



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Guidera

Year moves ahead with good changes and popular events

It doesn't seem possible that we're already into March 2018. I guess the old adage is true that time really does go faster the older we get.

Maybe I shouldn't say older, but better!

As a gentle reminder, if you haven't paid your 2018 dues, it's time to take care of it. You can pay online or mail a check to the club, for the attention of Tom Mezzanares.

This promises to be a great year that you will certainly want to be part of.

We have one of our biggest club events this month: our very popular cioppino dinner. This year it will be held on St. Patrick's Day.

Rich Battistessa has teamed up with Mike Talani to bring you this dinner, which promises to be a culinary masterpiece. You won't be disappointed, so get your party

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The Dante Club kitchen crew manages steaming pots of cioppino during the 2015 annual dinner.

Fishy business in store at annual cioppino dinner

Italians are known for their great cuisine, of course, but on March 17 the Dante Club will celebrate a particularly great—and uniquely Italian-American—dish known as cioppino.

The delectable stew of assorted fish, tomatoes, wine and spices will be the centerpiece of the club's annual cioppino dinner and dance event. The event will begin at 5:30 p.m. with cocktails, followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m. and dancing to live music from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Food historians say cioppino was invented by Italians who immigrated to San Francisco from



Last year's dinner drew a large crowd to the club.

Northern Italy, specifically Genoa, in the 1930s. The name cioppino comes from a Genoese word, ciuppin, and the dish remains a specialty at many restaurants.

When fishermen brought their catches of the day to the San Francisco wharf, fishmongers would sell the varying assortment

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary meets for dinner and social events on the second Monday of the month, except for July and August.

Women interested in participating in the group may call Karol Buccola at 916-455-4232 or 916-217-6124 or email her at karolrb55@gmail.com.

New and longtime members

The club awarded longtime members John Procida Sr. and Al Benedetti with lifetime membership status at our February meeting.

John and Al have participated since the 1960s and were on hand to see the transition to our current Fair Oaks Boulevard location.

Both have been extremely active. Al is a previous board member and past president. Grazie to you both!

Members also voted to accept Peter Pesetti, sponsored by Frank Buccola, as a new member. Peter will be inducted in March.

Prospective members Dave Gregory and Frank Lomascola remain on the waiting list.

Tom Lippi, a previous member, was re-inducted in February and looks forward to renewing old friendships. Tom was sponsored by Frank Calcagno.

Please encourage qualified applicants to seek membership in the Dante Club. You can obtain membership applications on the club website, at Allison's office or from Frank Calcagno at (916) 515-1117.

Social activities

Bring the whole family to the Dante Club for our annual Easter Egg Hunt starting around 11 a.m. Saturday, March 31. The youngest

children will be allowed to start their searches first.

In addition to egg hunting, we'll have hot dogs, chips and soft drinks for the kids to eat, provided at no cost to members and their families.

Beer will be available for any adults who would like to indulge a little while the kids have fun.

In addition, the Ladies Auxiliary will provide special treats and toys for the children.

Event chairman Dan Calcagno requests that members visit the club website to sign up for the hunt so he can get an accurate count of how many people will attend.

Lend a paesano a hand

The Dante Club has long supported area Italian-American businesses whenever possible. In turn, members of the local Italian business community have long supported the Dante Club.

In our *Dante's Inferno* newsletter, we will feature occasional profiles of local businesses as a way to show our support.

We'll try this for a few months to see if it should be a permanent feature in our newsletter.

Initially, selected businesses will pay nothing to participate.

The feature should be a great opportunity for the Italian community to support Italian businesses, as *Dante's Inferno* now has a circulation of nearly 1,000 copies a month.

Owners of Sacramento-area Italian businesses who'd like to participate may email Tom Novi at tomnovi@aol.com for further details.

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Upcoming Events

To reserve and pay online, go to:
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

March 17

Cioppino Dinner and Dance

Time: 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Menu: antipasti, salad, risotto, cioppino, dessert, wine and \$2 green beer for the Irish

Cost: adults, \$48; children age 12 and younger, \$38

Live music featured from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.

Reservation deadline: 10 a.m. Monday, March 12

March 31

Easter Celebration

Time: 11 a.m. egg hunt begins for the youngest

Menu: hot dogs, chips, soft drinks for the kids, draft beer and no-host bar for the adults

Cost: free to members and their families

Reserve via club website. Enter adult and child attendees separately, and include ages of participating children.

April 3

Tuesday Night Dinner

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: chicken marbella, asparagus, roasted potatoes, rigatoni, spinach salad, Italian lemon raspberry cream cake, house wine, coffee, iced tea

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

Reservations are pending

May 1

Tuesday Night Dinner

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: build-your-own pizza, Italian chicken wings, rigatoni, salad, ice cream sundae bar, house wine, coffee, iced tea

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

Reservations are pending

**President's Corner**

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together and reserve early.

Our new manager, Allison, has been busy making improvements around the club. She redesigned our club presidents picture board, had the carpets deep-cleaned and did some touch-up painting to keep the building looking neat and clean. Check out how much brighter and cleaner the carpets look.

With a new year and the expertise of our new manager, we're getting busy. Bookings for our club facility have increased for weddings, anniversaries, birthday parties and a number of other events.

So if you're planning a special event with your family or friends, think about booking soon before that special day is taken.

As always, if you have someone who would be a good Dante Club member, please invite them to apply for membership.



The small picturesque fishing village of Tellaro hovers on a cliff overlooking the Gulf of La Spezia in Northern Italy.

ITALIAN RIVIERA**Picturesque coastline towns and beaches lure visitors to Liguria**

By Michael Micciche

The Italian Riviera, or Liguria, has much to offer, including beautiful beaches, scenic sea views, great food and a lot of history.

The region is shaped like a horseshoe, stretching from the French border to the Tuscan border in Italy. In between are many interesting towns, with Genoa at the center.

Hugging the seashore and cliffs of the Ligurian coast is the well-known Cinque Terre area with five picturesque towns. From south to north are Monterosso al Mare, Vernazza, Corniglia, Manarola and Riomaggiore. Corniglia is the only one on the sea.

From Genoa to the Tuscan border are wonderfully scenic villages. Portofino, a retro port community, has many multicolored pastel houses and shops. Nearby are the towns of Santa Margherita and Rapallo, lovely seaside areas with miles of picturesque seaside. The villages of Rapallo, Santa Margherita and Portofino

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2018 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS**OFFICERS**

- Robert Guidera, president: robertguidera@att.net
- Bill Giovanetti, first vice president, building and grounds: wgiovanetti@comcast.net
- Ron Cristoni, second vice president, club clothing: roncristoni@aol.com
- Ron Fiorica, recording secretary, scholarships: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: tjmezzan@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

- Ronald Bacher, admission ticket chairman: ronald.bacher@gmail.com
- Richard Battistessa, advisory, social activities: drbattistessa@comcast.net
- Victor Brida, tour director: vbrida@gmail.com
- Dan Calcagno, Easter Bunny: dmcalcagno@aol.com
- Frank Calcagno, membership: fscal@comcast.net
- John Caselli, publicity: jac6652@aol.com

- Jim Dimino, building and grounds: jkdimino@sbcglobal.com
- John Fiorica, sergeant at arms: jfpacificrr@frontiernet.net
- Matt Longo, building and grounds: longomb@sbcglobal.net
- Michael Micciche, corporate travel: Michael.micciche@gmail.com
- Tom Novi, social activities: tomnovi@aol.com
- Patrick Orelli, finance: porelli@gallina.com



Scholarship fundraiser by local sorority to feature jazz, blues, food and gin fizzes

Just when you thought the Dante Club Gin Fizz Brunch was a thing of the past, here I got an opportunity for you: a gin fizz brunch for a good cause.

The Kappa Psi Zeta Sacramento chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority will present "Bubbles, Jazz and Blues: The Champagne Brunch" on Saturday, March 24.

The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Sicilian Room of the Dante Club.

Any member of the club and the Ladies Auxiliary who attends the

brunch will receive a free gin fizz included in the \$75-per-person ticket price.

A fundraiser to support music scholarships, the event will feature popular Sacramento jazz vocalist Vivian Lee, great food

and a silent auction.

I want to piggyback on events at the club that our members can attend without the risk of our losing money on our own events.

For tickets, go online at BIT.LY/BUBBLESJAZZBLUES (case sensitive).



IN THE KITCHEN

Allison Nord
General Manager

Cioppino

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of fish and shellfish to the local Italian wives and nonnas who came to market. The women took the motley mix of seafood and created a stew they called cioppino.

Typically, the dish featured crab, clams, rockfish, shrimp and squid pieces combined with tomatoes, garlic and red wine.

Italians know how to make great food by keeping it simple and using the freshest ingredients. Chef Michael Talani and his crew will follow that example.

Along with cioppino, the meal will feature risotto, garlic bread, salad, dessert and wine. In a nod to St. Patrick's Day, \$2 green beer will be available as well.

For more information, go to the club website.

News, Notes and Otherwise

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Last call for dues payment

Membership dues for 2018 were due Jan. 31.

Members who missed the deadline can pay on the Dante Club website at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>.

Or they can send a check for \$100, payable to the Dante Club, to: Dante Club, attn. Tom Mezzanares 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95825

Club apparel

Available for purchase is a variety of Dante Club-branded clothing. Members can choose among aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts. Sizes are for men, women and children.

To order items, speak to Ron

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Premium winery, brewery and olive oil partners

Wine

- Balletto Vineyards, Santa Rosa
- Bella Grace Vineyards, Sutter Creek
- Carvalho Family Winery, Clarksburg
- Galvan Family Cellars, Fairfield
- Karmere Vineyards, Plymouth
- Merlo Vineyards, Redding
- Morse Wines, Fiddletown
- Pedroncelli, Geyserville

- Perry Creek Winery, Fair Play
- Sean Minor, Napa
- Secret Ravine, Loomis
- Taylor Family Vineyards, Napa
- Yorba Wines, Sutter Creek
- Young's Vineyard, Plymouth

- Lost Coast Brewery, Humboldt
- Mussetter Distributing, Auburn
- Out of Bounds Brewing Co., Rocklin
- Wildcard Brewing Co., Redding

Beer

- Blue Note Brewing Co., Woodland
- Hoppy Brewing Co., Sacramento

Olive Oil

- Olive Mix, Sacramento
- Maltese Olive Oil, Sacramento



News, Notes and Otherwise

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Cristoni at a meeting or you can reach him at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com.

Save pull tabs

Over the years, the Dante Club has supported and given back to our community in many ways.

During World War II, members wrapped surgical bandages, purchased war bonds, helped the United Service Organizations (USO), sponsored blood drives, supported the opera, donated to the Sacramento Philharmonic,

assisted in the Christmas Seals program, purchased beds at Mercy Hospital and purchased a Bramson membrane oxygenator, or heart-lung machine, for the Sutter Hospital Medical Research Foundation.

We can continue to supporting the Sacramento community today.

Pull tabs on aluminum soda and beer cans, for instance, are worth more than the cans. We can collect the tabs to support a community need.

Families that stay at the Ronald McDonald

House on the University of California Davis Medical Center campus, for example, pay \$55 per night to stay there while visiting hospitalized family members.

We can offset their lodging expenses through pull-tab donations, allowing the families to pay only \$5 per night.

So please save your pull tabs and bring them to Dante Club events. We will collect them and donate them from the Dante Club to the Ronald McDonald House.

Riviera

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are connected by a beautiful promenade.

North of the Cinque Terre lie La Spezia, Lerici, Portovenere and Tellaro, which are less touristy and definitely worth visiting.

If you want city life, you can venture to Genoa, a bustling city rich in history.

Take ferries and boat tours for the best views of the coastline towns.

The Italian Riviera is a great place to tour at your leisure. The climate is mild year-round.

DANTE'S REMINDERS



Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact club president Bob Guidera or social chairman Tom Novi to offer your services. You can reach Bob at robertguidera@att.net or 916-451-1467 and Tom at tomnovi@aol.com or 916-961-6197. To explore new social events, contact Vic Brida at ybrida51@gmail.com or 916-588-6276.

Donations

Donate to our scholarship or building funds in memory of a loved one or a friend to keep their legacy going. And buy raffle tickets! Donations can be made easily online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

Dante Club apparel

If you'd like to purchase club shirts or other specialty clothing items, contact Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com or speak to him at a members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order.

Newsletter photos and news

Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 25th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your Facebook account and search for "Dante Club."

Contact information

Have you recently changed your address or phone number? Please alert our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.