



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Guidera

Spring heralds start of bocce season

After a long, wet winter in Sacramento, springtime weather has finally arrived, and much green can be seen everywhere. This enhances our newest feature at the Dante Club: the official startup of the bocce season.

This will be our first full year of having the sport in our own backyard. Last year we added our two bocce courts and had them up and running by mid-summer. We've missed some spring play with the cooler weather, but hot weather will add to our beer sales — a positive note for our club!

Rich Battistessa has been organizing league play, and we've even discussed adding a lawn court to our current two. If you're interested in bocce, see Rich for details.

Our Dante Club staff — Sarah, Cindy and Jessi — have been doing a fantastic job for us. I'm amazed at Jessi's new creations

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EGGSELLENT ADVENTURE



The Dante Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 20 drew a crowd of more than 100 people who enjoyed a fun day with perfect weather. At a petting zoo at the event, top photo, Charlotte Caselli, Nico Suarez, Joan Quinlan-Suarez and Pat Orelli listen to Ron Fiorica explain the benefits of goat milk. Above left, Dante Club staffers Jay Bucknell and Susana Sanchez, chef Jessi Moreno and newly appointed general manager Sarah Nussman treated attendees to a free lunch of grilled hot dogs, chips, salad and fruit-filled cupcakes. Above right, Barbara Fiorica spins yarn from the lambs in the petting zoo. Thanks to the Ladies Auxiliary, children at the Easter hunt found plenty of eggs and took home plush bunny dolls afterward. The event is always free, as the Dante Club board wants the youngest members of our families to experience our Italian community.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

Ladies Auxiliary board members met in early April to stuff hundreds of eggs for the Dante Club's annual Easter Egg Hunt celebration on April 20. They took great care to fill every egg with a special surprise.

Ladies Auxiliary member Gloria Tomei has canceled a May 7 bus trip to Jackson Rancheria, as she is recovering from a short hospital stay. For questions, call her at 916-447-5559 or email gtomei@comcast.net.

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

The auxiliary welcomes new members. Those interested in joining may call 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.

New members

John Morelli and Chuck Santoni, new members approved in March and sponsored by Frank Calcagno, will be inducted May 20.

We have also approved Joe Alameida, sponsored by Tom Matranga, for May induction. In addition, this month we'll interview Vincenzo Gigi, sponsored by Frank Calcagno.

We have several openings for membership. Current members are

encouraged to recruit qualified applicants to help us maintain our beloved club.

In memoriam

We're sad to report the loss of three Dante Club members over the past few weeks.

Gene Christopher, a Dante Club member since 2004, attended many events and served on several committees. His wife, Phyllis, is heavily involved in the Ladies Auxiliary. Gene and Phyllis recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

We also lost Billy Skarles, whose family was active with the club and the auxiliary.

Finally, Ken Buono lost his heroic battle with pancreatic cancer. A member since 2014, Ken played a major role in reviving our club's highly successful annual Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament. Please honor Ken by playing in the 2019 tournament Aug. 24 at Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course. The tournament has become the main fundraiser for college scholarships that our club awards every June to children and grandchildren of Dante Club members.

We ask members to keep the Skarles, Buono and Christopher families in their thoughts and prayers.

Scholarship applications

The Dante Club scholarship committee met April 29 to discuss applications for our annual student scholarships. The committee will share its recommendations for winners with the board on May 14.

Announcement of the winners is expected during the May general members meeting.

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

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.

May 12

Mother's Day Brunch

Time: 10 a.m. cocktails, 11 a.m. brunch

Menu: Antipasto; fruit; pastries; scalloped potatoes; spinach, gorgonzola and pancetta frittatas; waffle station; sausage, peppers and onions; bacon-wrapped shrimp; asparagus with shaved parmesan; dessert station

Cost: \$25 adults; \$13 children ages 5 to 10; complimentary mimosas
Reserve by 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 8.

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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in the kitchen. People have noticed and are very pleased.

Sarah has continued to keep the club running smoothly since she took over the general manager position in November. She will surely keep us going through the usual slower summer period. She and Cindy have come up with some marketing and outreach ideas to help increase our volume.

This month will move us into the summer, starting off on May 7 with our Tuesday night dinner featuring chicken parmesan, spaghetti and lemoncello tiramisu. Our traditional Mother's Day brunch on May 12 will include complimentary mimosas.

In July and August, we'll swap out regular meetings for our steak barbecues, one of my favorite events. Guests get to barbecue their steaks outside, then come inside for all the trimmings.

I'm sure Jessi will have great steaks for us. A little bocce, a little beer and a nice steak: What could be better? Hope you can all make it.

Remember we're always on the lookout for more members. If you know someone who might be interested, invite them to join.

Our July and August steak barbecues are a good way to show off the club and enjoy a nice dinner. Guests as well as members are welcome.

Italian Americans deserve broader recognition in U.S.

By Michael Micciche

I usually write about Italian travel, but this month I'd like to discuss my love of Italy and Italians from a different perspective.

We've heard much discussion recently about Columbus Day. Many of us think that rather than singling out one famous Italian in our country's history, it's time to ask public officials to acknowledge the Italian people as a whole for their many contributions to our American way of life.

We'd like to see October declared Italian Heritage Month and the second Monday of the month declared Italian Heritage Day.

In our quest for these designations, we would start with the city and county of Sacramento, then approach the state of California.

Perhaps, too, with the help of national Italian American organizations, we could establish October as Italian Heritage Month at the federal level.

To enhance our success, we will need to collaborate with Italian organizations in our area and also gain the support of non-Italian American groups and individuals. Our board of directors has asked Ron Pane and me to organize this effort, but we need as many members as possible to help advocate for support from friends, family and work colleagues.

As soon as possible, Ron and I will create a strategy and timeline and share these with the board and club members. We'll then need to seek volunteers.

We hope to form a strong partnership with the Italian Cultural Society, Piemonte Reale, Sons and Daughters of Italy and other groups willing to join the effort.

We will only ask for a resolution from the governing bodies, not an ordinance or statute.

If you're a member of other Italian clubs besides Dante, please start spreading the word. I think we should

develop a petition and gather support and signatures soon. The support of individual elected officials will be crucial, and a sponsorship from a city councilmember or a county supervisor could help, too.

As Italian Americans, we have a lot to be proud of. I think we've been lax in standing up for recognition, compared with other ethnic and racial groups.

Christopher Columbus has been unfairly branded even though he only acted under orders and behaved like every conqueror of new lands in the era of exploration. In fact, the stories of the many Italians who have contributed to society would fill books.

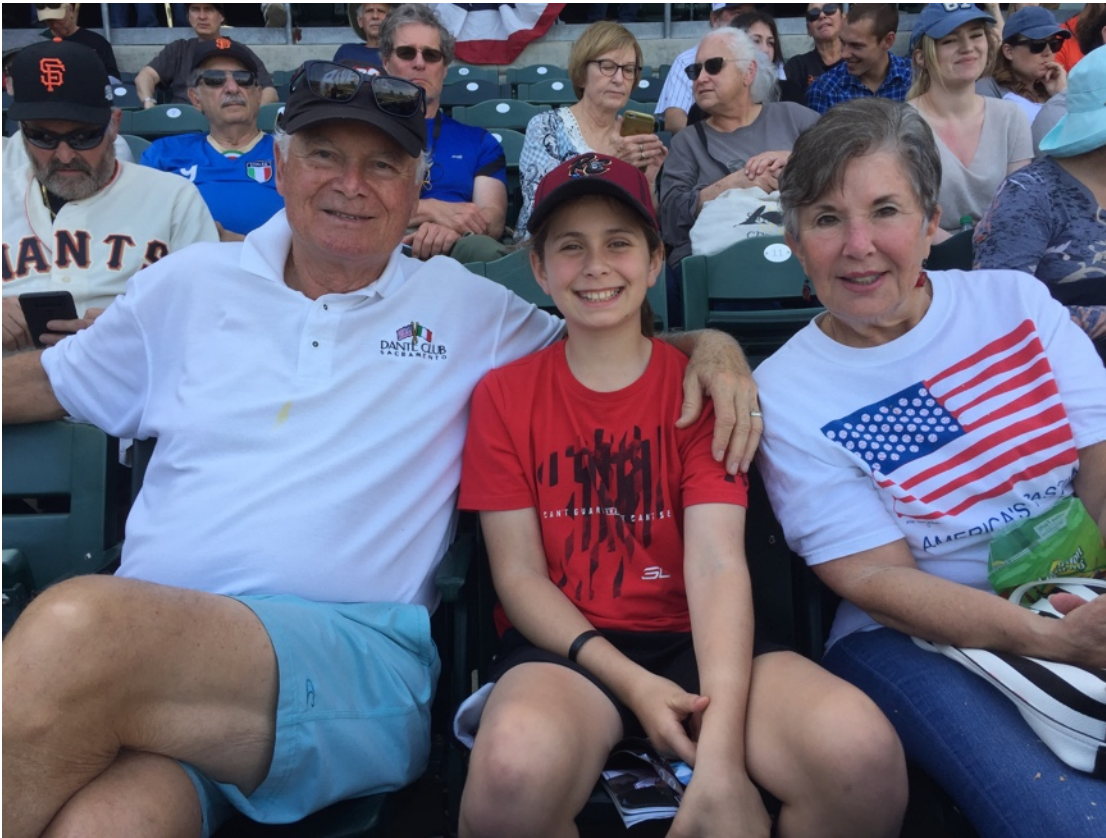
We will schedule a meeting to discuss roles and plans for moving forward.

If you'd like to participate or help in any way, email me at michael.micciche@gmail.com.

Viva Italia! Viva Stati Uniti! Grazie.



Take us out to the ballgame



Tom and Linda Novi and their granddaughter, Olivia, snag good seats for a River Cats game April 7 at West Sacramento's Raley Field in honor of Italian Heritage Day, an annual recognition. Michael Micciche, below left, enjoys a beer while John Kearns goes incognito with sunglasses because, apparently, he thought Michael was taking him to a Giants game.



News, Notes and Otherwise

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Golfers sought

Members who like to golf are encouraged to assemble their teams for the Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament on Aug. 17 at the Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course. The annual event benefits the club's scholarship fund.

Lunch at the Dante Club, along with a raffle and a few other surprises, will follow the tournament. More information will be available soon.

Bocce update

A good group of members enjoyed several games, as well as wine, beer and a lot of heckling, at our club's latest Saturday bocce event on April 13.

Frank Calcagno, Dennis Noble, Jim Dimino and Mike Micciche were the stand-out players. (We suspect they're taking lessons on the sly to show up the younger guys.)

We encourage all our members to get

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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
- 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

2019 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
- Ron Pane, tour director: repane@icloud.com
- Dan Calcagno, Easter Bunny: dmcalcagno@aol.com
- Frank Calcagno, membership: fscal@comcast.net
- John Caselli, publicity: jac6652@aol.com
- Jim Dimino, advisory committee: jkdimino@sbcglobal.net
- 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: pat@apcpagroup.com

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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involved with this great traditional Italian game.

The bocce committee has elected Dan Calcagno and Mike Micciche as co-chairmen for the year.

Other committee members are Jim Devard, Dick Zarzana, Ernie Tomassilli, Robert Traversi, Matt Longo, Randy Canova, Tom Mathews, Rich Battistessa and Frank Bartucco.

Save pull tabs

Dante Club members are asked to save the pull tabs from their aluminum cans and bring them to our club events and meetings.

We will collect the pull-tabs and donate them on behalf of the club to the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program, based at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The program collects and recycles pull tabs and contributes proceeds to the Adopt-A-Family Program.

The program helps subsidize lodging costs for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near the medical center while their children are hospitalized.

The program collects only aluminum can tabs instead of entire cans because collection and storage of the tabs is easier and more hygienic.

Homeland news

The 2019 Giro d'Italia, a three-week Grand Tour cycling race in Italy, will run from May 11 to June 2.

The event is the 102nd edition of the annual race and the first Grand Tour of the 2019 cycling season.

An individual time trial in Bologna will kick off the race May 11. The 2018 race winner, England's Chris Froome, will not defend his title this year.

Of the three major annual cycling tours — the Giro d'Italia, the Tour de France and the Vuelta Espania — the Giro d'Italia is considered the most grueling.

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.

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 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 tmezzan@gmail.com.