



53rd 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 **

March 2024 Newsletter – Issue #324

Club Board Meeting: Tues., Mar. 5, 2024 - 5:00 p.m. @ K of C
General Membership Meeting: Sun., Mar. 10, 2024 – 5:00 p.m. @ Copeland Ctr.

St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 10, 2024

Club President Message



As we bid farewell to the mild and wonderful winter, it's time to embrace the new beginnings of "Springtime," officially commencing on March 19th. With the arrival of spring, it appears we're in

for an exciting and eventful year ahead. Our dedicated board and social committee have crafted a very diverse 2024 calendar, with our first big event, the **St. Joseph Day Celebration** on March 10th, hosted at the **Wyandotte Copeland Center**. The Feast of **St. Joseph** holds deep significance in Italian American communities, particularly those with strong ties to Sicilian heritage. This annual gathering serves as a testament to the enduring traditions and cultural richness that continue to thrive. I encourage all members to join us for this occasion, as proceeds will be graciously donated to children's charities.

Other exciting events planned this year include a **Trip to Italy**, **Frankenmuth**, **Gennitti's Hole in the Wall**, **Casino excursions**, a scenic **Detroit River boat ride**, **Community plays**, a **spring dance and fall dance**, **picnic**, **monthly card parties**, **monthly general meeting luncheons**, and our **spectacular Christmas Party**.

The **Wyandotte Boat Club** has been reserved for the May 19th evening membership meeting. Pizza/Salad/Dessert at 6:00 p.m., with the membership meeting at 6:30 p.m.

As a social club, our utmost priority is to ensure that each and every member has a fulfilling experience this year. Let's cherish every moment, for as the saying goes, "*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.

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

March Card Party at K of C



A **Club Card Party** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 5, 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.

To be eligible for this month's gift card drawing, one must wear a **GREEN-COLORED** item of clothing.

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.



2023 - 2024 CLUB OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

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LESLIE G. LUPO

Vice President
SAM RANDAZZO

Recording Secretary
MARILYN BOMARITO

Financial Correspond
Secretary
FRANK A GIANNOTTI

Treasurer
NINO TRUPIANO

Assistant Treasurer
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Inside Guard
CHARLES M LUPO

Outside Guard
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Guide
GRACE PIZZO

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JULIANN BADEMIAN
SUE BYRD

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SOCIAL
COMMITTEE
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SUE BYRD
ALICE PATTON
GRACE PIZZO
PAULA RICE



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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

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 that it is for the **Feast of St. Joseph**. Send your donation to:

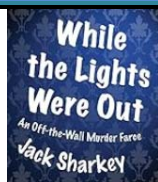
Sam Randazzo
3391 Brookshire
Trenton, MI 48183-3970.

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

"While the Lights Were Out"

Murder Mystery - Sunday, April 7, 2024

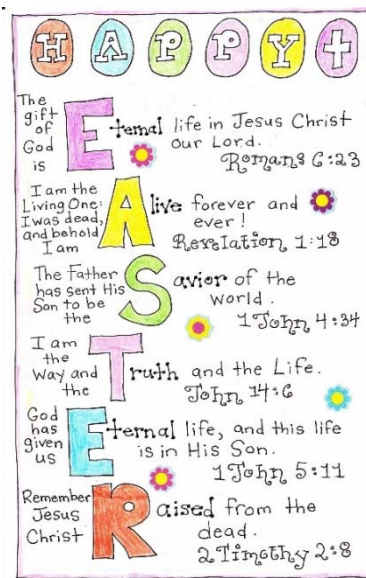


The Social Committee will be hosting a "While the Lights Were Out" play on Sunday, April 7, 2024. The Murder, Mystery, Comedy play is performed by the **Southgate Community Players**, located at the **Corner Playhouse, 12671 Dix-Toledo Road, Southgate, MI 48195** (just north of Northline). The doors open at 2:00 p.m. - the play starts

Downriver Italian-American Club

at 2:30 p.m. Dinner is at 5:30 p.m. at **Old Chicago Pizza, 15231 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195**.

The cost is \$30.00 for members and \$40.00 for non-members. Select one of five meal selections and write it in the returned coupon to **Grace Pizzo, 32050 Liparoto Drive, Rockwood, MI 48173-8510**, no later than April 1, 2024. Twenty-five (25) tickets are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Get your reservation early. See flyer in this newsletter for further information.



Meijer Simply Give Program



Meijer has a **Simply Give Program** to support food pantries in all of their locations. Our location, (and our ONLY location), is the **Southgate Meijers** store.

If our Club members go to the Southgate store on **Saturday March 2nd or Saturday March 23rd** and donate/buy a \$10 **Simple Give** card, which are near all the registers, Meijers will add \$20 for every \$10 card purchased for a total of \$30 per card. These are the Double Days.

This is a wonderful donation opportunity for the **Downriver Community Food Pantry** and for our Club. Many thanks for your generous support
Pat Flaherty – Club Trustee

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 **Grace Asteriou, Emilia Gonella, Leona Vizzini, Pauline Barraco, Alice Patton**, and others?, who are or were ill.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Condolences to the family of **Angelina Carlone** on the death of her son, **Frank Carlone**, who passed away on January 19, 2024, at the age of 54. *May his memory be a blessing!*



Condolences to the family of **David Esordi**, on the death of his wife, **Phyllis A. Esordi**, who passed away on January 24, 2024, at the age of 81. David and Phyllis joined our Club in October 2019. They enjoyed our Club and attended many club events, including the Columbus Day Celebration, Christmas Parties, Boat Rides, Club Picnic, etc. Phyllis was well-known by many club members. *May her memory be a blessing!*



Condolences to the family of **Mark S. Grazioli**, on the death of his wife, **Mary Jane Grazioli**, who passed away on January 31, 2024, at the age of 86. Mark and Mary Jane joined our Club in November 1973; been members for over 50 years. Their participation in the Club is overwhelming. She was a

First-Lady when Mark was Club President (2007-2008). Mary Jane supported Mark being on the the Hall Business Board as well as on the Club Board for many, many years, including chairing the Club Pasta events. They worked and supported the Club from the beginning, starting with the Italian Festivals at Yack Arena. They participated in many club events, including trips, dances, parades, picnics, St. Joseph Celebration, Christmas parties, Taste of Italy, and The Legends Live; the list is so huge. She enjoyed our Club. She enjoyed playing cards with members. We will miss our friend Mary Jane. *May her memory be a blessing!*

Condolences to the related families in the Club: **Marshall (Collen) Grazioli** and **Marlene (Steven) Erno**.

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno



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

Brett Rice (3/03)	Joseph Susin (3/19)
Rosalie Giammalva (3/04)	Patricia Chalmers (3/22)
Ann I. Lepidi (3/04)	Edith Gendron (3/22)
Mitchell Wolski (3/07)	Charles Lupo (3/22)
Paul Remington (3/08)	Nicholas Caputo (3/24)
Stef Badalamenti (3/10)	Sal DiPasquale (3/24)
Danny Herbert (3/14)	Gaetano A Vitale (3/29)
Anthony J. Vitale (3/17)	Douglas Melzer (3/30)
Sue Byrd (3/19)	Frances Menna (3/30)

Downriver Italian-American Club

Before It Is Too Late

*If you have a tender message,
Or a loving word to say,
Do not wait till you forget it,
But whisper it today:
The tender word unspoken,
The letter never sent,
The long forgotten messages,
The wealth of love unspent –
For these some hearts are breaking
For these some loved ones wait:
So show them that you care for them
Before it is too late.*

— Frank Herbert Sweet —



Calendar of Future Events

- 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. 7, 2024, Play "While the Lights Were Out"**
Grace Pizzo, (734) 379-9491
- Apr. 10, 2024, Firekeeper Casino Bus Trip**
Sold Out
Alice Pizzo, (734) 764-1167
- July 17, 2024, Diamond Jack Boat Ride**
Frank Giannotti, (734) 283-7394
- Aug. 18, 2024, Club Annual Picnic**
Grace Pizzo, (734) 379-9491

The Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter

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(Newsletter Editor)

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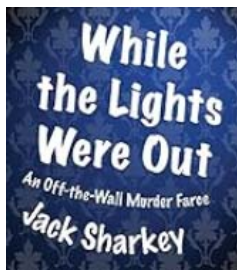
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WHILE THE LIGHTS WERE OUT

\$30.00 per Club Member
\$40.00 per Non-Member
Deadline: April 1, 2024



Sunday, April 7, 2024

Corner Playhouse

SOUTHGATE COMMUNITY PLAYERS

12671 Dix-Toledo Rd., Southgate, MI 48195, Tel (734)282-4727

Doors open at 2:00 PM, Musical Starts at 2:30 PM

25 Tickets are Available on a First-Come, First-Serve Basis.

A thunderstorm! The lights go out! An agonized voice! A pistol shot! The lights come up! A blonde in black lace stands over the dead man holding a bloody dagger! The detective examines the body and announces, "He's been strangled!" This is but the opening of one of the most astounding and hilarious murder mysteries ever staged. Every clue is a lulu and the plot twists furiously. The final solution involves the most bizarre motive ever conceived. The delightful evening of mayhem gallops madly about the stage and will leave your audience breathless with surprise and laughter. The mystery is top-notch, the characters marvelous, and the comedy explosive!



Old Chicago Pizza + Taproom Restaurant

15231 Trenton Rd., Southgate, MI 48195 Tel (734)282-8111

Dinner Begins at 5:30 PM



Choose 1 Menu item: (Select one meal only and enter the number on the returned coupon)

1. **Fish & Chips** – Lightly fried beer-battered fish served with tartar sauce and coleslaw & fries.
2. **Classic Cheddar Burger** – Steak burger with melted cheddar on a toasted bun with lettuce, tomato, and pickles, served with fries.
3. **Roasted Chicken & Apple Walnut Salad** – Fresh greens, blue cheese crumbles, apple slices, toasted walnut. Sun-dried cranberries and applewood chicken. Enjoy with creamy herb dressing.
4. **Chicken Parmesan** – Basil and Parmesan crusted chicken breast, mozzarella, penne, blissed tomatoes, fresh basil and signature red sauce.
5. **Four (4) Pieces Thick-Crusted Pizza** – Cheese, pepperoni and Italian sausage.

Meal includes a soft drinks or coffee.

Cash bar available for mixed drinks, beer and wine.

Julie Bademian (313)388-2264 •

Grace Pizzo 734-379-9491 ♣

Paula Rice 734-748-0998 •

Please fill in this form and return it with your payment to **Downriver Italian American Club** before April 1, 2024 or until the tickets are sold out. Make checks payable to DIAC and mail to: *Grace Pizzo, 32050 Liparoto Dr., Rockwood, MI 48173-8618.* Meal Number Selected: _____ Event: **While the Lights Were Out**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____ Amount Enclosed \$ _____

E-mail _____ Cell phone _____ Home _____

In case of emergency, please notify _____ Phone # _____