



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 **

May 2012 NEWSLETTER

Club Board of Directors Meeting Tuesday, May 8, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

General Membership Meeting..... *** Sunday, May 20, 2012, 6:30 p.m.***

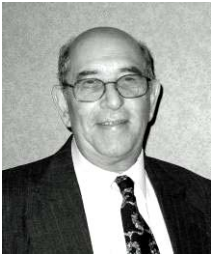


Happy Mother's Day - May 13, 2012

May Membership Meeting Change

The May General Membership meeting has been rescheduled to **Sunday, May 20th, at 6:30 pm**. The regularly scheduled 4th Sunday is the Memorial Day weekend. Have a safe holiday with family and friends.

Message from the Club President



May is here and we have held our first Spaghetti Dinner. We served 476 dinners, which is five more than last year. Thanks to the many volunteers that helped with the preparations on Tuesday and serving on Wednesday. Of course, there were some bumps in the road for our first dinner, but it

should be smoother this month.

Thanks to **George Lavine** who has volunteered to become Assistant Treasurer and replace **Leslie Lupo**, who had previously volunteered for the vacant Treasurer's position. Also, thanks to **Ann Lepidi** who volunteered to take on filling the cannoli for the Spaghetti Dinners.

Upcoming events include:

Taste of Italy May 9, 2012.

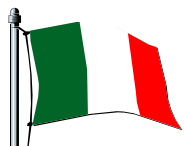
Spaghetti Dinner May 16, 2012.

We had to change the May General Membership Meeting to Sunday May 20th, to avoid the Memorial Day weekend. See you at the above events or the next General Membership meeting.

Also, don't forget to run the gas out of your snow blower, which got very little (if any) use this past winter.

Mark S. Grazioli, Club President

A Taste of Italy - May 9, 2012



One last reminder, the Eight (8th) 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. The vendors each

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.

May Pasta Event - May 16, 2012



The next Pasta Lunch and Dinner Event will be on **Wednesday, May 16**. The April event had 476 meals served to the members and the public. It was a successful fundraiser. We hope to see an increase in attendance in the coming months.

This is an excellent opportunity for new (and existing) members to meet and socialize with other club members. The workday begins on Tuesday morning, at about 8:30 a.m. with the preparation of sauce and meatballs, as well as other preparations. The men come in at 4:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening to pre-cook the pasta. Then on Wednesday at 8:30 am, the food is heated and prepared for Lunch from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and Dinner from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

If you cannot work, another way to support the Pasta events is to come and bring your family and friends.

On Mother's Day - May 13, 2012



Mother's Day is a day to honor and celebrate motherhood.

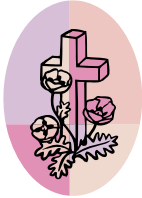
Many years ago, England observed a day to honor mothers that was called *Mothering Sunday*. In the United Kingdom, Mothers' Day is celebrated in March.

The first known suggestion of Mother's Day in the United States was in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe. She suggested that people observe the day as a day dedicated to peace. Others around the country joined her in campaigning for a nationwide observance of Mother's Day. It became a tradition to celebrate mothers the second Sunday in May. The custom is to wear a colored carnation if one's mother is still living, a white one if one's mother has passed away.

In 1914, **President Woodrow Wilson** signed a joint resolution of Congress recommending that Congress and the executive branch of government recognize the observance of Mother's Day.

Mother's Day, this year, is Sunday, May 13th.

On Memorial Day – May 28, 2012



Memorial Day (originally called "Decoration Day") began as a way to honor the Civil War dead. It started when individuals, and then cities and town, placed flowers on the graves of Confederate and Union soldiers – whether buried in the North or the South. The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868, in Arlington National Cemetery. Today, Memorial Day has become a way to honor all those who died in service to the nation in all wars and conflicts, from the Revolutionary War to the present. In 1968, the official holiday was moved to the last Monday in May.

Festa Della Repubblica - 2012



The **Italian-American Cultural Society** will once again be hosting the **Italian Independence Day, Festa Della Repubblica**, on Sunday, June 3, 2012, at the **Italian American Cultural Center, 43843 Romeo Plank Rd, Clinton Township, MI 48038**. The program begins at 2:00 p.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. Many Italian clubs will be represented, along with prominent guest speakers, live entertainment, ethnic foods and desserts from various clubs. The event is open to public.

This event is co-sponsored by **The Council of Presidents, COMITES, I.C.S.A. and the Italian-American Cultural Society**.

DIAC Golf Outing – July 21, 2012



The Young Members of the Club are sponsoring a **Golf Outing on Saturday, July 21, 2012, at Westburn Golf Club** in South Rockwood. It includes 18 holes of golf, a power cart, luncheon prior to shotgun start, steak/chicken barbeque dinner, along with contests, raffles and prizes.

Registration and Lunch between 12:30 – 1:30 pm, Shotgun Start at 1:30 pm. Dinner and awards immediately following.

The cost is \$65 for members and \$70 for non-members.

We are also looking for companies to sponsor a hole. The cost is minimal. See attached flyer in this newsletter.

If you want to golf, but do not have a foursome give us a call and we will fit you in with other golfers.

Deadline for reservation and payment is July 7th.

For further information, please contact:

Gaetano Vitale (248) 320-2196 (Cell) or Tony Lumia (313) 565-0671

News about the Club Board



George W. Lavine has accepted the position of Assistant Treasurer on the Club Board. George fills the position vacated by **Leslie Lupo** when she became the Club Treasurer. The Board unanimously approved the appointment. George was the Assistant Treasurer during 2009-2010. Please congratulate George when you see him.

Congratulating New DIAC Members

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

Joseph Anthony Lalli of Lincoln Park, MI., sponsored by **Mary Cottone**.

In Honor of a Great Lady Grace Randazzo, 4-8-1925 to 4-9-2012

The following article was written by Florence Coleman, recalling all the greatness and values that Grace (Vitale) Randazzo brought and contributed to the Italian Club.

Grace joined our Club in 1972, forty years ago. She was a very devoted member who was never hesitant about expressing her opinion. She was Secretary when the minutes were written on sheets of paper and later in a book, right from the meetings.

She was Scheduling Chairperson during all of our festivals at Yack Arena. She knew just where everyone was to work. You HAD to check in with her committee before you started.

She had great ideas for 4th of July Parades. We won 1st place for the Statue of Liberty. She had our young teenagers involved in some of them. She thought of a Spaghetti/Meatballs float, that also won. She won out with bells and whistles on her last idea in 1992, the Nina. Built over **Dick Coleman's** new 1992 Ranger. She called me from Florida and sent a picture. I told her I think we could do it. I was in charge of the boat. She took care of the mast and sail. We spent many days on my driveway

with that boat. What fun we had. We won a first Place Trophy.

It was her idea to have Italian Classes at the Club. When the class was over, they performed a skit, on the stage, in Italian, to show us what they had learned.

She was instrumental in organizing our present Nomination Committee and chairing it according to Roberts Rules of Order. If she had a job to do, she did it with every ounce of her energy. **She was a leader and we followed.**

In our early years, we held afternoon Ladies Luncheons along with White Elephant sales for members and friends. Grace would write little skits and have the women dress up in whatever she needed. They performed their part as written. She had a way of making you do things you didn't think you could do.... **But you did it, because Grace wanted you to....**

She loved going to the casino. She kept us laughing with her Italian jokes on our Bianco bus trips. She printed up song sheets, passed them out and we all sang our hearts out.

She was also very active at **Bishop Towers** doing the same things.

She had been to our last few **Legend's Shows** and enjoyed every one of them. At our last Christmas Party she was out there dancing with her cousins laughing and enjoying every minute. She surprised us all. She reminds me of the song, "I Hope you dance" by Lee Ann Womack.

Grace had her struggles, but she always overcame them. She put her pain on the back burners and always went forward. In my heart, I feel she knew her time was coming. Grace, we all know you are up there, now running things and most of all, singing and dancing.

Grace was the lead person of the Club Member's Notification List program.

God Bless you for all the hearts you have touched.

Sick and Good Will



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

Joe Evola, Mike T. Palazzolo.

We wish good health to all our members who are not feeling well – especially those who are living alone and those living in assisted living. 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 **Grace P. Randazzo**, who passed away on April 9, 2012, at the age of 87, (the day after her birthday, on 1925). Grace was a vivid supporter of the Club. She and her late husband, **Vincent**

Randazzo, joined the club on October 1972. Grace provided much guidance to the Club. We will all miss her spirit in our presence. Condolences to her sister **Fara (Fannie) Passalacqua** and to her sister-in-laws **Mary Randazzo** and **Margaret (Ann) Vitale** and to related Club members: **Damiano/Piera Vitale, Vincenzo/Ciccina Vitale, Joe/Paola Ventimiglia, Nino/Fara Vitale, Rose Pagano, Sam Randazzo, Tom/Laurie Randazzo, Sam/Darlene Randazzo, Nino/Gianna Trupiano**, and to the many related family members.

Condolences to the family of **Marie C. Vitale** who passed away on April 17, 2012, at the age of 95. Marie and her late husband, **James Vitale**, joined the club in October 1988 and later moved to Scottsdale, Arizona. Marie was sister-in-law to **Grace Randazzo**. Condolences to sister-in-laws **Fara (Fannie) Passalacqua** and **Margaret (Ann) Vitale** and to the many related family members.

Condolences to the family of **Giuseppe (Joe) and Pearl Evola** on the death of Perl's father, **Giuseppe (Joe) Vitale**, who passed away on April 18, 2012 at the age of 91. Condolences to brother-in-law **Augustino and Loni Iacopelli**.

A Special Thank-You to Our Members



A special thank-you to club members **Maria Graziani, Elisa Norscia** and **Alessandra (Lisa) Vespa** for bringing dessert to the April 22nd membership meeting. The sweet desserts were very much appreciated and were very delicious.

Linda Kerr, Mary Lavine and **Alice Patton** have volunteered to bring dessert to the **May 20th** membership meeting.

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.

Kenneth and Angela Scott (5/01)
Gaetano and Laurie Randazzo (5/09)
Gaetano and Maria Chirco (5/11)
Charles and Gina Cosner (5/12)
Patrick and Nina McMahan (5/12)
Anthony and Robyn Vitale (5/15)
Salvatore and Giovanna Vitale (5/24)
Marco and Jennifer Vitale (5/24) 10th
Douglas and Gail Melzer (5/27)
Mike and Nina Palazzolo (5/29)
Frank and Emma Checchio (5/31)

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 Shimkus (5/1)</i>	<i>Alfonso Stralle (5/21)</i>
<i>Diana Giaimo (5/2)</i>	<i>Rose Zerilli (5/21)</i>
<i>Vivian Palazzolo (5/2)</i>	<i>Teresa LeSage (5/22)</i>
<i>Frank Checchio (5/3)</i>	<i>Sam Badalamenti (5/23)</i>
<i>Colleen Tabaka (5/5)</i>	<i>Catherine Sclafani (5/23)</i>
<i>Theresa Talluto (5/8)</i>	<i>Joseph Ventimiglia (5/24)</i>
<i>Theresa Klavon (5/11)</i>	<i>Salvatore Vitale (5/24)</i>
<i>Viola Birkett (5/13)</i>	<i>Joseph Cacioppo (5/25)</i>
<i>Barbara Biundo (5/14)</i>	<i>Grace Badalamente (5/26)</i>
<i>Martha Guastella (5/16)</i>	<i>Gail Melzer (5/27)</i>
<i>Nancy McFaul (5/19)</i>	<i>Jeanette Schiraldi (5/28)</i>
<i>Guy A. Vitale (5/20)</i>	<i>Lisa Vespa (5/29)</i>
<i>Rose Vitale (5/20)</i>	<i>Anthony Lazzarino (5/30)</i>
<i>Clarice Silveri (5/21)</i>	<i>Carmela Stralle (5/31)</i>

il Mese di Maggio

*you ask me for the sun
but I give to you the moon,
a luminescent pearl, whose face
reflects the light of evening
you ask me for the stars
but I give to you the vast blue sea
whose waters ebb and flow, resist and yield,
whose waves kiss the sands of time
you ask me for a moment
but I give to you "il mese di Maggio"
whose days bathe all earth
in beauty and the fullness of bloom*

Chava Kaye - May 2012

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.

May 2012 - Observances and Fun Facts

During the month of May we celebrate:

National Bike Month
National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
Mental Health Awareness Month
Healthy vision Month
Mediterranean Diet Month
Ultraviolet Awareness Month
Arthritis Awareness Month
May Flower: Lily of the Valley
May gemstone: Emerald
May Fruits and Veggies: Mango, Lime, Potatoes
May 8, 2012 is National Teacher Day.

If you can read the DIAC Newsletter, thank a teacher!

Italian Celebrations, Holidays and Events in May



May, *maggio*, in Italy is a good time to find spring festivals. We find flower festivals, food and wine festivals, medieval reenactments, and events celebrating rituals of spring. We may be familiar with some of these from our

parent's home cities, villages, or regions in Italy. Here are just a few:

May Day, May 1, is a **public holiday** all over Italy as the day of the worker. We will find interesting parades and festivals to celebrate the day. Expect big crowds in popular Italian tourist destinations.

The Risotto Festival the first Sunday in May in the Piedmont town of *Sesame* is a huge feast of a special rice dish dating back to the 13th century.

Giro d'Italia, Italy's big bike race similar to the Tour d'France, starts in early May and lasts most of the month. Bikers race through scenic countryside.

Polenta Festival, the second Sunday in May, is celebrated in the main square of the Piedmont town of *Avigliana*.

La Barabbata is celebrated May 14 in *Marta* on the shores of Lake Bolsena. Men wear costumes in procession representing the old trades and carry their tools while white buffalo pull floats carrying the fruits of the trades.

The Flower Festival of *Bucchianico* in province of Abruzzi includes a re-enactment of a 13th-century military stratagem with a parade, the third Sunday in May.

Pinocchio's Birthday is celebrated May 25 in the Tuscan town of *Pescia*.

The Chianti Wine Festival, the last Sunday in May and first Sunday in June, takes place in *Montespertoli* in the Chianti wine region of Tuscany.

The Daffodil Festival in the Abruzzi town of *Rocca di Mezzo* celebrates spring with folk dancing and a parade the last Sunday in May.

A Stunning Senior Moment

Ha Ha Ha!



Apparently, a self-important college freshman attending a recent football game took it upon himself to explain to a senior citizen sitting next to him why it was impossible for the older generation to understand his generation.

“You grew up in a different world, actually an almost primitive one,” the student said, loud enough for many of those nearby to hear.

“The young people of today grew up with television, jet planes, space travel, man walking on the moon. Our space probes have visited Mars. We have nuclear energy, ships and electric and hydrogen cars, cell phones. Computers with light-speed processing... and more.”

After a brief silence, the senior citizen responded as follows: “You’re right, son. We didn’t have those things when we were young..... so we invented them. Now, you arrogant little (beep), what are you doing for the next generation?”

The applause was amazing.....

Coping With the World Around You

Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change. The courage to change the things I cannot accept. And the wisdom to hide the bodies of those people I had to kill today because they ticked me off.

And also, help me to be careful of the toes I step on today as they may be connected to the (behind) I may have to kiss tomorrow.

Help me to always give 100% at work...

12% on Monday

23% on Tuesday

40% on Wednesday

20% on Thursday

5% on Fridays

And, help me to remember....

When I’m having a really bad day, and it seems that people are trying to tick me off, that it takes 42 muscles to frown and only 4 to extend the middle finger and tell them to scoot off.

Calendar of Coming Club/Hall Events

- 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 A. Vitale, T. Lumia
- July 29, 2012** **DIAC Annual Picnic**
Tony Lumia, Sam Pizzo
- 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.**
Nino Trupiano, Tony Lumia.
- Oct. 17, 2012** **October Pasta Event.**
Pasta Committee & Membership.
- Nov. 4, 2012** **Memorial Mass.**
Florence Coleman & Membership.
- Nov. 11, 2012** **Arts & Craft Show.**
Emily Shifflett & Membership.
- Dec. 15, 2012** **Member’s Christmas Party.**
- Dec. 16, 2012** **Children’s Christmas Party.**
- Dec. 31, 2012** **“Legends Live” New Year’s Eve Party.**
Tony Lumia, Nino Trupiano

The **Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter** is published monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club membership.
Editor: Frank A. Giannotti. (734) 283-7394
Forward your comment, correction and items of interest to:

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c/o Frank A. Giannotti
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Riverview, MI 48193-7703

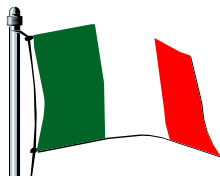
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"A TASTE OF ITALY"

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

DOWNRIVER ITALIAN-AMERICAN HALL



646 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, Michigan 48192-2727
(734) 285-4044



Featuring a Sampling of Italian Cuisine From:

- ❖ ANDIAMO'S DEARBORN
- ❖ SAMMY'S CUCINA
- ❖ FRATELLO'S RESTAURANT
- ❖ FRANK'S RESTAURANT
- ❖ CIAO GRAPPA LOUNGE
- ❖ CARINO'S ITALIAN GRILL
- ❖ THE FISH MARKET
- ❖ LIBERATI'S DELI & BAKERY
- ❖ SIBLEY GARDENS
- ❖ BRAVO CUCINA ITALIANA
- ❖ JACK'S BAKERY
- ❖ ROMAN VILLAGE
- ❖ ANTONIO'S RESTAURANT

A sampling of Italian and California wines from

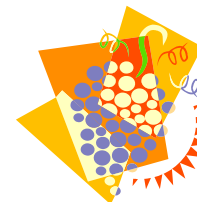
DISCOUNT DRINKS of Wyandotte

"Travel to Italy" Information by AAA TRAVEL AGENCY



Serving at 6:00 p.m.

DONATIONS - \$ 35.00



TO BENEFIT THE PENRICKTON CENTER FOR BLIND CHILDREN

For more information and ticket sales - contact:

Diana Holmes - DIA HALL OFFICE - (734) 285-4044 or

Tony Lumia - Chairperson - (313) 565-0671

PUBLIC WELCOME - BRING YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS



Downriver Italian-American Club

Presents the Seventh Annual:

2012 DIAC Golf Outing "Get into the Swing of Things" Golf Scramble

Saturday, July 21st, 2012

Westburn Golf Club

5617 S. Huron River Drive
South Rockwood, MI

(Located between Telegraph & I-75, Exit 26)



Registration and Lunch: 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Shotgun Start: 1:30 p.m.

Dinner & Awards immediately following



Includes:

18 holes of golf

Powered golf cart

Lunch prior to shotgun start

Steak & Chicken Barbeque Dinner

Contests, raffles and prizes!

Cost: \$65 per member & \$70 per non-member

Reservations with payment only, due: July 7th, 2012

Four-some groups preferred.

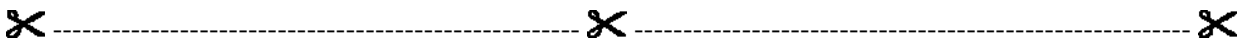


Sign Sponsorship: Have your company sign advertised at a tee box for only \$50.

(Non-members will receive member's cost for golf with a sign sponsorship)

For more information, contact:

Gaetano A. Vitale – (248) 320-2196 mobile or Tony Lumia – (313) 565-0671



I (We) will be attending the **DIAC Golf Scramble on Saturday, July 21st, 2012**

This ticket and payment must be received no later than July 07th, 2012.

Team Members (Player 1 to be main contact)	Phone Number	Payment Enclosed?
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		

Sign Sponsorship – Company Name: _____ Contact Phone #: _____

Make checks payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club**. Total Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Mail form and check to: Gaetano A. Vitale ♣ 8920 Robert St. ♣ Taylor, MI 48180-8300



2012 Pasta Events

“Downriver Best Kept Secret”[©]

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

	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 rd Wednesday of each Month



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

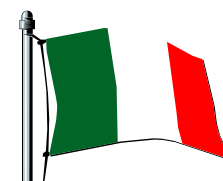
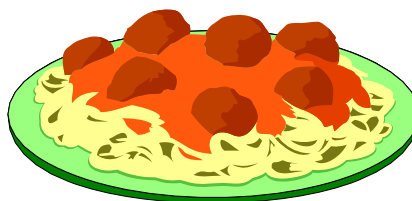
Dinner: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$8.00

Children 10 & Under: \$4.00

Italian Sausage 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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