



55th Year, 1971-2026

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# The Downriver Italian-American Club®

P.O. Box 1797 ♣ Southgate, MI 48195-0797 ♣ Tel. (734)748-8016 ♣ E-mail: diac1971@gmail.com ♣ Web: www.diac.us

## \*\* IMPORTANT DATES \*\*

May 2026 Newsletter – Issue #342

Club Board Meeting: ..... \*\* Board will be Notified if Scheduled \*\*

General Membership Meeting: ....Wed., May 20, 2025 – 1:00 pm. @ Bentley Conf. Ctr.



## Happy Mother's Day – Sun. May 10, 2026



### 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**  
**PATRICK FLAHERTY**  
**ALICE PATTON**  
**DENNIS P ATTON**  
**BRETT RICE**  
**PAULA F. RICE**  
**KARL UNDERWOOD**

SOCIAL COMMITTEE  
**JULIE BADEMIAN**  
**PAT CHALMERS**  
**ALICE PATTON**  
**GRACE PIZZO**  
**PAULA RICE**



**G7 ITALIA**  
2024



### Ciao Club Members:

After many days of April showers, Mother Nature has rewarded us with a breathtaking display of colorful flowers and blossoming trees. While this season brings its share of yard work—tending flower beds and keeping up with the lawn—it also gives us the perfect excuse to get outside, breathe in the fresh air, and soak up some long-awaited sunshine. After such a long winter, it truly feels wonderful to be outdoors again.

Our April 19th evening general meeting at the **Wyandotte Boat Club** was a fantastic success, with a great turnout and lively camaraderie. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make it such an enjoyable evening! Please remember that our next meeting on **May 20th** will be a **\*\*luncheon\*\*** held at the **Bentley Banquet Center**. Be sure to contact me to reserve your spot for what promises to be a delicious and delightful gathering. We also need desserts, so dust off your favorite recipes, put on your baking cap, and bring along something sweet to share!

We're excited to hear all about the recent **Niagara Falls** trip—what a wonderful opportunity for travel, fun, and making memories together. Be sure to connect with fellow members who attended and share in their adventure. Don't forget to read through the rest of this newsletter to stay informed about all the upcoming events and activities we have planned just for you. There's so much to look forward to

As the saying goes, *"Enjoy life while you can—it can be taken in a heartbeat."*

Ciao, - Leslie Lupo – Club President



### Card Party at K of C



This month's **Card Party** is on **Tuesday, May 5, 2026**, at the **Knights of Columbus Hall**, located at **3530 Biddle Avenue, Wyandotte, MI 48192**. The event begins at **6:00 p.m.** A **gift-card prize** will be awarded to a lucky attendee.

The event coordinator is **Grace Pizzo**. Call her at **(734) 379-9491** and tell her you'll be attending. A **\$2.00 service charge** will apply to cover the food, hall facility, and gratuity.

### Monthly Luncheon @ Bentley



This month's luncheon will be on **Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at 12:00 noon**, at **The Bentley Conference Center**, **646 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192**.

The monthly membership meeting will immediately follow the luncheon.

The cost of the luncheon is **\$15.00 per person** (meal and gratuity). Make your lunch reservation by calling **Leslie Lupo** at **(734) 748-8016** no later than one week before the luncheon.

### Diamond Jack Chartered Boat Ride – July 15, 2026



This year's **Diamond Jack Boat Ride** will be on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026**. The chairperson is **Frank Giannotti** **(734)283-7394**.

The boat ride will be heading north, passing the new **International Bridge** crossing. The Club has chartered the **Diamond Jack** boat for the trip. Family and guests are invited. This is an afternoon ride from **3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Meet at **Bishop Park** no later than **2:30 p.m.** Boat Boarding at **2:45 p.m.**

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Downriver Italian-American Club

After the ride, there is pizza/salad at the Wyandotte Boat Club (Across from Latitude Restaurant), 1 Pine Street, Wyandotte, MI, 48192 (734)284-5560. The doors open at 5:00 p.m., with the meal served at 6:00 p.m. The beverage is cash-bar.

The cost of the boat ride is \$30.00 per person. For Club members riding on the boat, pizza/salad is free. **Non-members (and Club members who did not ride the boat) pay \$5.00 for pizza and salad.** Return the coupon and monies **no later than Sunday, July 5, 2026.** A flyer is found in this newsletter. The boat's capacity is 125 passengers. Paid reservations on a first-come, first-served basis. **COVID masking is optional (at your discretion).**

### Membership Picnic – August 16, 2026



The Annual Club Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 16, 2026. The picnic location is at the **Young Patriots Park (Riverview Civic Center)**, at 14100 Civic Park Dr. (Sibley Road), in Riverview, MI 48193, same as in previous years.

The meal is prepared onsite by Chef Joseph J. Pagano.

The event is hosted by the Social Committee, Jim and Julie Bademian, Pat Chalmers, Grace Pizzo, Paula Rice, Sam and Darlene Randazzo. This event has always been a great success. Family and friends are welcome. A flyer will appear in the June/July newsletter. The flyer can be viewed and downloaded at the club website, <http://diac.us/Events.php>

### 2026 Scholarship to Be Awarded



A \$1,000 scholarship is available to a son or daughter of a Club member who is a **graduating high school senior** and planning to pursue higher education at a college or university.

Basic requirements include:

- A minimum **B (3.0) grade point average.**
- The applicant's parent(s) must be **Club member(s) in good standing** for two (2) consecutive years (membership must be established before June 30 of their membership year).

For more information, contact **Frank Giannotti** at (734) 283-7394 or by email at [frankgiannotti@comcast.net](mailto:frankgiannotti@comcast.net).

Completed applications must be submitted **no later than June 30, 2026.**



### Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



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

*Rosalie Shimkus (5/01)*

*Rose Zerilli (5/21)*

*Sal Finazzo (5/02)*

*Teresa LeSage (5/22)*

*Vivian Palazzolo (5/02)*

*Sam Badalamenti (5/23)*

*Rhonda Verdone (5/03)*

*Alexander Parker (5/23)*

*Colleen Tabaka (5/05)*

*Catherine Sclafani (5/23)*

*Therese Barraco (5/06)*

*Rose Boileau (5/24)*

*Theresa Klavon (5/11)*

*Joe Ventimiglia (5/24)*

*Vito Palazzolo (5/15)*

*Salvatore Vitale (5/24)*

*Vito Altomaro (5/19)*

*Jeanette Schiraldi (5/28)*

*Guy A. Vitale (5/20)*

*Anthony Lazzarino (5/30)*

### Happy Anniversary – Buon Anniversario



We extend our best wishes for many happy and healthy years to our members celebrating their **anniversaries** this-month.

*Gaetano A. and Laurie Randazzo (5/09)*

*Anthony J. and Robyn Vitale (5/15)*

*Daniel and Nancy Prone (5/18)*

*Louis and Carol Beafore (5/20) 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Salvatore and Giovanna Vitale (5/24)*

*Marco and Jennifer Vitale (5/24)*

### Welcome New Family Member



James and Margaret Waltz proudly announce the birth of their granddaughter, **Evelyn Margaret Waltz**, born on March 16, 2026. Evelyn weighed in at 7 lbs. 5 oz., and measured 21 inches. long. The parents are **Jered and Samantha Waltz**; this is their first child. Evelyn is the seventh great-grandchild of **Grace Pizzo** and the niece of **Joe Pizzo**, **Fran and Mitchell Wolski**, and distant aunt **Stella Marzano**.

### Welcome New Club Members



Please welcome new club members: **Apollonia (Nina) Lentini**, of Flat Rock, MI, sponsored by **Vita Alastra**

**Patricia Lentini**, of Flat Rock, MI, sponsored by **Vita Alastra**.



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

## Downriver Italian-American Club

## Sick and Goodwill Notice



Our thoughts and prayers are with our members and their families who may be facing health challenges, undergoing tests, receiving treatments, or preparing for surgeries. We also extend special blessings to the many caretakers who

selflessly support their ailing loved ones. May God bless them all, and may He continue to watch over and protect our troops in the Middle East.

We send Get-Well Wishes to our members and their families who are not feeling well, including **Steven and Sylvia Vitale**, and others who may be facing difficulties. May they find strength, healing, and comfort during these times.

Condolences to the family of **Maria (Guy A.) Vitale** on the death of her father, **Luciano Crapanzano**, who passed away on March 31, 2026, at the age of 80. *May his memory be a blessing.*



Condolences to the families of **Antonino (Nino) Vitale**, who passed away on April 11, 2026, at the age of 86. **Nino**, along with his late wife **Fara** (deceased April 11, 2021), joined our Club in April 1990. Throughout his years of service, Nino was on the club Board in the early years and held the position of Treasurer for many years.

From their earliest days, both Nino and Fara were dedicated members, offering their time and support to countless Club events. From the Italian Festivals at Yack Arena to trips, dances, parades, picnics, St. Joseph Celebrations, Christmas parties, Legend's Live, and other events, their involvement was unwavering. Nino's warmth, generosity, and welcoming spirit touched everyone who had the pleasure of knowing him. *May his memory be a blessing.*



Condolences to the families of **James (Jim) Bely**, who passed away on Sunday, April 19, 2026, at the age of 78.

Jim joined our Club in September 2013. You would see Jim at nearly all the club events, including trips, dances, parades, picnics, the St. Joseph Celebration, Christmas parties, Taste of Italy, and The Legends Live. His enthusiasm, hospitality, and joy touched every member who knew him. Jim was always ready to welcome others with warmth and kindness, embodying the true spirit of our club heritage. We extend our heartfelt condolences to **Mona Austin**. May the memory of **Jim Bely** be a blessing to all who had the privilege of knowing him.

## On Memorial Day – May 25, 2026



**Memorial Day** (originally called "Decoration Day") began as a way to honor the Civil War dead. It started when individuals, and then cities and towns, 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** is a way to honor all those who died in Service. In 1968, the official holiday was moved to the last Monday in May.

## Calendar of Future Events

- May 5, 2026, .....** DIAC May Card Party  
Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
- May 12, 2026, .....** Niagara Falls Bus Trip  
Alice Patton, (734) 697-7902
- May 20, 2026, .....** Daytime Meeting at Bentley  
Leslie Lupo, (734) 748-8016
- June 2, 2026, .....** DIAC June Card Party  
Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264
- June 14, 2026, .....** Evening Meeting at WBC  
Leslie Lupo, (734) 748-8016
- July 7, 2026, .....** DIAC July Card Party  
Alice Patton, (734) 697-7902
- July 15, 2026, .....** DIAC Boat Ride & Pizza/Salad  
Frank Giannotti, (734) 283-7394
- Aug. 4, 2026, .....** DIAC Aug. Card Party  
Alice Patton, (734) 697-7902
- Aug. 16, 2026, .....** DIAC Membership Picnic  
Sam Randazzo, (734) 676-8463

**Additional Events are found at the club website:**

<http://diac.us/Events.php>



## The Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter

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

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# Downriver Italian-American Club

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## Chartered Boat Cruise & Pizza

Wednesday – July 15, 2026, 3:00 PM - 5:00 PM

The Cruise will be Northbound Toward the New Int'l Bridge



Boat Capacity: 150 passengers. Paid reservations on first-come, first serve basis. Covid mask optional, but recommended

Board the Diamond Jack at quaint Bishop Park in Wyandotte for a two hour cruise on the sparkling waters of the lower Detroit River. Enjoy waterside views of the surrounding American and Canadian communities and beautiful wetland areas, while listening to interesting historical narration and anecdote. Ride alongside Great Lakes and ocean ships, pass steel mills, marine terminals and shipyards, historic LaSalle, Ontario and "explore" Canadian island backwaters rarely transited by commercial vessels. View historic waterfront mansions and an historic 1906 lighthouse. Relax - enjoy - and learn too! Passengers of all ages enjoy this truly unique "nautical adventure."

The Boat Ride is \$30.00 per Person — Family/Guests are Invited.

Pizza & Salad are Available after the Boat Ride.

Pizza & Salad is Free to Club Members Who Ride — \$5.00 for All Others.

### Wyandotte Boat Club

1 Pine Street, Wyandotte, MI 48192 (Across Street from Latitude Restaurant)

The Doors Open at 5:00 p.m. with Snack Served at Approx. 5:45 p.m.

All Beverages are Cash Bar at Wyandotte Boat Club

Mail Coupon with Party Size and Total Cost. Make check payable to:

Downriver Italian-American Club. DIAC members, their families, and guests are welcome

For Further Information, Contact Frank Giannotti at (734) 283-7394.

Arrive at dock no later than 2:30 p.m.



Boat Boarding at 2:45 p.m.



I/We will be attending the **Diamond Jack Boat Ride/Pizza & Salad** on Wed. – July 15<sup>th</sup>. Wyandotte Bishop Park. Snack at the WBC. This coupon and payment must be received no later than Sunday, July 5, 2026  
Meal Selection (mark with a number) Pizza/Salad \_\_\_\_\_ Salad \_\_\_\_\_

Name _____	Phone Number _____
# Attending Ride: _____	Member & Non-Member: \$ 30.00 x _____ Total: \$ _____
# Member (Rider) Dinner: _____	Dinner - Member: <b>\$ Free</b> x <b>FREE</b> Total: <b>FREE</b>
# Guest Dinner _____	Dinner - Guest: \$ 5.00 x _____ Total: \$ _____

Make your check payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club or DIAC** Total Amt: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Return this coupon and your check to: **Frank Giannotti, 14823 Williamsburg, Riverview, MI 48193-7703**

