



37th Year, 1971-2008



The Downriver Italian-American Club®

646 BIDDLE AVE ♣ WYANDOTTE, MICHIGAN 48192-2727 ♣ TEL. (734)285-4044 ♣ web: www.diahall.com

** IMPORTANT DATES **

February 2008 NEWSLETTER

Board of Directors Meeting..... Tuesday, Feb. 12, 2008, 7:00 p.m.
General Membership Meeting Sunday, Feb. 24, 2008, 6:30 p.m.

Happy Valentine's Day - February 14, 2008!

2008 Club Membership Dues

The 2008 membership dues are now payable. The dues are \$25.00 for a member who is single and \$50.00 for a married couple. The dues can be paid at the general membership meeting or you can send a check or money order, payable to: **Downriver Italian-American Club**. Mail the dues to: **Frank Giannotti, 14823 Williamsburg Blvd., Riverview, MI 48193-7703**. Your receipt and membership card(s) will be mailed with the upcoming newsletter. The deadline for the dues is **March 31, 2008**. Attached with this newsletter is an invoice to be sent back with your dues.

Honorary members who wish to have the newsletter mailed to their home, there is a \$15.00 charge. The newsletter can be picked up free at the DIA Hall during normal business hours. Call in advance.

A Message from the Club President



Welcome to February, the coldest month of winter season in Michigan. That's the bad news, the good news is that once its over, its all downhill.

The New Years Dance was a success with about 115 people. The band and food were very good. A big thank you to the chairs: **Nino and Gianna**

Trupiano, along with **Tony and Joyce Pietrangelo**.

The events scheduled for February and March include:

- ❖ Annual **Mardi Gras Party** – Saturday, February 2, 2008.
- ❖ Club **Winter Luncheon** – Wednesday, February 20, 2008.
- ❖ **General Membership** meeting – Sunday, February 24, 2008.
- ❖ Lions Club of Taylor **Millionaires Party** – Saturday, March 8, 2008.
- ❖ **St. Joseph's Day Celebration** – Sunday, March 16, 2008.

- ❖ **General Membership meeting** – Sunday, March 16, 2008.
- ❖ **Club Winter Luncheon** – Wednesday, March 19, 2008.
- ❖ **Easter Brunch** – Sunday, March 23, 2008.
- ❖ **Bridal Show** – Sunday, March 30, 2008.

We have a full schedule of activities for 2008 at the Club, which are listed in this newsletter, so mark your calendars. Please note, the March General Membership meeting has been moved to the third Sunday of the month (March 16th), to accommodate Easter.

The January General Membership meeting was well attended and the members were upbeat about the Club functions for the coming year. At the meeting **Frank Checchio** explained the **American Legion Organ Donor Program**. Age is not a factor as some organs can be used for medical research as well as organs for transplant. If you are interested in the program, give Frank a call at (734) 675-6424.

A big thank-you to **Jim Bademian** who replaced the damaged ceiling tiles in the building. See you at the next Club function and stay warm during February.

Mark S. Grazioli, Club President

Millionaire's Party – March 8, 2008

The **Lions Club of Taylor**, in conjunction with the **Penrickton Center for Blind Children**, will be holding a Millionaire's Party, on Saturday March 8, 2008, at the DIAC Hall. They are also looking into holding a Texas Hold 'em tournament as part of the party.

Tentatively, Black Jack tables, Roulette and Big Wheels are set for the main Hall. The Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament set in the Menna Room. The start time and any cost for the tournament are not yet finalized. All you gamblers and card players mark your calendar - as this should be a fun night, with an opportunity to support the **Lions Club** and the **Penrickton School for the Blind**.

Jeanne's Catering will be providing food and snacks.



Winter Luncheon at the Club – Feb 20th



Lunch at the Club - Wednesday - February 20, 2008 - 12:00 noon.

The luncheon will be held as usual in the Menna room. The meal will be lunchmeats and chicken, per your suggestion at the meeting. If you would like to bring your favorite desert or salad, please let us know so we won't buy as much; if not, just bring yourself. Remember, we divide the cost of the lunch by the people present; so, it is very important for you to let us know if you will be attending. It is not fair for us to order food for you and you don't show up. This is for members ONLY. If you wish to stay and visit friends, play your favorite games or just talk, you are welcome to do so; there is no reason to rush off after lunch. If you have any questions, please call one of us anytime. Let us know (if you plan on attending), no later than Thursday, February 15th.

We need volunteers (at the end) to clean up and put away the tables and chairs, if necessary. Please contact:

Florence Coleman (734) 281-7126

Grace Pizzo (734) 379-9491

St. Joseph Day Celebration – Mar. 16



The 35th Annual St. Joseph Day Celebration - Sunday, March 16, 2008.

Pageant Admission Free - 2:00 p.m. - Dinner follows the pageant.

Adults \$7.00 - Children 10 and under \$3.50.

We will be celebrating St. Joseph Day on March 16th. As most of you know this is a Sicilian custom passed down by our parents and grandparents. They set up an altar with statues of saints and opened their homes to friends and neighbors. After a short pageant, they had a meal and left a donation to help a needy family. We follow the same tradition, an altar is set up on our stage with statues brought in by members - candles, bread, and fruit are placed on the altar. We serve a meal of pasta and beans. Each person is given a roll, grapefruit, an orange and a few homemade cookies. There is a short pageant and the blessing of the food before we eat. We follow the tradition of our families as much as possible. We have held this event for the past 34 years. We have donated over \$92,000.00. All donations made are given to needy families and organizations helping children. If you would like to make cookies, or help us in any way, please contact one of us. Invite your friends and family and help us celebrate our 33rd year. This is a family event. If you are unable to attend, you may still make a donation. Make

your check payable to Downriver Italian American Club, and please note at the bottom that it is for St. Joseph Celebration. **Please call Rose Vitale (734) 282-2803 if you would like to make cookies.**

We would love to have you, your family and friends celebrate this event with us. Remember all donations go to help the needy in this area.

Florence Coleman -- (734) 281-7126

Nancy Cosentino -- (313) 383-0350

Sal DiPasquale -- (734) 282-1644

Grace Pizzo -- (734) 379-9491

Easter Brunch – Sunday, Mar. 23, 2008



There will be an **Easter Brunch** on **Easter Day, Sunday, March 23, 2008** between the hours of 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, at the Downriver Italian-American Club.

Cost: Adults \$18.00 in advance and \$19.00 at the door. Seniors (62+) \$16.00 in advance and \$17.00 at the door. Children: (Ages 4-10) \$8.00 in advance, \$9.00 at the door. See flyer in March newsletter.

This event is open to the public. Advise your friends and neighbors. There is no need to spend time in waiting in lines at restaurants when you can be accommodated immediately at our Club. Your seating time will be based on a schedule to avoid overcrowding. Make your reservations early.

Menu details in March newsletter. Ticket sales, please contact **Diana Holmes** at the Hall (734)285-4044.

Bridal Show set for March 30, 2008



The DIAH Business Board will once again sponsor a **Bridal Show** for Sunday, March 30, 2008 at the Hall. The event runs from 12:30 pm to 4:00 pm. The fashion show begins at 2:00 pm.

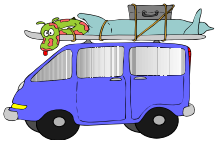
The event is sponsored by **Bella Donna's, Downriver Tuxedo Association** and **D.J. & Music**. There will be many wedding related prizes to be given away. There will be many vendors showing their services. If you know of anyone getting married in the near future, please advise them to this valuable event. The hall will be well decorated and may result in future bookings.

Jeanne's Catering will provide a Taste Test Sampler.

Advance tickets are \$4.00 (\$5.00 at the door). For reservation and further information, please call **Diana Holmes**, at (734)285-4044.



Bus Trips on the Horizon



Four Winds and Blue Chip Casinos – Wed./Thurs., March 12/13, 2008 – New Buffalo, MI. and Michigan City, IN.

This is a two-day/one-night event.

The cost is \$125.00 per person (based on double occupancy). This package includes a 1-night hotel stay in New Buffalo, MI. You will be visiting the famous Four Winds Casino. You will receive \$30.00 incentive - which you may use for food or slot play.

You will also be visiting the Blue Chip Casino in Michigan City, Indiana, on the first day.

The Bianco Bus will be departing and returning at the Club parking lot. **Coffee and donuts included on the first morning. A continental breakfast is included on the morning of the second day. Happy Hour provided on the return trip.**

For reservation and further information, please contact **Nancy DiPasquale at (734)282-1644**. (If no answer, please call (734)365-1984, cell phone). Deadline is February 20, 2008. Mail your check (made out to: **Bianco Tours**) to:

Nancy DiPasquale
13426 Mulberry
Southgate, MI 48195-2499.

Spring's Confirmation

The south winds melt the ice and snow
that rush into the stream.

The stream, again, begins to flow,
awoke from winter's dream.

The sap is rising in the trees
and surging through the boughs
whose blossoms now entice the bees,
as spring renews her vows.

The swallows, from some distant land,
return to nest, once more,
fulfilling that which nature planned
this spring, as years before.

Now, in my heart and in my mind,
new hope has been restored,
as once again, with warmth, I find
my prayers were not ignored.

-- Charles Roach --

Poem provided by Leona Vizzini

Sick and Good Will



Belated Get Well Wishes to the following members who were ill or hospitalized: **Tony Lumia, Vince Pizzo, Quirino (Jerry) Stralle, Jim Morrin, Joe Pagano, Rose Lupo and**

The Downriver Italian-American Hall - Banquet & Conference Center

Lorraine Casali. Get Well Wishes to all our members who are not feeling well. Please advise **Grace Pizzo (734) 379-9491** of anyone who is ill.

Condolences to the family of **Josie Klube** on the death of her husband, **Ed Klube**, who passed away on January 7, 2008, at the age of 81. Ed and Josie have been club members since 1973. Ed has been the Club Treasurer well over 20 years. Ed was very active, devoted and talented individual. We will all miss him dearly. Condolences to **Rose Lupo**, and to **Jim and Shirley Bommarito**. Condolences to the family of **Bill and Elizabeth Dolunt**. Condolences to the family of **Joe and Maria Serra**. May he rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Lenny and Pina Milewski** on the death of Lenny's sister, who was a nun, **Sister Marie Leontini**, who passed away on December 22, 2007, at the age of 83. She lived in Sylvania, Ohio. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Quirino (Jerry) Stralle** on the death of his daughter, **Eugenia Stralle**, who passed away on January 8, 2008, at the age of 37. Condolences to the family of **Alfonso and Carmela Stralle**. May she rest in peace.

Condolences to the family of **Rocky and Nancy Kaune** on the death of Nancy's sister-in-law, **Marjorie C. Vitale**, who passed away on January 10, 2008, at the age of 87. May she rest in peace.

Life is Short

Life is too short to wake up with regrets.

So love the people who treat you right.

Forget about the one's who don't.

Believe that everything happens for a reason.

If you get a second chance, grab it with both hands.

If it changes your life, let it.

Nobody said life would be easy, they just promised it would be worth it.

Friends are like balloon; once you let them go, you can't get them back. So, I'm gonna tie you to my heart so I never loose you.

-- Article provided by MMF --

Happy Anniversary – Felice Anniversario

We wish to extend our Best Wishes for many Happy and Healthy Years together, to our couples who will be celebrating their Wedding Anniversary this month.

Robert and Jacqueline Jagiello (2/1)

Salvatore and Caterina Vitale (2/14)

Edward and Susan Palermo (2/20)

Pietro and Filocia Biundo (2/23) 45th

Gaetano and Gina DiCarlo (2/25)

Martin and Rosalie Shimkus (2/25)

Happy Birthday - Buon Compleanno

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

<i>Frances Vitale (2/4)</i>	<i>Michael Menna (2/18)</i>
<i>Grace Asteriou (2/5)</i>	<i>Shirley Bommarito (2/19)</i>
<i>Elisa Norscia (2/6)</i>	<i>Gerald Conz (2/19)</i>
<i>Marianna Curcuru (2/7)</i>	<i>John Gustaf (2/19)</i>
<i>Frank Liberati (2/7)</i>	<i>Anthony Salvati (2/19)</i>
<i>Michael Olevnik (2/9)</i>	<i>Leona Vizzini (2/19)</i>
<i>Don Capezza (2/12)</i>	<i>Stephanie Parrino (2/22)</i>
<i>Fara DiMaria (2/12)</i>	<i>Ted Brockway (2/23)</i>
<i>Gloria Frassetto (2/12)</i>	<i>Florence Coleman (2/23)</i>
<i>Appolonia Lentini (2/12)</i>	<i>Fara Parrino (2/23)</i>
<i>Joan Cadorin (2/13)</i>	<i>Connie Militello (2/24)</i>
<i>Chris Dingell (2/13)</i>	<i>Don Jenson (2/26)</i>
<i>Rose Lupo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sam Cosentino (2/27)</i>
<i>Antonio Palazzolo (2/13)</i>	<i>Sue Lupo (2/27)</i>
<i>Frank Bianchi (2/15)</i>	<i>James Morrin (2/27)</i>
<i>Raymond Lucarelli (2/15)</i>	<i>Sam G. Randazzo (2/27)</i>
<i>Norman Tabaka Sr. (2/16)</i>	<i>Joe Agrusa (2/28)</i>
<i>Anthony Militello (2/17)</i>	<i>Vita Alastra (2/28)</i>
<i>Rosalie Lopetrone (2/18)</i>	

Daily Blessings

Experience is something you don't get until just after you need it.

Always remember, you're unique, just like everyone else.

Never test the depth of the water with both feet.

Timing has an awful lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

If you think nobody cares if you are alive, try missing a couple of car payments.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Before you criticize someone, you should walk a mile in their shoes. That way, when you criticize them, you're a mile away and you have their shoes.

If at first you do not succeed, skydiving is not for you.

Do not squat with your spurs on.

If you tell the truth, you do not have to remember anything.

Some days you are the bug; some days you are the windshield.

Good judgment comes from bad experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment.

Duct tape is like the force: it has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

There are two theories to arguing with women. Neither one works.

Experience is the sinking feeling that you have made this mistake before.

Never miss a good chance to shut up.

One Liners

The next unpopular group to have its rights taken away should be illegal aliens.

If we can't understand what he's saying, he's not a genius.

As I said before, I never repeat myself.

If God wanted us to be thin, food wouldn't taste so good.

Calendar of Coming Events

- Mar. 16, 2008 St. Joseph Celebration.**
Coleman, Cosentino, DiPasquale, Pizzo
- Mar. 23, 2008 Easter Brunch.**
Jeanne's Catering and DIA Hall.
- Mar. 30, 2008 Bridal Show.**
DIA Hall and Jeanne's Catering.
- April 16, 2008 DIAC First Pasta Event.**
Pasta Committee and Members.
- May 7, 2008 Taste of Italy.**
Tony Lumia and Members.
- May 11, 2008 Mother's Day Dinner.**
Jeanne's Catering and DIA Hall.
- July 4, 2008 Wyandotte Independence Day Parade.**
Mary Cottone and Members.
- Jul. 27, 2008 Membership Summer Picnic.**
- Aug. 9, 2008 Golf Outing.**
G. Vitale, M Grazioli, T. Lumia.
- Oct. 10, 2008 Wine Dance.**
- Dec. 12, 2008 Member's Xmas Party.**
Grace Pizzo, Leona Vizzini.
- Dec. 14, 2008 Member's Children Xmas Party.**
Rosalie (Vitale) Karawan.
- Dec. 31, 2008 New Year's Eve Celebration.**
DIA Hall Board.

The ***Downriver Italian-American Club Newsletter*** is Published Monthly for the Downriver Italian-American Club Membership. Editors: Frank and Liliana Giannotti. (734)283-7394. Forward your comments, corrections and items of interest to:
DIAC Newsletter
c/o Frank A. Giannotti
14823 Williamsburg Blvd.
Riverview, MI 48193-7703

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A cartoon illustration of a yellow woven basket filled with several colorful Easter eggs (red, blue, green, and white with patterns). A large pink bow is tied around the handle of the basket. The entire illustration is set against a light green circular background.

Sunday March 23, 2008

11:00 am – 4:00 pm (Last Reservation at 3:00 pm)

Call Now for Your Reservations (734) 285-4044

Fluffy Scrambled Eggs, Lyonnaise Potatoes, Patty Sausage,
Caramel French Toast, Fruit Salad and Pastries

Chef Carved Beef Sirloin, Baked Ham, Chicken Marsala,
Fish Monterey, Italian Sausage w/Peppers and Onions,
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, Penne Pasta in Marinara Sauce,
Tossed Salad, Cheese & Crackers, Chicken Noodle Soup,
Peel & Eat Shrimp in Cocktail Bowl.

Dessert Table with Coffee & Tea

Cash Bar Available



Adults – \$18.00 in Advance / \$19.00 at the Door

Seniors – \$16.00 in Advance / \$17.00 at the Door

Children (4 to 10 Years) – \$8.00 in Advance / \$9.00 at the Door

Public Welcome – Bring Your Family and Friends

Also – Join Us for Mother’s Day Dinner Buffet

The Downriver Italian-American Club

*is Presenting the
35th Annual*



St. Joseph Day Celebration

Sunday, March 16, 2008

*Downriver Italian-American Hall
646 Biddle Avenue
Wyandotte, MI 48192
(734) 285-4044*

*Pageant at 2:00 p.m. - Admission Free
Dinner - Follows the Pageant*

*Adults: \$7.00
Children – 10 and under: \$3.50*

*All donations are given to charities helping children
and for needy local families.*

May St. Joseph Bless You and Bring You Joy