



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Bob Guidera*

### *Dinner raffle raises \$1,700 for club*

After the long stint of rain in Sacramento, it finally appears to be stopping, and the weather is supposed to warm a bit. I'm ready, as I'm sure all of you are.

We had some very fine events in March at the club. The March 2 cioppino dinner was excellent — some even said “the best in town.”

Mike Talani was in charge in the kitchen, and Rich Battistessa took charge of the other details.

We thank all our dedicated volunteers who helped with the dinner, as well as the Ladies Auxiliary. The auxiliary, along with our board members, donated 45 raffle baskets, making more than \$1,700 for the club.

More than 200 diners at the event were treated to dancing afterward, with music from a very good band playing tunes from the 1960s through the 1980s.

March also saw the return of our popular gin fizz brunch with

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Sarah Nussman, pictured with her daughter, Alexandra, was named Dante Club general manager in March.

## Club announces new general manager

After months of searching, our question about who would be the best candidate to fill the Dante Club's vacant general manager position was answered.

And the answer was someone who has been right under our proverbially large Italian noses (no offense, Jimmy Durante).

Sarah Nussman, who has been with the Dante Club since 2012 and has handled every job imaginable — including helping building and grounds officer Bill Giovanetti change lightbulbs —

took over the reins of the club management in March. President Bob Guidera announced her appointment to members.

Sarah is a fourth-generation Italian-American born and raised in Sacramento.

Sarah has worked in the hospitality business for more than 18 years.

When not cooking up a kettle of tripe at the Dante Club, Sarah enjoys showing her daughter, Alexandra, how to make macaroni and cheese.



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary once again ensured the success of the Dante Club's annual cioppino dinner by assembling and donating 22 gift baskets for the raffle. A big thanks to all who helped.

The Ladies Auxiliary meets for dinner and social events on the second Tuesday of the month, except for July and August. Meetings will return to the second Monday schedule in September.

The group welcomes new members. Those interested may call or text Carole Stefani-Chivaro at 916-698-2036.

Women interested in joining the group may call or text Carole Stefani-Chivaro at 916-698-2036.

### Club apparel

Members can buy Dante Club-branded clothing, including aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts. Clothing comes in sizes for men, women and children.

Order items from Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com).

### New members

In March, members voted to honor Peter Grassi with lifetime membership. Peter joined the Dante Club in 1969 and has contributed in many capacities.

We also interviewed and the members voted acceptance of John Morelli, a retired teacher and coach, and Chuck Santoni, a retired business owner. Both are sponsored by Frank Calcagno. They will be inducted in April and May.

This month we will interview Joseph Alameida, who is sponsored by Tom Matranga.

We still have several openings. Please recruit qualified applicants who will be good additions to our fine club.



Mark Frizzi, left, and Ron Rammer show off their stash.

### Pull tabs

Dante Club members Ron Rammer and Mark Frizzi took board member Ron Cristoni's request for pull tabs to a whole new level.

Ron and Mark asked students at McCaffery Middle and River Oaks Elementary schools to participate. The exact poundage of pull tabs is still unknown, but Ron and Mark claim the total number of tabs collected is easily in the thousands.

Rumor has it that students who brought in the most tabs were given the title Principal for a Day.

"This sets the bar at levels not seen before," said Ron Cristoni. "Ron and Mark have thrown down the gauntlet, challenging all other club members to do the same."

### In memoriam

We're sad to report the March 9 passing of longtime member Gus Kanelos.

Gus was a valued board member who had earned lifetime membership status.

### Scholarship applications

Scholarship applications were due March 31. The scholarship committee will meet soon to evaluate the applications received.

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UPCOMING EVENTS  
Reserve and pay online at:  
[http://www.danteclub.com/  
calendar.php](http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php)

### April 20

#### Easter Egg Hunt

**Time:** 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.;  
10:30 a.m. petting zoo  
and bocce

**Cost:** Free

**Menu:** Hot dogs and  
sodas; bar open for  
drinks for adults

**Details:** Youngest  
children hunt at 11 a.m.,  
older ones at 11:20 a.m.  
*RSVPs are requested to  
ensure sufficient eggs  
and food for everyone.*

### May 7

#### Tuesday Night Dinner

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

**Menu:** Shaved asparagus  
and citrus salad,  
marinated eggplant,  
chicken parmesan with  
spaghetti, lemoncello  
tiramisu

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$13  
children ages 5 to 10

*Reserve by 10 a.m.  
Friday, May 3.*

### June 4

#### Tuesday Night Dinner

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

**Menu:** Salad of mixed  
greens, marinated  
cucumber and olive;  
tomatoes au gratin;  
lasagna bolognese;  
chocolate crepes

**Cost:** \$25 adults, \$13  
children ages 5 to 10

*Reserve by 10 a.m.  
Friday, May 31.*



**President's Corner**

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a delightful breakfast and many types of fizzes. Chef Jessi received many compliments.

We're starting to put the Dante Club bocce courts to good use.

I'm delighted to see many of our members enjoying the major improvements we made in the courts last year.

About 25 members attended our first bocce meeting, and we'll start team play this month. Looks like bocce is off to a good start.

Mark your calendars with our annual Vic Martinelli golf tournament on Aug. 3 and our Viva Vino event on Oct. 3.

We decided to move Viva Vino from May because October with its cooler weather may be a better time for the event.

If you haven't taken care of your dues for 2019, please do so immediately. Our Dante Club board treasurer Tom Mezzanares is the man to see.

And, as always, we're looking for new members to keep our Italian club alive, so if you know someone who would fit the bill, please invite them to consider joining us.



The Grand Canal in Venice never fails to capture the hearts and imaginations of travelers along Italy's eastern coast.

## Bell'Italia: Country of choices

By Michael Micciche

It's often difficult for me to highlight just one region of Italy. Because of how Italy developed over its history, each area from north to south and east to west is

unique in its appearance, character, cuisine and customs. I love it all.

Italy is like a collection of states or independent small territories. Traveling

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## Bocce! It's time to get rollin', rollin', rollin'

Spirits were high for the rollers at our first Saturday of bocce on March 9. We saw great competition among players of all skill levels.

We have one more Saturday of play before we put teams together and start our leagues.

On April 13 we'll play from 10 a.m. to noon, with an Italian lunch after the matches. The bar will be open.

All members are invited. Bocce novices

will discover that it's easy to learn.

It's also a great opportunity to enjoy an Italian tradition and the camaraderie of our club.

We have 40 members on our bocce list so far — some beginners and a few experienced ringers.

More players are welcome. The emphasis is always on fun and friendship.

Members of our bocce committee are Frank Bartucco, Jim

Devard, Ernie Tomaselli, Randy Canova, Thomas Mathews, Robert Traversi, Dan Calcagno, Matt Longo, Dick Zarzana and Rich Battistessa. We can add a few more if anyone else is interested.

Those who haven't signed up for a bocce league can still do so. Email Rich Battistessa at [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net) or call him at 916-961-4854.

League play on

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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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**Multiple trips planned**

Ladies Auxiliary member Gloria Tomei has organized a trip to the Jackson Rancheria on Tuesday, May 7.

Participants will leave from Holy Spirit at 9 a.m. and continue to the Dante Club to pick up other passengers. Cost of the trip is \$35 per person.

For details, call 916-447-5559 or email her at [gtomei@comcast.net](mailto:gtomei@comcast.net).

**Social updates**

Our cioppino feed and gin fizz brunch in March attracted nearly 300 attendees, and our Tuesday dinners have had great reviews for the good food and drinks at modest prices. Our Chef Jessie is doing a wonderful job with these events.

Dante at the River Cats will be on Sunday, April 7, with the game starting at 1 p.m. The cost is \$19 per person for tickets on the third-base side near the field.



The Dante Club's annual cioppino feed on March 2 attracted more than 200 guests. After feasting on the tasty seafood stew, guests danced to a band playing tunes from the 1960s to 1980s. A prize raffle raised \$1,700 for the club.

This event offers a wonderful opportunity to bring kids and grandkids to a ball game.

The club's annual Easter egg hunt on April 20 will feature prizes provided by the Ladies Auxiliary.

The Easter Bunny will be there with free hot dogs for the kids and drinks for all.

Be sure to sign up in advance to ensure eggs and food for all, and plan to have a wonderful time.

The Dante Club will start promoting Friday and Saturday events, encouraging members to stop by the club to enjoy a cocktail.



Children and adults enjoy a petting zoo at last year's Easter Egg Hunt at the Dante Club. This year's event on April 20 will feature free hot dogs and sodas, prizes and an appearance by the Easter Bunny, along with lots of eggs for kids of all ages to find.

We hope this will increase our members' opportunities to socialize with each other.

**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
- Taylor's Market, Sacramento
- Yorba Wines, Sutter Creek
- Young's Vineyard, Plymouth

**Beer**

- Blue Note Brewing Co., Woodland

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

**Olive Oil**

- Olive Mix, Sacramento
- Maltese Olive Oil, Sacramento



**Bell'Italia**

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the whole boot feels like traveling in different countries.

As a unified republic, Italy is actually younger than California, but we don't think of it that way because of its long history and frequent foreign occupations. Each region had to defend itself from the region next to it. That's why Italy has so many walled and hilltop regions and cities.

Italy's topography offers varied looks, lifestyles, cuisines and foreign influences. Much of it resembles California, except for our desert.

Starting in the north, traveling east to west across the Italian Alps and Dolomites, we discover mountainous regions with cold, snowy winters. The proximity of Austria,



Michael Micciche, a Dante Club member and Italy tour guide, visits with family in the town of Santa Caterina Villamosa in the southernmost island of Sicily. Micciche's father was born in the town, and Micciche still has many cousins living there.

Switzerland and Slovenia accounts for the multiple languages, cuisines and architecture. In fact, residents of many border communities can speak two or three languages.

Moving to central Italy, as far as Naples, we

see the greatest influence of Roman, Etruscan and Renaissance culture.

Hill and walled towns include Piemonte, Lombardia, Toscana, Umbria, Emilia Romagna, Marche, Veneto, Lazio and Campania.

These regions produce excellent wine and food, and there's no place like Rome for showcasing Italy's influence on the world's languages, customs, architecture and government.

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## 2019 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

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

### BOARD MEMBERS

- Ronald Bacher, admission ticket chairman: [ronald.bacher@gmail.com](mailto:ronald.bacher@gmail.com)
- Richard Battistessa, advisory, social activities: [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net)
- Ron Pane, tour director: [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com)
- Dan Calcagno, Easter Bunny: [dmcalcagno@aol.com](mailto:dmcalcagno@aol.com)
- Frank Calcagno, membership: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- John Caselli, publicity: [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com)
- Jim Dimino, advisory committee: [jkdimino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkdimino@sbcglobal.net)
- John Fiorica, sergeant at arms: [jfpacificrr@frontiernet.net](mailto:jfpacificrr@frontiernet.net)
- Matt Longo, building and grounds: [longomb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:longomb@sbcglobal.net)
- Michael Micciche, corporate travel: [Michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:Michael.micciche@gmail.com)
- Tom Novi, social activities: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Patrick Orelli, finance: [pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.com)



## 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](mailto:robertguidera@att.net) or 916-451-1467 and Tom at [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com) or 916-961-6197.

### 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](mailto: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](mailto:jac6652@aol.com). Items must be received by the 20th 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](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).

### Bocce

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Fridays will be from 4 p.m. to whenever, with drinks and snacks, and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to noon, with lunch.

The league schedule will be assembled after April 13, once we see how many players are on the final list.

Participants can play Friday or Saturday or both. League play will run approximately six weeks. We won't play every week.

We'll have more information to share after the committee meets.

### Bell'Italia

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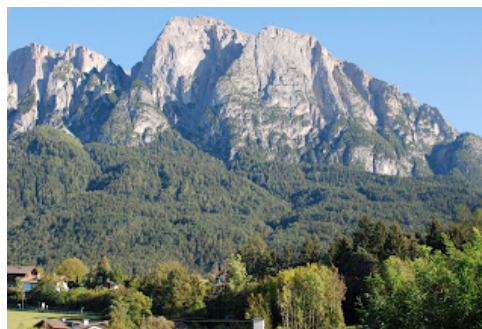
These regions also are known for their rolling hills, agriculture and wine and food production. Beautiful coastlines line the east and west sides of the boot.

Campania is famous for its Amalfi Coast, and the east coast offers Adriatic coastal towns, including Venice. Farther south of Naples are nontourist areas with wonderful beaches, small villages and cuisine that revolves around seafood. Even farther south are the islands of Sicily and Sardinia.

Sardinia offers a small population, open space, quiet lifestyle, clearwater beaches, fishing and boating activities and seafood-based cuisine.

Sicily, the largest Mediterranean island, is a paradise of great wines and cuisines influenced by Arabic, Greek, Norman, Spanish and French occupations. Sicilian architecture, churches and temple ruins also reflect those influences.

Sicily is a big island that can't be fully seen and enjoyed in just a few days. Ten days to two weeks is ideal. The climate is mostly temperate year-round, and the friendly people like to go all out to help tourists feel welcome.



In northern Italy, the majestic Dolomites mountain range is a favorite destination for skiers and hikers.