



49th Year, 1971-2020

The Downriver Italian - American Club®

P.O. Box 1797 ♣ Southgate, MI 48195-0797 ♣ Tel. (734) 676-8463 ♣ Email: diac1971@gmail.com ♣ Web: www.diac.us

** IMPORTANT DATES **

DEC. 2020 Newsletter – Issue #296

Club Board Meeting ** CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE **
General Membership Meeting ** CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE **



Happy Holidays to our Members



2021-2022 CLUB OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President
SAM RANDAZZO
Vice President
LESLIE LUPO
Recording Secretary
MARILYN BOMARITO
Financial Correspondent
FRANK A GIANNOTTI
Treasurer
PAULA F RICE
Assistant Treasurer
MARK S GRAZIOLI
Inside Guard
CHARLES M LUPO
Outside Guard
DAMIANO VITALE
Guide
GRACE PIZZO

TRUSTEES
JAMES BADEMIAN
JULIANN BADEMIAN
FLORENCE COLEMAN
PAOLA HILLEBRAND
ALICE PATTON
DENNIS PATTON
TOM A RANDAZZO
LEONA M. VIZZINI

SCHOLARSHIP
COMMITTEE
FRANK GIANNOTTI
JULIANN BADEMIAN
GRACE PIZZO
PAULA F RICE
SOCIAL
COMMITTEE
JULIE BADEMIAN
ALICE PATTON
GRACE PIZZO
PAULA RICE



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS TO ALL
OUR MEMBERS



The Club Officers wish all of our members and their families a **Merry Christmas** and a **Joyous New Year**. Be safe, be healthy, and keeping hope that 2021 will be a better year.

A Message from our President



As I write this article, the snow is falling, the sky is gray, and I ask myself, why do I stay in Michigan in the winter? The reality is that my family is here and that's what's most important.

It's the Italian in me. My only regret is that my family didn't move to Hawaii!

I hope your **Thanksgiving Day** was joyous. It certainly was different. I am growing weary of this Covid-19 virus as I'm sure so many of us are. The good news is that there will be a vaccine out soon and I am hopeful that by this next summer, we can begin to resume our club activities. I miss the

fellowship, the food and all the noise that goes along with it.

The Board has decided to suspend membership dues in 2021, for those who paid them in 2020. It wasn't a good year to be a social club but I can assure you that when the coast is clear, we will make up for lost time. That is a Presidential promise (for what it's worth)!

To all members, I hope that you stay safe and healthy. Do the best you can to have a **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**.

Di addio al 2020,
Salvatore (Sam) Randazzo – Club President

A Poem During Pandemic Times

If you're anxious that all have been asked to stay home,

Take comfort in knowing you are not alone.

*Tonight at 8, wherever you are,
Gaze up at the sky and pick out a star.*

*A moment alone or with people you love,
We all share the beautiful sky high above.*

*Take 30 seconds, be still in your mind;
Reflect on a happy, most memorable time.*

*The littlest things can give hearts a lift;
If we pause, take a moment, and cherish our gifts.*

Special Christmas Mailing by the Social Committee



The Social Committee, consisting of **Paula Rice, Julie Bademian, Alice Patton, and Grace Pizzo**, hope you enjoy the special Christmas/Gift Card mailing this month. We wish you and your family a peaceful and healthy holiday season. We hope to see you in 2021.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Downriver Italian-American Club

Sick and Good Will



Our thoughts and prayers to our members and their families, who may be under the weather, having tests, getting treatments, or surgeries. Also, special blessings to all of our many caretakers of ailing family members. May God bless you all. **Get Well Wishes** to members: **Charles Lupo, and others??**, who were/are ill or were in the hospital. To us, who are following **Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer**: facial mask in public places, 6 feet social distance, avoid social gathering, as well as canceling family gathering during the holidays.

Condolences to the families of **Josephine Badalamenti** on the death of her husband, **Giuseppe (Joe) Badalamenti**, who passed away on October 25, 2020, at the age of 94. **Joe and Josie** joined the Club in September 1992. Joe and Josie were very active in the club; worked the club festivals at Yack Arena, worked the club pasta events, attended many club activities and events.

Condolences to their daughter, **Stephanie Badalamenti**, who is a club member. May he rest in peace. May his memory be a blessing.

La Befana – An Italian Christmas Tale



In Italian folklore, **La Befana** is the story of the three wise men who stopped at her house (a widower) to ask directions on their way to Bethlehem.

They invited her to join them, but she refused, as she was busy cleaning. She promised that she would catch up with them when she was finished; but by that time, they were long gone.

She frantically began running after them still carrying her broom with presents for baby Jesus. *Magically*, she began to fly on her broomstick but still could not find the wise men or baby Jesus.

Since then, in Italy on January 6th, the **Feast of the Epiphany**, **La Befana** flies on her broom leaving gifts for children. She brings candies and presents to the boys and girls who were good; and pieces of coal and ashes for those who were bad, in a similar way as St. Nicholas or Santa Claus.

Blessings to You in the New Year
 May peace fill your world,
 May love fill your home
 With contentment and happiness, too—
 In wonderful ways
 May this year of new days
 Be filled with sweet blessings for you.
 Happy New Year

DIAC Events Cancellation



The COVID-19 pandemic has not gone away and medical news shows it continuing into 2021. The Club Board, after deep consideration, has decided to cancel the **Christmas Party** on December 13th. At this time, it is anybody's guess when things are back to normal.

Also under consideration is the **Club 50th Anniversary Gala Party** which was slated for April 2021. That too may be delayed into October 2021 or be canceled, if conditions are not back to normal.

Happy Anniversary – Buon Anniversario



We wish to extend our **Best Wishes for the many Happy and Healthy years together**, to our members who are celebrating their **Anniversaries**.

Michael and Susan Shields (12/18)

Don and Emilia (Mimi) Kerr (12/31) 30th

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



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

Bruce Yinger (12/5) Giavanna Palazzolo (12/19)
Sylvia Vitale (12/6) Joanne Wolfgang (12/19)
David Esordi (12/8) Angela M Palazzolo (12/20)
Gerry Wenzel (12/10) Vivian Cacioppo (12/22)
Anthony Kause (12/12) Shirley Cavataio (12/22)
Giovanna Vitale (12/14) George Lavine (12/26)
James Waltz (12/15) Marian Maniaci (12/28)
Tom Talluto (12/17) Steven Vitale (12/28)
Giuseppe Alastra (12/19) Pete Perniciaro (12/29)

The Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter

Published monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club membership. Forward comment, correction, and items of interest to

(Newsletter Editor)

Frank A. Giannotti
 14823 Williamsburg Blvd.
 Riverview, MI 48193-7703

Editor Phone

(734)283-7394

Editor Email

frankgiannotti@comcast.net

Club Website

www.diac.us

Club Email

diac1971@gmail.com

Copyright© Downriver Italian-American Club 2020. All rights reserved. The DIAC logo is a trademark of the Downriver Italian-American Club. This newsletter, or any part thereof, may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording, storage in an information retrieval system, or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the Downriver Italian-American Club.