



52nd Year, 1971-2024



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 **

February 2024 Newsletter – Issue #323

Club Board Meeting: Tues., Feb. 13, 2024 - 3:00 p.m. @ K of C
General Membership Meeting: Wed., Feb. 21, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. @ The Bentley

Happy Valentine's Day – Feb. 14, 2024



2023 - 2024 CLUB OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

President
LESLIE G. LUPO

Vice President
SAM RANDAZZO

Recording Secretary
MARILYN BOMARITO

Financial Correspondent
Secretary
FRANK A. GIANNOTTI

Treasurer
NINO TRUPIANO

Assistant Treasurer
MARK S. GRAZIOLI

Inside Guard
CHARLES M. LUPO

Outside Guard
DAMIANO VITALE

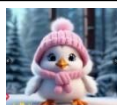
Guide
GRACE PIZZO

TRUSTEES
JAMES BADEMIAN
JULIANN BADEMIAN
SUE BYRD
PATRICK FLAHERTY
ALICE PATTON
DENNIS P. ATTON
TOM A. RANDAZZO
PAULA F. RICE

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



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Club President Message



Dear Club Members:
I want to express my gratitude for the privilege of serving as the President of our wonderful Club this past year. The success of our events reflects the

incredible teamwork among our officers and members.

A special thank you goes to Vice President **Sam Randazzo** for his outstanding coordination of the **St. Joseph's** event and the **Picnic**, both of which were resounding successes. **Frank Giannotti's** leadership shone through in the memorable **Boat Ride**, and his dedication to keeping us informed through the **Newsletter** and chairing the **Scholarship Program**.

Julie Bademian, your efforts in organizing our monthly **Card Party's** have added so much enjoyment to our gatherings. **Charles Lupo**, thank you for overseeing the **Columbus Day Party and Charity Donations**, contributing to the well-being of three worthy organizations. **Pat Flaherty**, thank you for spearheading the **Downriver Food Pantry** contribution in December, where we were able to donate over 150 pounds of food to the needy families.

A big shoutout to the **Social Committee**—**Grace Pizzo**, **Julie Bademian**, **Paula Rice**, **Alice Patton**, and **Sue Byrd**—for creating memorable moments with **Casino trips**, **Dinner Plays**, and our fantastic **Christmas Party**.

While we celebrate the joys of the past year, we also acknowledge the sadness that came with the loss of seven dedicated members. Our hearts go out to their families, and we hope that surrounding them with love and support brings some comfort.

Looking ahead to 2024, there are numerous opportunities to plan and engage in exciting activities. Check out our event schedule in the newsletter, and if you're up for an adventure, consider signing up for the 2024 October Trip to Italy.

Wishing everyone a wonderful start to the new year! "Enjoy life while you can, it can be taken in a heartbeat." Ciao,

Leslie Lupo – Club President

2024 Club Membership Dues



The 2024 club membership dues are now payable. The dues are \$30.00 for a single member and \$60.00 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**). Mail to:

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

For regular members, contained with this newsletter is your 2024 Dues Invoice.

For **Honorary Members** (those with 25+ years of continued membership), there are **NO dues** to be paid. A listing of **new** (and all) Honorary Members is included in this newsletter.

The deadline for dues is **March 31, 2024**

Monthly Luncheon @ Bentley



The Club luncheon will be on **Wednesday, February 21, 2024, at 12:00 noon**, at The **Bentley Conference Center**, **646 Biddle Ave., Wyandotte, MI 48192**. The monthly General Membership meeting will immediately follow the luncheon.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The cost of the luncheon is \$15.00 per person (meal and gratuity). Make your lunch reservation by calling **Leslie Lupo** at (734)282-1257 no later than one week before the luncheon.

February Card Party at K of C



A Club **Card Party** is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 6, 2024** 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. K of C has Taco Night that evening; tacos at \$2.50 each; chips, pretzels, and fruits are provided. Cash bar service is available.

There is a service charge of \$2.00 per person for the use of the hall facility and gratuity. The event is chaired by **Julie and Jim Bademian**; give them a call at (313)388-2264 and let them know you are attending. Bring

Your own card games.

Feast of St. Joseph - March 10, 2024



The 47th Annual Feast of St. Joseph Celebration - Sunday, March 10, 2024. The event will be held 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 44 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 contact **Sam Randazzo (734)676-8463** or **Grace Pizzo (734)379-9491**. Invite your friends and family and 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

Downriver Italian-American Club

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 3, 2024, so a headcount can be established.

Sam Randazzo - (734) 676-8463

Grace Pizzo - (734) 379-9491

DIAC 2024 Honorary Member List



Below are the names of Club Members who have attained twenty-five (25) years of continuous membership and are now classified as **Honorary Members**. As such, they no longer pay annual membership dues.

Giuseppe and Vita Alastra (04/90)

Grace Asteriou (02/73)

Josephine Badalamenti (09/92)

Stephanie Badalamenti (03/95)

James and Julieann Bademian (12/98)

Pauline Barraco (06/74)

Connie Becker (10/95)

Barbara Bianchi (01/76)

Joseph Bozzo (04/90)

Vivian Cacioppo (11/73)

Angelina Carlone (12/80)

Robert and Linda Carrier (01/93, 07/80)

Dolly Chirco (04/74)

Robert and Susie Coch (03/93)

Florence Coleman (02/73)

Paul Consiglio (10/97)

Nancy Cosentino (02/81)

Chris and Cindy Dingell ((07/96)

Sal DiPasquale (07/71)

BettyJean Ferraiuolo (04/90)

John and Anna Finazzo (10/86)

Elda Fracassa (03/75)

Rose Gaglio (11/85)

Giorlando and Rosalie Giammalva (01/91)

Giuseppe and Maria Giammalva (06/75)

Frank and Liliana Giannotti (03/80)

Emilia Gonella (02/81)

Mark and MaryJane Grazioli (11/73)

Martha Guastella (03/79)

Maria Horvath (04/90)

Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (01/93, 04/87)

Theresa Klavon (04/94)

Josie Klube (05/73)

Mary Lavine (06/94)

Grace Lewis (03/81)

Frank and Nina Liberati (11/96)

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Charlie and Leslie Lupo (07/73)
 Joan Luzac (03/79)
 Marian Maniaci (09/86)
 Stella Marzano (02/75)
 Michael and Kelli McNally (02/95)
 Pina Milewski (10/97)
 Angelo and Elisa Norscia (06/98)
 Angela M Palazzolo (06/76)
 Josephine Palazzolo (01/92)
 Nina Palazzolo (04/90)
 Vivian Palazzolo (05/72)
 John and Diana Parisi (12/91)
 Grace Pizzo (02/73)
 Gaetano (Tom) and Laurie Randazzo (06/78)
 Sam and Darlene Randazzo (05/93)
 Randall and Paula Rice (02/81)
 Catherine Rotondo (02/77)
 Catherine Sclafani (02/73)
 Rosalie Shimkus (05/90)
 Theresa Simone (12/76)
 Joseph and Nicolina Susin (11/72)
 Nino and Gianna Trupiano (01/74)
 Vito Trupiano (03/98)
 Joe and Paola Ventimiglia (02/91)
 Anthony J and Robyn Vitale (02/87, 01/92)
Anthony V. Vitale (05/99)
 Antonio Vitale (04/90)
 Benedetta Vitale (05/91)
 Damiano and Piera Vitale (04/90)
 Gaetano A. Vitale (06/93)
 Guy A. Vitale (01/93)
 Marco Vitale (05/90)
 Margaret Vitale (01/88)
 Salvatore and Giovanna Vitale (12/91)
 Steven and Sylvia Vitale (09/95)
 Vincenzo and Francesca Vitale (02/91)
 Vincenzo and Lilla Vitale (06/90)
 Leonard and Rose Zerilli (12/73)

103 Honorary Members at the beginning of 2024

Sick and GoodWill Notice



Our thoughts and prayers 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 Dennis Patton, Alice Patton, Grace Asteriou, Miriam Lumia, and others???, who are or were ill.

Happy
Valentine's Day

Downriver Italian-American Club

Happy Anniversary – Buon Anniversario



We extend our **Best Wishes** for many **Happy and Healthy** years together to our club members celebrating their **Anniversary** this-month.

Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)

Gary and Arlene Roberts(2/22)

Garry and Laura Lee (2/28)

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



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

Mona Austin (2/3)

Dennis Randazzo (2/14)

Filippina Rubino (2/4)

Marlene Wellman (2/18)

Ciccina Vitale (2/4)

Nick Lonigro (2/19)

Grace Asteriou (2/5)

Leona Vizzini (2/19)

Elisa Norscia (2/6)

Sandra DiSanto (2/20)

Frank Liberati (2/7)

Florence Coleman (2/23)

Philip Barraco (2/9)

Henry LeSage (2/25)

Delores Phillips (2/11)

Pat Mastrogiamco (2/25)

Daniel Prone (2/12)

Donald Jensen (2/26)

Samantha DeYarman(2/13)

Vita Alastraia (2/28)

Christopher Dingell (2/13)

James Verdone (2/29)

Calendar of Future Events

Feb. 6, 2024, DIAC February Card Party

Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264

Mar. 5, 2024, DIAC March Card Party

Julie Bademian, (313) 388-2264

Mar. 10, 2024, Feast of St. Joseph Celebration

Sam Randazzo, (734) 676-8463

Grace Pizzo, (734) 379-9491

Apr. 10, 2024, Firekeeper Casino Bus Trip

Alice Patton, (734) 765-0167

The Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter

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

(Newsletter Editor)

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Downriver Italian-American Club

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



The 47th Annual Feast of St. Joseph Day

Sunday, March 10, 2024

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 is
served, including an Orange and a Bread Roll.

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!**

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



RSVP your reservation (No later than March 3, 2024) by calling:

Sam Randazzo - (734)676-8463 or

Grace Pizzo - (734)379-9491

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