



54rd Year, 1971-2025



The Downriver Italian-American Club®

P.O. Box 1797 ♣ Southgate, MI 48195-0797 ♣ Tel. (734)282-1257 ♣ Email: diac1971@gmail.com ♣ Web: www.diac.us

**** IMPORTANT DATES ****

March 2025 Newsletter – Issue #333

Club Board Meeting: * Cancelled *****

General Membership Meeting: Sun., Mar. 23, 2025 – 5:00 pm. @ Copeland Ctr.

St. Joseph Celebration – March 23, 2025

A Message from Club President



Ciao Club Members:

--- Spring is Almost Here!
We're on the cusp of spring—yay! I can't wait to see the leaves return to our dormant trees and watch the first spring flowers bloom. That's what I love about living in Michigan—the change of seasons always gives us something to look forward to.

Our February Luncheon was a great success, with 53 members in attendance. The **Bentley** served a delicious meal, and our meeting was both informative and exciting. The **Social Committee** has planned a fantastic lineup of activities for 2025, so be sure to check our newsletters for dates and times. You can also visit our website at DIAC.US for the full event schedule.

Join us for our monthly card parties—where everyone will receive a free gift—or come celebrate at this month's **St. Joseph Event** on **March 23** at Wyandotte's Copeland Center (4th and Mulberry). Bring your family and friends, and remember, **all proceeds go to charity.**

Let's cherish every moment because, as the saying goes, *"Enjoy life while you can—it can be taken in a heartbeat."*

Ciao, - Leslie Lupo – Club President



May St. Joseph Bless You

2025 Club Membership Dues



The 2025 club annual membership dues are now payable. The Club Board recently approved a motion to increase the annual dues by \$10.00 per person due to the rising cost of postage, printing, and envelopes. The dues are now \$40.00 for a single member and \$80.00 for a married couple. The dues can be paid at a General Membership meeting, or you can mail a check or money order (payable to **Downriver Italian-American Club or DIAC.** Mail to:

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

An invoice is included in this newsletter for regular members for whom we have not received their 2025 dues.

For **Honorary Members** (those with 25+ years of continued membership), there are **NO dues.**

The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2025.**

Card Party at K of C



A Club Card Party is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 4, 2025**, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall**, 3530 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, MI 48192.

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. Club members and their guests are welcome. Chips, pretzels, and fruits are provided. Cash bar service is available. The clothes/color attire for this month is **Green and/or St. Pats** attire.

There is a service charge of \$2.00 per person for using the hall facility and gratuity. **Grace Pizzo** chairs this event; give her a call at (734)379-9491 and let her know you are attending. .



2025 - 2026 CLUB OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President
LESLIE G. LUPO

Vice President
SAM RANDAZZO
Recording Secretary

Financial Correspondent
Secretary
FRANK A. GIANNOTTI

Treasurer
NINO TRUPIANO
Assistant Treasurer

Inside Guard
CHARLES M. LUPO

Outside Guard
DAMIANO VITALE

Guide
GRACE PIZZO

TRUSTEES
JAMES BADEMIAN
JULIANN BADEMIAN
SUE BYRD
PATRICK FLAHERTY
ALICE PATTON
DENNIS P. ATTON
PAULA F. RICE
KARL UNDERWOOD

SOCIAL COMMITTEE
JULIE BADEMIAN
SUE BYRD
ALICE PATTON
GRACE PIZZO
PAULA RICE



Scan Here to Access Club Website



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Downriver Italian-American Club

Feast of St. Joseph - March 23, 2025



The 48th Annual Feast of St. Joseph Celebration - Sunday, March 23, 2025. The event is at Copeland Center, 2306 4th Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192. The Celebration starts at 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$20.00 per person. Personal donations can be made at the Alter of

the Saints. The Club will match 100% of the donated money. The March membership meeting will immediately follow the St. Joseph event.

This event is a Sicilian tradition 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 with statues brought in by members - candles, bread, and fruits are placed on the Altar. We serve a meal of pasta, beans, and veggies. Each person is given a package of a roll, an orange, and a few cookies. There is a blessing of the food before the meal. We follow the tradition of our families as much as possible. We have held this event for the past 47 years. All donations are given to needy families and organizations helping children. If you would like to make cookies or help us (in any way), please get in touch with Sam Randazzo (734) 676-8463 or Grace Pizzo (734)379-9491. Invite your friends and family to help us celebrate this charitable club event. If you are unable to attend, you can still donate. Make your check payable to Downriver Italian American Club, and please write at the bottom that it is for the Feast of St. Joseph. Send your donation to

Sam Randazzo
3391 Brookshire
Trenton, MI 48183-3970.

Again, we need members to donate cookies – please call Grace Pizzo at (734)379-9491. RSVP your reservation by calling Sam or Grace no later than March 16, 2025, so a headcount can be established.

Sam Randazzo - (734) 676-8463
Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491

A flyer will appear in the March newsletter.

Tulip Time Festival – Overnight Bus Trip



The Social Committee is offering an overnight trip for club members with a \$50 cash subsidy that will be given to members on the bus trip. The trip is on May 2-3, 2025.

Members will book and make deposits directly with Custom Holidays, (313)388-0448.

Social Committee member Sue Byrd ((734)258-2822) will be the contact for any subsidy related questions, but all trip questions need to be directed to Custom Holidays. Club members attending will be given \$50 cash subsidy. Call Sue Byrd to let her know you are attending so she can keep track of the number of attendees and get them the subsidy.

For a flyer, contact Sue Byrd at (734)258-2822.

2025 Scholarship to Be Awarded



A son or daughter of a club member who is a graduating senior and is planning on attending higher education at a college or university may apply for a \$1,000 scholarship.

Basic requirements: Must have a minimum B (3.0) grade point average; their parent(s) must be member(s) in good standing for two (2) consecutive years. (Basis: membership before June 30 of their membership year). For further information, contact Frank Giannotti at (734)283-7394, or by email, frankgiannotti@comcast.net The completed application must be received no later than June 30, 2025.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



We extend our congratulations and best wishes to our members who are celebrating their birthdays this month.

Birthday this month.

<i>Brett Rice (3/03)</i>	<i>Patricia Chalmers (3/22)</i>
<i>Rosalie Giammalva (3/04)</i>	<i>Edith Gendron (3/22)</i>
<i>Ann I. Lepidi (3/04)</i>	<i>Charles Lupo (3/22)</i>
<i>Mitchell Wolski (3/07)</i>	<i>Joseph Barraco (3/23)</i>
<i>Stef Badalamenti (3/10)</i>	<i>Sal DiPasquale (3/24)</i>
<i>Danny Herbert (3/14)</i>	<i>Francine Verduce (3/27)</i>
<i>Anthony J. Vitale (3/17)</i>	<i>Gaetano A Vitale (3/29)</i>
<i>Sue Byrd (3/19)</i>	<i>Frances Menna (3/30)</i>
<i>Joseph Susin (3/19)</i>	

Happy 
St. Patrick's Day



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Downriver Italian-American Club

Don't Give Up So Fast

There are good days and bad days
and days of stormy weather
and times when it seems that everything
is going wrong all together
but the longest lane has a turning point
and sunshine follows rain
and springtime follows winter
and the world grows bright again

- Author Unknown -

Sick and GoodWill Notice



Our thoughts and prayers go to our members and their families who may be under the weather, having tests, getting treatments, or having surgeries. Also, special blessings to our many caretakers of ailing family members. May God bless them all. May God bless our troops. Get Well Wishes to our members (and their families) who are not feeling well: **Edith Gendron**, and ???

Condolences to the family of **Steven and Sylvia Vitale** on the death of Steve's brother, **Thomas Spraker**, who passed away on January 22, 2025, at the age of 74. *May his memory be a blessing!*

Are You an Active Member?

Are you an active member,
the kind that would be missed?
Or are you just contented
that your name is on the List?

Do you attend the meetings
and mingle with the flock?
Or do you stay at home
and criticize and knock?

Do you take an active part
to help the work along?
Or are you satisfied to be
the kind who just belongs?

Do you ever work on committees
to help the job go quick?
Or leave the work for just a few
and talk about the clique?

So come to the meetings often
and help with hand and heart,
don't be just a member,
but take an active part.



Gift Card for Membership Meetings



A \$50.00 prize gift card will be awarded to a club member who attends a regularly scheduled **General Membership meeting**. The gift card may be for local retail, restaurant, etc. Be sure to notify **Leslie Lupo** (734)282-1257 that you are attending the meeting. Please note: The gift card will not be provided at the March membership meeting after the St. Joseph event.

"Nunsense" Turkeyville Bus Trip



A bus trip to see the play "**Nunsense**" at Cornwell's Turkeyville is scheduled for **Thursday, May 22, 2025**. The trip included a meal. **Custom Holidays** is the tour sponsor. **Grace Pizzo** (734)379-9491 is the club contact person. The cost is \$109.00 for club members, \$139.00 for non-members. A flyer will be forthcoming.

Calendar of Future Events

- Mar. 4, 2025,** DIAC March Card Party
Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
- Mar. 23, 2025,** Feast of St. Joseph Celebration
Sam Randazzo, (734) 676-8463
Grace Pizzo, (734) 379-9491
- Apr. 1, 2025,** DIAC April Card Party
Paula Rice, (734)748-0998
- May 2-3, 2025,** Tulip Time Festival, Holland, MI
Sue Byrd, (734)258-2822
- May 22, 2025,** "Nunsense" Turkeyville Bus Trip
Grace Pizzo, (734)379-9491

The Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter

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P.O. Box 1797 ♣ Southgate, MI 48195-0797 ♣ Tel. (734) 676-8463

The 48th Annual

Feast of St. Joseph Celebration

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Presented at:

The Copeland Center
2306 Fourth Street
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 324-7275



The Celebration starts at 2:00 PM
A traditional Sicilian Pasta & Bean Dish,
including an Orange and a Bread Roll, is served.

By tradition, the food is Blessed in the kitchen by a Catholic priest.

Donation: \$20.00 per Person

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!**

Event/Donation is Payable at the Door
On the Day of the Event.



RSVP your reservation (No later than Sunday, March 16, 2025) by calling:

Sam Randazzo - (734) 676-8463 or

Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491

May St. Joseph Bless You & Bring You Joy, Health and Peace