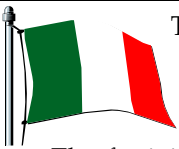
**On Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> (at 12:00 pm [Noon])**, members (and non-members) will meet at the Hall to prepare the altar table, sorting the various beans and lentils, along with placing the fruits and bread into plastic bags. Much help is needed to accomplish this. Then on Sunday, the day of St. Joseph Celebration, members will cook the food in the early morning. If you can come and help, please do so.

**Florence Coleman - (734) 281-7126**

**Nancy Cosentino - (313) 383-0350**

**Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491**

### A Taste of Italy – May 9, 2012



The 8<sup>th</sup> annual **Taste of Italy** event will be held at the **DIA Hall on Wednesday, May 9, 2012**. Serving begins at 6:00 p.m. The chairperson for this event is **Tony Lumia**.

The festivity will feature sampling of Italian cuisines from various local businesses. Each vendor will provide their specialties. All proceeds go to benefit the **Penrickton School for Blind Children**.

For ticket sales, contact **Diana Holmes** at the DIA Hall (734)285-4044 or **Tony Lumia** (313) 565-0671. This event is open to the public. Please attend and invite your family and friends. A flyer will appear in the April newsletter.

### Members Clean and Inventory the Kitchen



On the 2nd and 8th of February 23 Club Members did a marvelous job of cleaning the kitchen. On the 2nd there were 19

members that worked from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. On the 8th there were 17 members that worked from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. We also washed and inventoried all the dishes and items in the kitchen, which was quite a job in itself. The members worked really hard and did a great job. Thanks. We had an estimate from an individual for \$1,000 and an estimate from a cleaning firm for \$5,000. It took about 200 man-hours to do the work.

We need to thank the following members: **Grace Asteriou, Jim & Julie Bademian, Shirley Cavataio, Florence Coleman, Mary Cottone, Phyllis Gandol, Mark & Mary Jane Grazioli, Tony & Miriam Lumia, Charlie & Leslie Lupo, Nancy Marcantonio, Lenny & Pina Milewski, Dennis & Alice Patton (new members), Sam & Grace Pizzo, Alfonso Stralle, Nino Trupiano and Damiano Vitale**. The kitchen equipment was really dirty and it now looks pretty darn good. In fact, some of it looks new.  
Mark Grazioli

### Italian Mass at Holy Family Church



The **Santa Rosalia Club** is hosting an Italian Mass at Holy Family Church on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm. Our members have been invited to attend. After the Mass, we will be meeting downstairs for coffee and dessert. If you are interested in attending please let **Mark Grazioli** (734-671-5884) know by **Monday March 19<sup>th</sup>**, so that we will have some idea of how many will be attending. You are certainly welcome to bring dessert.

Mark Grazioli

### A Message from Mary Cottone

I want to thank everyone who came in helping decorate the Hall with Christmas ornaments and afterwards take them down for storage.  
Mary Cottone

### Sick and Good Will



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

**Mary Randazzo, Sam Randazzo** and to **Emilia (Mimi) Kerr** (who will be undergoing a knee surgery) in the near future.

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 **Shirley Cavataio, Hermine Norscia, Rosemary Prato** and **Piera Vitale** for

bringing dessert to the February 26<sup>th</sup> membership meeting. The dessert was very much appreciated and was very delicious.

**Mary Cottone, Rosalie Shimkus and Frances (Ciccina) Vitale** have volunteered to bring dessert to the **March 25<sup>th</sup>** membership meeting.

### Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

**Phillip and Kathleen Tocco** of Southgate, MI., sponsored by **Frank Giannotti**.

### Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



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

<i>Rosalie Giammalva (3/4)</i>	<i>Joseph Leone (3/19)</i>
<i>Helen Grasso (3/4)</i>	<i>Joseph Susin (3/19)</i>
<i>Italia (Ann) Lepidi (3/4)</i>	<i>Chava Kaye (3/20)</i>
<i>James Jenson (3/5)</i>	<i>Edith Gendron (3/22)</i>
<i>Nancy Marcantonio (3/6)</i>	<i>Charlie Lupo (3/22)</i>
<i>Michelle Hamel (3/8)</i>	<i>Nick Caputo (3/24)</i>
<i>Stephanie Badalamenti (3/10)</i>	<i>Sal DiPasquale (3/24)</i>
<i>Josie Favazza (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>Filicia 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>

### 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 anniversary.

*JohnPaul and Liesa Finazzo (3/4)*  
*Sal and Nancy DiPasquale (3/22)*

### 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 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.

### March is Reading Month

School children across America celebrate reading this month, and also the birthday of Dr. Seuss, so put your cats on your hat and read, read, read! Read the DIAC Newsletter! Share it with your friends! Read silently or read aloud! Read to your spouse, your children, your grandchildren. Get everyone reading! Read from the web or grab a book, a newspaper, or a magazine! Here's a little poem to get you started!

### Read to Me

*Read to me riddles, read to me rhymes,  
Read to me stories of magical times.  
Read to me tales about castles and kings  
Read to me stories of fabulous things.*

*Read to me pirates, read to me knights,  
Read to me dragons and dragon back flights.  
Read to me spaceships and cowboys and then,  
When you are finished, please read them again.*

Author: Jane Yolen

### United Nation's World Water Day. March 22, 2012

This is a day set aside by the United Nations to appreciate water on earth as a limited commodity, one that is not readily available to all of the Earth's people.

Did you know?

Ninety-Seven percent (97%) of the Earth's water is seawater.

Only 1% of the Earth's water is fresh water suitable for human use.

2% of the Earth's water is tied up in glaciers and ice caps.

We in Michigan are surrounded by the Great Lakes, the largest bodies of fresh water in the world. We must do all we can to preserve these beautiful natural resources. Please practice water conservation.

Water is precious! - Use it wisely!



### Via Sun and Rain

*Give thanks for the farmers,  
And for everyone in the long chain from soil to mouth,  
Via sun and rain.  
Give thanks for the plenty in our lives,  
Let every mouthful remind us of the privilege of being  
alive.  
And more than adequately fed.  
Of being among like-minded souls,  
And sharing a wholesome flavorful meal.  
Prayer from Sicilia, Italia,  
Author unknown  
From *The Bridge of Stars*, copyright 2001*

### A Senior Moment

A woman awakes during the night to find that her husband was not in their bed. She puts on her robe and goes downstairs to look for him.

She finds him sitting at the kitchen table with a hot cup of coffee in front of him. He appears to be in deep thought, just staring at the wall.

She watches as he wipes a tear from his eye and takes a sip of his coffee. "What's the matter, dear?" she whispers as she steps into the room, "Why are you down here at this time of night?"

The husband looks up from his coffee, "I am just remembering when we first met 20 years ago and started dating. You were only 16. Do you remember back then?" he says solemnly.

The wife is touched to tears thinking that her husband is so caring, so sensitive. "Yes, I do" she replies.

The husband pauses.

The words were not coming easily.

"Do you remember when your father caught us in the back seat of my car?"

"Yes, I remember," said the wife, lowering herself into a chair beside him.

The husband continues.

"Do you remember when he shoved the shotgun in my face and said, "Either you marry my daughter, or I will send you to jail for 20 years?"

"I remember that too" she replies softly.

"I would have gotten out today!"

### Calendar of Coming Club/Hall Events

- Mar. 18, 2012** ..... **39<sup>th</sup> Annual St. Joseph Celebration**  
F. Coleman, N. Cosentino, G. Pizzo
- Apr. 18, 2012** ..... **April Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- May 9, 2012** ..... **Taste of Italy – Charity Event.**  
Tony & Miriam Lumia.
- May 16, 2012** ..... **May Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- June 20, 2012** ..... **June Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- July 4, 2012** ..... **Independence Day Parade.**  
Mary Cottone & Membership.
- Jul. 18, 2012** ..... **July Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- July 21, 2012** ..... **DIAC Annual Golf Outing**  
Gaetano Vitale, T. Lumia, M. Grazioli
- July ??, 2012** ..... **DIAC Annual Picnic**  
Club Board and Membership
- Aug. 15, 2012** ..... **August Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- Sept. 19, 2012** ..... **September Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- Oct. 13, 2012** ..... **"Legends Live" Fall Dinner Show.**  
Mary Cottone, Diana Holmes.
- Oct. 17, 2012** ..... **October Pasta Event.**  
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- Nov. 4, 2012** ..... **Memorial Mass.**  
Florence Coleman & Membership.
- Nov. 11, 2012** ..... **Arts & Craft Show.**  
Emily Shifflet & Membership.
- Dec. 15, 2012** ..... **Member's Christmas Party.**  
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- Dec. 16, 2012** ..... **Children's Christmas Party.**  
Rosalie Karawan & Helpers.
- Dec. 31, 2012** ..... **"Legends Live" New Year's Eve Party.**  
Mary Cottone, Diana Holmes.

The *Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter* is published monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club membership. Editors: Frank A. 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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# 2012 Pasta Events

## “Downriver Best Kept Secret”<sup>©</sup>

Choice of Spaghetti and/or Penne Pasta with House Meat Sauce  
Meatballs, Salad, Roll, Dessert, Coffee or Tea

### The Downriver Italian-American Hall

646 Biddle Avenue (North of Goddard)  
Wyandotte, MI 48192-2727

Tel. (734) 285-4044 – Fax (734) 285-3752 – Web: [www.diahall.com](http://www.diahall.com)

Wednesday, April 18, 2012	Wednesday, May 16 2012
Wednesday, June 20, 2012	Wednesday, July 18, 2012
Wednesday, August 15, 2012	Wednesday, September 19, 2012
Wednesday, October 17, 2012	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each Month



Luncheon: 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

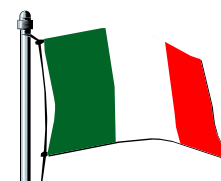
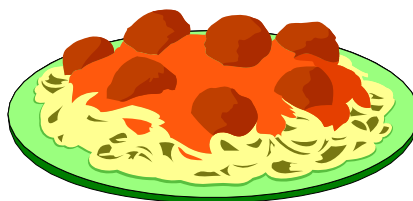
Dinner: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$8.00

Children 10 & Under: \$4.50

Sausage addition for \$1.50

Italian Cannoli Dessert for \$1.25



### Delicious Meat Sauce and Meatballs Available for Take-Home

Enjoy a Delicious Italian Home Cooked Meal  
Public Welcome – Advise and Bring Your Friends  
We Deliver Carry-Outs Orders of 8 or More Meals  
During the Luncheon Period Only.

### Banquet Hall Available for Your Needs

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The 39<sup>th</sup> 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**