



42nd Year, 1971-2013



The Downriver Italian-American Club®

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

** IMPORTANT DATES **

February/March 2013 NEWSLETTER

Club Board Meeting	Tuesday, February 12, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
	Tuesday, March 12, 2013 – 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting.....	Sunday, February 24, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.
	Sunday, March 24, 2013 – 5:00 p.m.

St. Joseph Celebration - Sun. March 17, 2013

2013 Club Membership Dues



The 2013 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**. The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2013**.

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.

One copy of the newsletter is mailed (or hand delivered) to the member's household. A color version of the newsletter is available at the club website, www.diac.us. Members that have internet access can read and download the newsletter, while saving 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 website.

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

Membership Meeting Time Change

At the request of the members present at the January 27, 2013 membership meeting, **all future membership meetings will start at 5:00 PM (instead of 6:30 PM)**. Please jot this down on your calendar.

Message from the New Club President



Dear Club Members:

I hope that 2013 brings good health and good fortune for you and your family and look forward to a brighter future together.

We would like to thank **Judge Christopher Dingell** (3rd Circuit Court

of Wayne County and also a member of our club) and his wife **Cindy**, for attending our general meeting to swear in the 2013 Club Board Members. At this time, we now have a full contingent of board members with the appointments of **Leslie Lupo** as Treasurer, **George Lavine** as Asst. Treasurer, **Paula Rice** as Recording Secretary and **Alfonso Stralle** as Trustee.

On behalf of all DIAC members, I would like to thank the Hall Board for their continuing efforts to come up with new programs and changes to sustain our club. Both boards have been very busy promoting all our events and functions but we still need your support. If you have not recently been to our club, please, I invite you to do so. When you chose to become a club member, you were, now the CLUB is asking you to be that member. A list of all our 2013 events will be in the club newsletter.

This year we will discuss many other membership programs: new members joining at a regular dues rate with no initiation fee and the development of an Associate Membership (no Italian heritage). Our membership needs a boost so we hope to include friends, relatives and non-Italian families.

Plans are being reviewed to open our Hall for evening hour socials, whereby members can come and relax, socialize, bar and snack food will be available.

Due to budget issues, it was decided at the last Board Meeting to send newsletters out every other month. This will save approximately \$1,000 per year. So remember to save your newsletter each time to review dates and special events.

Our club will continue to move forward with new ideas and events. If you have any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 734-282-1257. I invite you to partake in all planned events and be proud to be part of one of the most beautiful clubs in the downriver area.

Ciao,

Charley (Ciro), Club President

Club Membership Drive



DIAC Board approved a resolution to waive new membership initiation fees (\$50.00), starting December 1, 2012. If you

know of friend(s) who are of Italian heritage, please let them know of this special membership discount offer. This is a limited time

Feb./March Winter Luncheon at the Hall



Mary Cottone is scheduling another **Winter Luncheon** for members and their friends, on **Wednesday, February 20 and again on March 20, 2013, starting at 11:00 am**. The menu is baked chicken, lunchmeat tray, bread, salad, coffee, tea and soda beverage. Members and friends can bring their favorite dessert to share.

The cost is \$7.00 per person. Make check payable to **Downriver Italian-American Hall**. Please send your reservation to: **Mary Cottone, 478 Mulberry, Wyandotte, MI 48192**, no later than February 15/March 15, 2013. She needs a minimum of 50 people. Come join the fun. Card playing is allowed. Mary stated, “Thanks to everyone who came in January – a good time was had by all. And, thanks for cleaning up and setting up.” The party will be over when the last person leaves and turns out the lights.

St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 17



The 40th Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration - Sunday, March 17, 2013.

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 17th. 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 39 years. We have donated nearly \$95,800 - 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. Send your donation to:

Downriver Italian-American Hall

Att: St. Joseph Celebration

646 Biddle Ave.

Wyandotte, MI 48192-2727

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 our area.

Florence Coleman - (734) 281-7126

Nancy Cosentino - (313) 383-0350

Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491

“Legends Live” Spring Show



The **Downriver Italian-American Hall** board will be hosting the **“Legends Live” Spring Show** on **Saturday, April 6, 2013**. **Mary Cottone, Diana Holmes** and the **Hall Board** 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 **Jack Nicholson, Elvis Presley, Ricky Nelson, Dion, Garth Brooks** and Detroit’s own special TV legend, **Johnny Ginger**. Dinner is at 6:30 PM, - entertainment begins at 8:00 PM.

Be sure to advise your family and friends. **This Event is open to the public.** There 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

Regarding the Club Newsletter



As stated in the president’s article, the club newsletter will be mailed to the membership every other month, starting with the February edition. This was a cost cutting measure to offset expenses. I may publish the other month’s newsletter via the club website, www.diac.us, with news and updates. You will need internet access for this. Frank A. Giannotti

~ Henry Van Dyke ~

Sick and Good Will



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

Joe Agrusa (Trenton) underwent knee surgery, **Don Kerr** was ill, **Emma Checchio** was in the hospital, **Sam Pizzo** had eye surgery, **Sue Lupo** was hospitalized. **Mary Wierzba** is was in the hospital. **Mike T. Palazzolo** was hospitalized. **Johnny Mitra** is recovering from a broken leg.

We wish good health to all our members who are not feeling well – especially those 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 an emergency in their family.

Condolences to the family of **Constance (Connie) DeLiz** who passed away on December 27, 2012, at the age of 88. Connie and her late husband **Joe DeLitz**, became club members in May 1973. They were both very active at the Italian Festivals at the Yack Arena. You would see Connie as a cashier and Joe doing whatever plumbing was needed. Later they were active at the pasta events. After Joe passed away, Connie was very active in the **St. Joseph** events, where she would always bring flowers for the St. Joseph altar. We will miss her. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Sal and Nancy DiPasquale** on the death of Sal's sister, **Concetta Cuzzitta**, who passed away on January 2, 2013, at the age of 79, in Palermo, Sicily, Italy. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Damiano and Piera Vitale** on the death of Piera's brother, **Lorenzo Vitale**, who passed away on January 10, 2013, at the age of 77, in Cinisi, Sicily, Italy. May he rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Charlie and Leslie Lupo** on the death of Charlie's mother, **Fara (Fannie) Parrino**, who passed away on January 27, 2013, at the age of 92. Fara and her late husband, **Jim Parrino**, joined the club in 1972. They were one of the originals that started the St. Joseph Celebration at the club. They were both very active in the Italian festivals and later worked at the Pasta Events. You would see Fannie serving coffee to the customers. We will all miss Fannie. Condolences to the families of **Phil and Sue Lupo**, **Rose Lupo**, and **Randy and Paula Rice**. May she rest in peace.

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.*

The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center

GO WITH GRACE TOURS

Upcoming tours by **GO WITH GRACE TOURS**:

VALENTINE – TURTLE CREEK Cas. Feb. 12-14, 2013
Receive \$101 casino money & food. \$165.00 PP

WINTER GETAWAY – KEWADIN Cas. Mar. 5-7, 2013
Receive \$80 casino \$\$ & food & 2 Breakfasts \$130.00 PP

OVERNIGHT – ODAWA Casino Mar. 19-20, 2013
Receive \$72 casino money & food. \$110.00 PP

GO WITH GRACE TOURS (Att: Grace Cibulskis)

28020 Charlemagne St.

Romulus, MI 48174

(734)306-2072

www.gowithgrace55@yahoo.com

Call and ask for current tour flyer with details on the above and future trips and requirements.

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.

Frances (Ciccina) Vitale (2/4)

Grace Asteriou (2/5)

Elisa Norscia (2/6)

Marianna Curcuru (2/7)

Frank Liberati (2/7)

Michael Olevnik (2/9)

Rosemary Prato (2/9)

John Graziani (2/10)

Deloris Phillips (2/11)

Fara DiMaria (2/12)

Joan Cadorin (2/13)

Christopher Dingell (2/13)

Rose Lupo (2/13)

Antonio Palazzolo (2/13)

Frank Bianchi (2/15)

Raymond Lucarelli (2/15)

Anthony Militello (2/17)

Shirley Bommarito (2/19)

Leona Vizzini (2/19)

Stephanie Parrino (2/22)

Ted Brockway (2/23)

Florence Coleman (2/23)

Connie Militello (2/24)

Henry LeSage (2/25)

Pat Mastrogiacomo (2/25)

Don Jenson (2/26)

Marie Pagnucco (2/26)

Sam Cosentino (2/27)

Sue Lupo (2/27)

Sam G. Randazzo (2/27)

Joe J. Agrusa (2/28)

Vita Alastra (2/28)

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.

Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)

Martin and Rosalie Shimkus (2/25)

A Special Thank-You to Our Members



A special thank-you to club members **Hermine Norscia, Carmela Stralle and Lisa Vespa** for bringing dessert to the November membership meeting. The desserts were very much appreciated and delicious.

Nancy Cosentino, Rosalie Shimkus, Francesca (Ciccina) Vitale and Rose Vitale (Cora St.) have volunteered to bring dessert to the **February 24th membership** meeting.

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 – they will receive the same discount price as a club member. The Hall is willing to work very close with them. The Hall 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.

Contacting the Hall During an Emergency



Members who wish to contact the Hall during an emergency situation, (when the Hall is not staffed), can contact **Mary Cottone** at (313)689-5313 (cell); **Nino Trupiano** at (734)837-6959 (cell) or **Mark Grazioli** at (734)787-0666 (cell).

The information will be forward to the Hall Secretary/ Receptionist, **Diana Holmes**, the next day. Diana will contact the people and she will make the necessary arrangement. Please provide as much lead time as possible. The Hall telephone number is (734)285-4044.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



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

Rosalie Giammalva (3/4)
Italia (Ann) Lepidi (3/4)
James Jenson (3/5)
Nancy Marcantonio (3/6)
Michelle Hamel (3/8)

Joe Evola (3/16)
Anthony J. Vitale (3/17)
Joseph Leone (3/19)
Joseph Susin (3/19)
Edith Gendron (3/22)

Stephanie Badalamenti (3/10)

Josie Favazza (3/10)

Rose Vitale (3/10)

Danny Herbert (3/14)

Matteo Giaino (3/15)

Charlie Lupo (3/22)

Sal DiPasquale (3/24)

Joe Chirco (3/25)

Luigi Biundo (3/28)

Gaetano A. Vitale (3/29)

Douglas Melzer (3/30)

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 next month.

Sal and Nancy DiPasquale (3/22)

Congratulating New DIAC Member

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

Delores Phillips of Wyandotte, MI., sponsored by **Mary Cottone**.

Calendar of Upcoming Club/Hall Events

Feb. 20, 2013 **February Winter Luncheon**

Mary Cottone and Friends.

Mar. 17, 2013 **40th Annual St. Joseph Celebration**

F. Coleman, N. Cosentino, G. Pizzo.

Mar. 20, 2013 **March Winter Luncheon**

Mary Cottone and Friends.

Apr. 6, 2013 **"Legends Live" Spring Show.**

Mary Cottone, Diana Holmes.

April 17, 2013 **April – First Pasta Event.**

Pasta Committee & Membership.

May 1, 2013 **Taste of Italy – Charity Event.**

Tony & Miriam Lumia.

May 15, 2013 **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
 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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The Downriver Italian-American Hall®

646 BIDDLE AVE ♣ WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-2727 ♣ TEL. (734)285-4044 ♣

Luncheon at the Hall

Wednesday, February 20, 2013

Wednesday, March 20, 2013

Buffet Luncheon from 11:00 a.m. to “Last One to Leave”

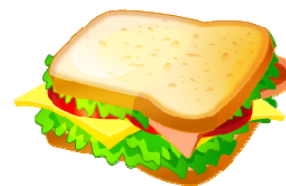
♣ **Open to Members, their Families and Friends** ♣

\$7.00 per Person



~ Menu ~

Baked Chicken Pieces
Lunchmeats & Cheeses
Bread, Salad, Dressing
Soft Beverage
Coffee or Tea



Bring Your Favorite Dessert to Share



Deadline for Reservation is February 15 & March 15, 2013

Make check payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Hall**

Mail to: **Mary Cottone, 478 Mulberry St., Wyandotte, MI 48192-4352-4352**

For further information, please contact:

Diana Holmes or Mary Cottone – DIAH Office at (734) 285-4044

The Downriver Italian-American Banquet Hall®

The 40th Annual
St. Joseph Day Celebration

Sunday, March 17, 2013

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 is served, including a
Grapefruit, Orange and Bread 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 or Mary Cottone - (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 Peace and Joy

Downriver Italian-American Banquet Hall

646 Biddle Ave. Wyandotte, MI 48192

Proudly Presents

LEGENDS LIVE

Michigan's #1 Tribute Show

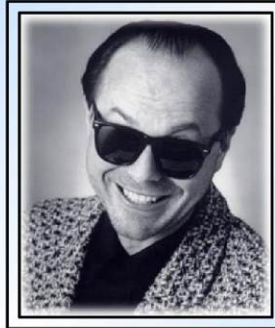
Saturday, April 6, 2013

Featuring

Elvis

Voice Impersonator
Singer & Comedian
Detroit TV Legend
Johnny Ginger

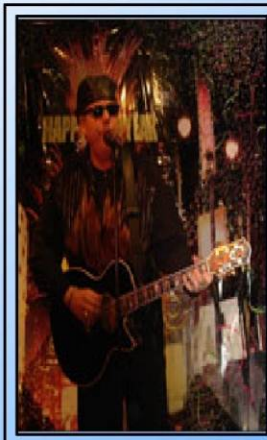
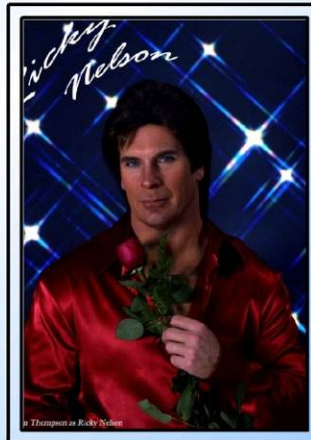
MC
Jack Nicholson



Ricky Nelson

Dion

Garth Brooks



TICKETS \$40.00 Includes Dinner & Show (Cash Bar / Drink Specials)

DINNER @ 6:30 PM - SHOW @ 8:00 PM

For reservations or more information please call D.I.A Banquet Hall 734-285-4044

Mary Cottone 734-285-1563

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



2013 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, April 17, 2013	Wednesday, May 15 2013
Wednesday, June 19, 2013	Wednesday, July 17, 2013
Wednesday, August 21, 2013	Wednesday, September 18, 2013
Wednesday, October 16, 2013	3 rd Wednesday of each Month



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

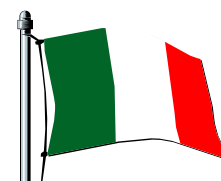
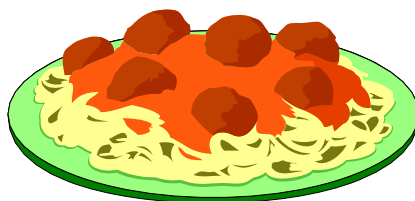
Dinner: 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Adults: \$8.00

Children 10 & Under: \$4.50

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.

“Making a Difference in Downriver”TM

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