



# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Guidera

### *Much accomplished in 2019; more to come*

Nearly 150 guests enjoyed a delightful meal of either prime rib or Cornish game hens with all the trimmings at our annual Dante Club Christmas dinner event Sunday Dec. 15. We also enjoyed fine accordion entertainment by Dave Chelini, who played holiday favorites along with some Italian tunes.

The Christmas dinner is one of our long-standing and most popular traditions at the Dante Club. All who attended had a most enjoyable evening.

And now, as we close out 2019, I'd like to review some of our accomplishments at the club over the past year.

As you may remember, we started off 2019 a bit differently than normal. We had a major management change in November 2018 and needed to appoint an interim team, which we did.

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## New officers and board ready to take the reins

After a two-month process of nominations and elections, the Dante Club is now pleased to announce our new officers and board of directors for 2020.

Leading club activities in the new year will be Ron Pane, president; Ron Cristoni, first vice president; Tom Novi, second vice president; Ron Fiorica, secretary; and Tom Mezzanares, treasurer.

Members of our new board of directors are Bob Guidera, Ron

Cristoni, Bill Giovannetti, Pat Orelli, Joe Porata, Rich Battistessa, Ralph Di Lebero, Frank Calcagno, Tom Novi, Ernie Tomassilli, Jim Dimino, John Caselli, Michael Micciche, Mark Pedroncelli, Ron Pane, Ron Fiorica and Tom Mezzanares.

The new leaders were chosen after nominations were submitted during our Nov. 18 and Dec. 16 general meetings. Members then voted on the roster of candidates.

## Christmas dinner 2019



Our annual Dante Club Christmas dinner event on Dec. 15 drew 149 attendees, who dined on a choice of prime rib or Cornish game hens, accompanied by tasty side dishes, including mashed potatoes, glazed carrots, wild rice pilaf and winter greens salad. Accordionist Dave Chelini entertained guests with holiday and Italian songs.



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE



St. Francis High School students sang Italian Christmas songs during the Ladies Auxiliary's Dec. 10 holiday dinner.

**Ladies Auxiliary**

Members of the Ladies Auxiliary walked into a winter wonderland for their annual Christmas dinner meeting Dec. 10. The club banquet room was festooned with decorations, including many Christmas trees. Chef Jessie Moreno impressed attendees with her prime rib dinner at the beautifully decorated tables.

Students from the St. Francis High School Italian Club sang Italian Christmas carols.

Members outdid themselves with donations of toiletries and socks, which will be given to Child Protective Services of Sacramento County to help children in need.

Twelve long-standing auxiliary members each received a single long-stemmed rose, including Denise Franzoia, a member since 1959. Eleven more roses were presented to every member age 90 or older. The evening also featured raffle prizes.

The auxiliary has gained nine new members recently. The group encourages wives and daughters of Dante Club members to join. Those interested may call Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266.

**Newsletter ads welcomed**

As previously mentioned, the board has decided to make *Dante's Inferno* a more interactive marketing vehicle for club and auxiliary members. The response has been very positive.

Members Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist and Mark Pedroncelli of Pedroncelli Chiropractic, as well as Ladies Auxiliary board member Helen Manfredi of Medic Ambulance, have all made annual advertising commitments for their businesses.

We also welcome the Italian Cemetery in Colma. Many thanks to all for being our first sponsors.

Other members with businesses who would like to participate should contact John Caselli at [Jac6652@aol.com](mailto:Jac6652@aol.com).

**New members**

We inducted new members Jason Klier and Carlo Pane, both sponsored by Ron Pane, on Monday, Dec. 16. We look forward to their contributions to our club.

We also interviewed Chris Troughton, sponsored by loyal member Doug Troughton, and Ryan Dimino, sponsored by Carl Perricone. If approved, Ryan will become a third-generation Dimino to grace the halls of our fine club.

We offer an urgent appeal to our members to recruit eligible candidates. We need to increase membership to preserve the legacy of the club now and into the future. We want it known that our club staff serves excellent meals, and we encourage all members and their friends to come enjoy the fine cuisine.

Also, a reminder to Ladies Auxiliary members: Your husbands are eligible to join our club even if they don't have an Italian surname. The only restriction is that they can't serve as a board member.

**Club apparel**

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded clothing, including aprons and

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UPCOMING EVENTS  
Reserve and pay online at:  
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

**January 7****Tuesday Night Dinner**

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

**Menu:** Warm farro with roasted squash, feta and mint; pear and gorgonzola pork steaks with cider pear sauce; baked potatoes; green beans with crispy shallots; Italian berry cake

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

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

**January 20****Meeting Night Dinner**

**Time:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. meeting

**Menu:** House salad, rigatoni, cider-braised chicken thighs with sliced apples and greens; spiced caramelized squash with lemon and walnuts, spumoni

**Cost:** \$13 by deadline; \$18 after deadline

*Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 17.*

**January 24****Crab Feed**

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

**Menu:** All-you-can-eat crab, antipasto, mixed salad, rigatoni with meat sauce, seasonal vegetables, rolls, spumoni, coffee, wine

**Cost:** \$55 adults, \$25 children ages 5 to 10

*Reserve and pay by 10 a.m. Sunday, Jan. 19.*

**SAVE THE DATE:**

*Gioppino dinner, March 7. Details to follow.*





The Italian Cemetery in Colma offered burial services to generations of Italian immigrants and their families. It is now part of the Bay Area's vibrant ethnically diverse community.

## Colma's Italian Cemetery: Celebrating life since 1858

The Italian Cemetery in Colma is the offspring of La Societa Italiana di Mutua Beneficenza, the oldest continuously existing Italian-American organization in the United States.

Founded in 1858, the Societa sought to provide medical care and death benefits to a membership largely made up of Italian immigrants who came to San Francisco during the Gold Rush era.

Although burial services had always been part of the equation, it was not until 1899 that the Societa was able to establish a cemetery of its own.

Most Italian immigrants lived in San Francisco, but when the city enacted a policy of relocating burial grounds outside its limits, the Italian Cemetery was established.

Many others were set up as well in the little town of Colma, which is on the San Francisco Peninsula in what is now San Mateo County.



A renovated red-brick thoroughfare leads through the arched entrance of the Italian Cemetery, appreciated by many for its Old World ambience.

Although the funds to establish the cemetery came from the Societa, and its concern was to provide a service to its members, the cemetery has always welcomed people of all faiths and nationalities.

Many people are drawn by their feelings of kinship

with the Italian Cemetery's Old World ambience.

Also, as Italians intermarried, they brought in spouses and relatives from other cultures.

The first building on the property was completed in 1904 and called the Porporato Mausoleum.

The mausoleum was designed by San Francisco architect John A. Porporato, and its purpose was to provide a chapel for committal services.

It was the first indoor mausoleum in Colma and one of the very first in the

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## SOMETHING SCRUMPTIOUS

*This hot chocolate packs a warm punch to help you survive the winter*

We asked our general manager, Sarah Nussman, to submit her favorite recipe for the holiday season and expected her to say something like eggplant parmesan or baccala. No such luck!

She did, however, let us in on one of her secret drinks for the long winter nights that lie ahead: hot chocolate with a whiskey kick (just a little something to take the edge off).

If you decide to indulge in this delight, be sure to stock up first on Jameson and milk. You might be making this drink more than once.

### A Boozy Hot Chocolate

#### Ingredients:

- 1.5 ounces of Jameson Irish Whiskey
- Semi-sweet chocolate
- Warm milk

Mix together in a festive mug, and top it all off with fresh whipped cream and sugar flakes. Enjoy!

### President's Corner

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December 2018 turned out to be one of our best months, for which we credit our interim team.

The team has, for the most part, stayed with us. It includes Sarah Nussman, our manager; Cindy Moreno, our events coordinator, who came in the summer; Jessi Moreno, our fantastic chef, and Diane Langley, our bookkeeper. These people are most dedicated and a real asset to our club.

We're doing several new things that should

help us regain some of the business we lost and allow us to gain new business. Some past customers who left have now returned to us. Naturally, we're always looking to improve our volume of business.

During the year, our commitment to bocce progressed nicely. With our new bocce courts, the sport really took off for us.

Even some members of the Ladies Auxiliary expressed interest in participating in the game.

Our barbecues in July and August were very well attended, as

was our annual summer golf tournament. In the fall, we hosted our annual stag sausage feed with the help of servers from Hooters restaurant. This event also was well attended, as it used to be.

Our ongoing array of Tuesday night dinners have been better attended lately, and attendance at our year-end Christmas dinner went up this year as well.

It's with some sadness that I close out my second year as club president. I think it's time for someone else to take the reins.

But I do want to thank my committee chairmen for their hard work and commitment, as well as all our members for their support — including occasionally laughing at my jokes.

We still have much to do, so I urge members to continue supporting our club and our new president.

Remember, we're always looking for good new members, so if you have someone in mind, please invite them to join us.

I hope you all have the happiest new year in 2020!



# Please patronize our paesanos



## ADVERTISER LISTING

Mixed Bag. Gifts for all reasons. 24th and K. 9-6 M-SA, 10-5 SU. 10% discount to club members. Tom & Linda Novi, proprietors. 916-447-6123. [mixedbagsac.com](http://mixedbagsac.com).



**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts. Clothing comes in sizes for men, women and children. To order items, call Ron Cristoni at 916-457-4516 or email him at [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com).

**Save pull tabs**

Members are asked to continue collecting pull tabs from their aluminum cans for donation to a program at UC Davis Medical Center that recycles pull tabs to raise funds.

Proceeds support the Adopt-A-Family Program, which helps subsidize lodging costs at the Ronald McDonald House, where parents can stay while their children undergo medical treatment at UC Davis Medical Center.

Last month, board member Ron Cristoni dropped off our members' pull-tab donations to the Ronald McDonald House. When Ron asked the receptionist how much parents are charged to spend a night there, she answered: "\$20 a night, if they can afford it."

We have delivered a total of 1,025 pounds of pull tabs since we started donating to the program. So if the Ronald McDonald House receives \$1 per pound of pull tabs, our club members have donated 51 nights of accommodations.

Let's give a big round of applause to all who have participated in this worthy effort. Thank you, and please continue to donate.

**Everything Italian**

We like to think the Dante Club is the best Italian club in Sacramento, but several other groups in the area may interest members, too:

- Arberesh — [arbereshofsacramento.org](http://arbereshofsacramento.org)
- Italian Cultural Society — [italianculturalsociety.com](http://italianculturalsociety.com)
- Piemonte Reale — John Lancara, Societa Piemonte Reale, 3621 E. Lincoln Ave, Sacramento, CA 95818
- Romulus Club — John L. Boze, Romulus Club, 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 1850, Sacramento, CA 95814

**Annual dues due**

Yearly \$100 membership dues for 2020 are due Jan. 31. Members can pay online at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>.

To pay by check, make checks payable to the Dante Club and mail to: Dante Club of Sacramento; Attn. Tom Mezzanares, treasurer; 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.; Sacramento, CA 95825.

Dues also can be paid anytime in person by cash, check or credit card at the Dante Club.

**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: [dmcacagno@aol.com](mailto:dmcacagno@aol.com)
- Frank Calcagno, membership: [fsacal@comcast.net](mailto:fsacal@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@yahoo.com](mailto:jfpacificrr@yahoo.com)
- 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)



## Cemetery

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entire country.

The crypts in the building are faced in beautiful Carrara marble.

The mausoleum is graced with colorful stained glass with floral designs.

Made up largely of Italian immigrants, the historical North Beach district of San Francisco served as the headquarters of the Societa until 1962.

At that point, the Societare relocated to the grounds of the cemetery in Colma.

In 1978, the Italian Cemetery was reorganized under the laws of the state of California as an



The Italian Cemetery offers entombments in nine indoor and outdoor mausoleum locations. Additional mausoleums are planned for the site.

independent, nonprofit, public-benefit corporation.

In the meantime, the development of new mausoleums and new areas for ground burials has continued.

The Italian Cemetery now offers entombments in nine indoor and outdoor

mausoleum locations. Construction of additional mausoleums is planned.

Recently, the town of Colma renovated the old F Street roadbed, creating an old-fashioned red-brick thoroughfare, complete with elegant turn-of-the-century street lamps.

Through the years, the Italian Cemetery has developed into an integral part of the vibrant and ethnically diverse Bay Area community.

*This article is reprinted from the website of the Italian Cemetery. To learn more, go to the website at [www.italiancemetery.com](http://www.italiancemetery.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).