

Legacy Fund!

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ron Pane

Looking back, club progress impressive

As my term draws to a close, I look back on the past 11 months with a true sense of accomplishment.

The physical building that we had in March is a mere shadow of what the Dante Event Center has become. We have a new general manager who reported at our last board meeting that our beautifully renovated facility has booked more than 55 events since September, almost 34 percent of which are weddings.

We have a revamped policy and procedures manual in the works that will spell out a specific capitalization policy, as well as a maintenance schedule for the building.

We also are considering a series of incentives for club members who bring in qualified applicants or who prepay for their dinners. Our ultimate goal is to have a process that ensures that our club operates smoothly

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5

Venue improvements help increase 2020-21 bookings

The Dante Club is increasingly recognized in the community as a worthy special events venue, thanks to customer praise, word-of-mouth recommendations and social media posts.

In 2019, the club hosted six weddings. As a result of this year's facility renovation, promotion and improvements in our services, we've booked 21 weddings for the 2020-2021 season, with more inquiries coming in daily.

In addition, numerous booking requests for anniversaries, birth-days, quinceaneras and meetings have rolled in.

In the past month, we have booked 25 new events for the upcoming event calendar year. Included is our plan to resume hosting monthly Sunday night dinners for members, friends, families and the general public,





Pat and Colin Orelli, with help from general manager Jennifer Peretti, hand out prizes, including a selection of wines.

beginning in January.

The dinners will be held on the first Sunday of every month, reviving the club's traditional Italian Sunday night dinners of the past.

We'll share more details about the dinners soon.

See IMPROVEMENTS, Page 7



Dante Club members gathered inside the renovated, renamed facility for a dinner meeting and raffle on Oct. 20.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committees are now officially combined after members voted in October to adopt several proposed changes in the club bylaws.

Treasurer Tom Mezzanares reports that the club's financial picture is strong, thanks to low-interest loans we've procured and an increasing demand for our renovated Dante Event Center as a venue for a wide range of events.

Website redesign efforts continue, with several details still in the works.

A task force led by past president Rich Battistessa has developed several proposals, now under consideration by the board, to help increase membership, revenue and meeting attendance.

The board has agreed to a recommendation that we resume monthly Sunday night family dinners in the new year.

The dinners will reflect the strong Italian tradition of bringing extended families together for a Sunday meal that's enjoyable and inexpensive, especially for children and grandchildren.

General manager Jennifer Peretti reports a strong book of business, largely attributable to this year's facility remodel.

Members are encouraged to attend this month's members dinner and meeting. October's dinner was outstanding, and November's promises to be even better.

Reservations must be made on time. Walk-ins on the night of the dinner are no longer allowed.

New committee

The advisory committee has agreed to establishing an entertainment committee responsible for finding speakers and performers to enliven our club and public functions.

Rich Battistessa will lead the group, with assistance from Dan Calcagno, Ralph DiLibero and Jim Dimino

Look for a slate of guest speakers to coincide with events indoors.

Newsletter marketing

It's hard to imagine that our first year of *Dante's Inferno* advertising is coming to a close.

Newsletter coordinator John
Caselli offers his personal thanks to
these steadfast sponsors: Johnny
"the barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed
Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles
Florist, Mark Pedroncelli of
Pedroncelli Chiropractic, Realtor
Patrick Vogeli, Ladies Auxiliary
board member Helen Manfredi of
Medic Ambulance and Troy Milan
of the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

With the interruption in exposure we were able to provide these businesses this year via monthly meetings, the board has extended the end date of existing advertising contracts to March 31, 2021

In the meantime, anyone interested in advertising their business in the *Inferno* should email John Caselli at <u>Jac6652@aol.com</u>.

Bocce postponed

As we remain vigilant during the pandemic, we will continue to



November 16

Members Dinner Meeting

Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. meeting Menu: Dinner rolls with butter; roasted fennel salad with radicchio, pears, shaved Parmesan, parsley and champagne vinaigrette; Italian beef braciole served with Parmesan linguine pasta and roasted root vegetables marinated with Italian herbs; tiramisu

Cost: \$15, in advance only RESERVATIONS REQUIRED. Reserve in person, by phone or online by midnight Monday, Nov. 9. No purchases or walkins allowed at the door.

delay the start of our bocce playing season. We hope the first ball can be thrown soon.

Members should look for updates via email blast.

In the meantime, players, keep your arms and legs limber.

Save pull tabs

Since Ron Cristoni challenged Dante Club members to collect aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, the response has been overwhelming.

To date, we have collected more than 1,250 pounds of pull tabs. Proceeds help assist parents who can't afford to stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 6



2020 Committees and Assignments

(revised 10.19.20)

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY AND FINANCE

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph DiLibero, Frank Calcagno, Richard Battistessa, Jim Dimino

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman Members: Ron Pane, Bob Gudiera, vacancy

BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman Members: Michael Micciche, Richard Battistessa, Ralph DiLibero

ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman Members: Ralph DiLibero, Dan Calcagno, two vacancies

MEMBERSHIP AND INVESTIGATION

Dan Calcagno, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

PUBLICITY

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman Member: Mark Pedroncelli, Dan Calcagno

SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman Members: Joe Porata, Mike Battistessa, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

SOCIAL

Michael Micciche, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman Members: Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Colin Orelli, vacancy, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Tom Novi, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman Members: Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Pat Orelli

VOLUNTEERS (recruit members to assist with painting, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, social activities, internet, website and other club needs)
Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Ron Fiorica, vice chairman
Members: Michael Micciche, Frank Calcagno, Jim Dimino

ASSIGNMENTS: Bocce, Rich Battistessa and Ladies Auxiliary; Dante Club apparel, Mark Pedroncelli; general membership meetings, John Caselli, Joe Porata, Ron Bacher; sergeant-at-arms, John Fiorica, general meeting; Ladies Auxiliary liaison, Richard Battistessa

2020 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- Ron Pane, president: repane@icloud.com
- Tom Novi, first vice president: tomnovi@aol.com
- Patrick Orelli, second vice president, pat@apcpagroup.com
- Ron Fiorica, secretary:
 rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: timezzan@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

- Richard Battistessa: drbattistessa@comcast.net
- Dan Calcagno: dmcalcagno@aol.com
- Frank Calcagno: fscal@comcast.net
- John Caselli: <u>jac6652@aol.com</u>
- Ralph DiLibero: ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov
- Jim Dimino: ikdimino@sbcglobal.net
- Ron Fiorica: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Bob Guidera: robertquidera@att.net
- Matt Longo: longomb@sbcglobal.net
- Tom Mezzanares: timezzan@gmail.com
- Michael Micciche: michael.micciche@gmail.com
- Tom Novi: tomnovi@aol.com
- Patrick Orelli: pat@apcpagroup.com
- Ron Pane: repane@icloud.com
- Mark Pedroncelli: peddc@surewest.net
- Joe Porata: jporata@sbcglobal.net
- Ernie Tomassilli: ca.ernest@pacbell.net



Where does your family hail from? Let's share our stories

Happy turkey month! The Ladies Auxiliary still isn't having monthly dinner meetings.

I'd love to say we'll resume in December, because those are always such special dinners, but the consensus among members is that they'd rather wait until after the first of the year.

Details will be forthcoming. Renovation work at our Dante Event Center is almost complete.

Thanks to all the wonderful improvements, the facility already has several weddings scheduled for next year and is looking to add many other events to the calendar.

The men's club has done an amazing job remodeling the place so it no longer looks dated.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

It looks incredible, and I think it will encourage more people to hold parties and events there. I hope our members drop in to see it.

As you know, I serve as the co-president of the Dante Club's Ladies Auxiliary. I was born and raised in Sacramento.

My family were members of St. Mary's Catholic Church, and I attended St. Francis High School and California State University, Sacramento.

I worked as a criminal investigator at the Sacramento

County District Attorney's Office for more than 30 years.

My parents were both born in California, but their parents were born in the province of Treviso, Italy.

My maternal grandmother came from Possagno, and my grandfather came from Paderno del Grappa.

My fraternal grandparents both came from the town of Casa Del Tomba.

Where are your relatives from? Share your family story. You can email me at cattuzzod@gmail.com.

Please remember to save pull tabs off your aluminum cans and bring them to our next meeting.

LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, co-president: cattuzzod@gmail.com
- Carole Stefani Chivaro, co-president: <u>cchivaro2@aol.com</u>
- Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice-president: <u>hpveneman@yahoo.com</u>
- Helen Manfredi Pierson, co-vice-president: helen@medicambulance.net
- Tina Luchini Bowers, co-treasurer: rkb0719@sbcglobal.net
- Debbie Duccini Hansen, co-treasurer: dducc56@gmail.com
- Judy Farina, secretary: <u>ifarina56@yahoo.com</u>
- Rosemary Micciche, trustee/caller: rosemarymicciche@gmail.com
- Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller: fscal@comcast.net

- Phyllis Kielholtz, trustee/caller: swedgewood@aol.com
- Mary Anne Chivaro, trustee/caller: mapc50@comcast.net
- Debra Jefcoat, trustee/caller: djefcoat6@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller: ndoyle@stfrancishs.org
- Janet Gatejen, trustee/caller: <u>urbanhound@me.com</u>
- Margaret Lynch, trustee/caller: qmlynch@sbcqlobal.net
- Karol Rehm Buccola, past president
- Anna Tenderella, hospitality (with Linda Rariden and Diana Dionisio): <u>annatenderella@sbcglobal.net</u>
- Debra Duccini Hansen, bocce: dducc56@gmail.com
- Jodie Maita, bocce: jodie.maita@gmail.com



President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

going forward.

On the social front, I'm pleased to announce the return of our Sunday night dinners, beginning in January. We'll be able to accommodate 125 guests on a first-come, first-served basis.

Prices for the meal will be moderate in the hope that families will be able to attend, as well as members. We'll have more details to share as we get closer to January.

Many thanks to everyone who made all this possible. Ernie Tomassilli, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, and his "wrecking crew" have been here at the club almost nonstop since mid-March.

Members who have returned to the building lately have seen changes that have helped bring our facility into the 21st century. I urge those who haven't dropped by yet to come take a peek. I know you will be pleasantly surprised.

By Nov. 1, we will install a new sign for the front of the building reflecting our new handle, the Dante Event Center. See the renderings of the artwork below.

I urge members who haven't contributed to the Dante Club Legacy Building Fund to do so, in any amount they're able.

These donated dollars will help support our maintenance schedule. The fund will guarantee that we have the financial means to keep our facility looking as great as it does today for the next 100 years.

Happy Thanksgiving to all!





These graphics show the updated designs for new signage that will adorn the outside front of the renovated club facility.

Members review and approve changes to Dante Club bylaws

Distribution of revised document underway

Proposed changes to the club bylaws had their second reading in September. A third and final reading with a vote took place Oct. 19 at the members meeting.

These changes were approved by a vote of 47 to 5:

Nonsubstantive, semi-technical

- changing the word "shall" to "may"
- renumbering certain agenda items
- combining position titles financial secretary and treasurer to treasurer/financial secretary

Substantive

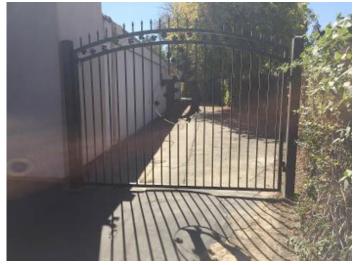
- combining advisory and finance committees and their duties, and membership and investigating committees and their duties
- changing the membership of certain committees
- shortening the bylaws amendment process from three to two months by voting in the second month
- reducing the bylaws amendment vote requirement from two-thirds of those present to a majority of those present
- increasing terms of the board of directors from one to two years
- having club officers assume their duties at the time of election
- adding duties to the role of recording secretary
- changing the term "club room" to "Dante Club facility"

President Ron Pane would like all Dante Club members to have a copy of the amended bylaws, so we are working to distribute them. Most of the approved changes are effective immediately. One change increasing board terms — will take effect in December.

For any follow-up questions or concerns, call Ron at 916-798-0111 or email him at repane@icloud.com.







Two new decorative gates add a finishing touch to the Dante Event Center. At left is a new back gate; at right is the new gate at the front of the building.

News, Notes and Otherwise CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

children are hospitalized at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento.

The \$1,250 raised has helped pay for more than 60 nights of lodging.

With the resumption of indoor events at our club, we can once again give pull-tab collections to Ron Cristoni or John Rosso.

For more information about the program, members can go to the Ronald McDonald House Charities, Northern California, website at www.rmhcnc.org. Click on "Getting Involved" and scroll down to "Pop-Tab Program."

Club apparel

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts.

Clothing comes in sizes for men, women and children.

To order items, email Mark Pedroncelli at peddc@surewest.net.

Membership update

After waiting months for our monthly dinners and meetings to resume, we're anxious to tackle the waiting list for applicants to the Dante Club.

We'll reach out soon to the 14 who have expressed interest in joining our club.

We plan to schedule interviews with candidates on the night of a members dinner. At that time, the committee can chat with them and confirm their eligibility and commitment to helping the Dante Club thrive.

After the interviews, candidates may stay for our social hour and dinner. After dinner, they'll be asked to excuse themselves as members conduct the business meeting.

The pause in our membership recruitment efforts has been long, but we hope to empty the waiting list by early 2021.

Applications are available online or by contacting anyone on the membership committee.

Members are Bob Guidera, Frank

Calcagno, Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli and Dan Calcagno.

Buildings and grounds update

The buildings and grounds committee's extensive list of accomplishments continues to grow as its final task list nears completion.

By Nov. 1, the committee will finish painting the exterior of the building and will install a new sign above the awning.

These two improvements will make a strong first impression on visitors as they drive through the entryway. A new front driveway gate and shrubbery will help mitigate the visual and noise impact of the nearby car wash.

The committee's final interior improvement, installation of new flooring in the Tuscan Room, will be completed by Nov. 20.

Volunteers are still needed to help us achieve our goal of having a showcase facility that reflects our Italian heritage in the 21st century.

Those who can help should call Ernie Tomassilli at 916-541-9507.



Dante Club Legacy Building Fund

These members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary have contributed to our Legacy Building Fund since January, for a total of \$13,237.22 to date. Many thanks to everyone for their continued support:

- Don Agostinelli, \$250
- Anonymous, \$300
- Frank Bartucco, \$200
- Lee Bennet, in memory of Shirley Bennet, \$150
- John Bertoni, \$200
- Frank Calcagno, \$100
- Kyle Calcagno, \$100
- Randy Canova, \$150
- John Caselli, \$101
- Beverly Catchpool, \$100
- Debra Cattuzzo, \$500

- Kenneth Cemo, \$25
- Ron Cristoni, \$250
- Steve DeRoss, \$200
- Jim Dimino, \$100
- Nancy Doyle, \$100
- Ron Fiorica, \$100
- Joseph Guzzo, \$250
- Vince Heater, \$100
- J.A. Kaminski, \$100
- Richard Kinzel, \$200
- Fran Koscheski, \$500
- Steve Lavezzo, \$700
- Bill Maffei, \$200
- Thomas Matranga, \$100
- Tom Mezzanares, \$100
- Michael Micciche, \$100
- Tom Novi, \$100
- Patrick Orelli: \$100
- J. Paul Pane Jr., \$250
- Ron Pane, \$3,507.38

- Vito Parisi, \$200
- Donald Pasquini, \$150
- John Patella, \$100
- Peter and Carol Pesetti, \$200
- Joe Porata, \$250
- Pietro Pozzuto, \$200
- Peter and Linda Raridan, \$100
- Jim Relles, \$100
- Tom Relles, \$100
- James Riolo, \$100
- John Rosso, \$1,097.45
- Elaine Panattoni Schaedler, \$500
- John Skinner, \$100
- Anna Tenderella, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, \$106.39
- Gloria Tomei, \$300
- George Zarzana, \$100
- Richard Zarzana, \$100

Negative attitudes toward Italians have changed since the 1890s

By Ralph DiLibero

Except for a mass hanging sentence for convicted native Americans in 1862, the single most massive public lynching of lawabiding residents in the United States occurred in New Orleans in 1891.

After nine Italian immigrants were tried and acquitted of murdering police chief David Hennessey by a locally appointed jury, a lynch mob refused to accept the verdict and broke into a holding cell, assaulting the nine and two other Italian-Americans who happened to be there.

Local legislative bodies looked the other way as the violent mob gathered up the eleven men and hung them. The horrific event was followed by mass arrests of Italians throughout New Orleans and attacks against Italians nationwide.

On March 16, 1891, *The New York Times* noted that the lynched men had been "sneaking and cowardly Sicilians, the descendants of bandits and assassins."

A day later, the newspaper wrote that "lynch law was the only course open to the people of New Orleans."

Louisiana Gov. John Parker called Italians "lawless and treacherous."

Theodore Roosevelt, Parker's friend, wrote to his wife about a dinner where, he said, various "dago

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Improvements

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Sacramento County regulations now allow the Dante Club to host indoor events while maintaining precautions. Sanitizer stations must be set up throughout our building, and facial coverings are mandatory for anyone on the property. In addition, all guests and staff members must have their temperatures taken as a safety precaution whenever they enter the building.

We will continue to do our part to help prevent the spread of the coronavirus while bringing back our special events and activities indoors.



Please patronize our paesanos







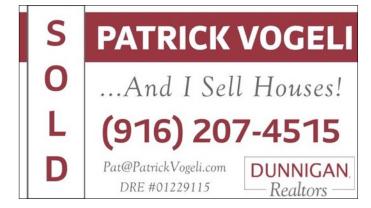
8689 Folsom Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95826

OFFICE: (916) 564-9040, Ext. 3100

www.medicambulance.net







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. <u>mixedbagsac.com</u>.

LED LIGHT BULBS: SUCH A DEAL!

The Dante Club has found a cache of LED light bulbs that we no longer need. Members can buy them for \$1 each. Available are four 12.2-watt bulbs, 10 13.5-watt bulbs and 75 30.7-watt bulbs. Call Ernie Tomassilli at 916-541-9507.

THIS SPACE AVAILABLE

For details, contact John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com or 916-217-6482.



Italians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

diplomats were present, all much wrought up by the lynching of the Italians in New Orleans."

"Personally," Roosevelt wrote, "I think it rather a good thing and said so."

In America in the 1890s, Italians were considered a variant of a mythical "black race," mostly because Italian immigrants were willing to work alongside African-Americans.

In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison, who had campaigned on protecting African-American voting rights, attempted to appease angry Italian immigrants protesting the New Orleans lynching. Harrison ignored the continental discovery voyages of Amerigo Vespucci and Giovanni da Verrazzano and proclaimed the land-mass discovery of what became the United States as "Christopher Columbus Discovery Day." It was a one-time national holiday on Oct. 12 to recognize Italian-American contributions to the country.

Italian-Americans, especially those living in the northeastern United States, continued to celebrate the date as Christopher Columbus Day.

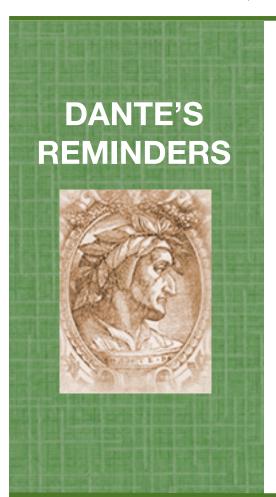
In 1934, political lobbying by a state senator, the first Italian-American elected to public office in Rhode Island, persuaded President Franklin D. Roosevelt to declare Columbus Day a national federal holiday.

Cultural attitudes toward Italian-Americans have continued to evolve over the decades.

During World War II, the threat of worldwide fascism and the enlistment of tens of thousands of former Mussolini-supporting Italians into the U.S. Army converted the image of Italians to "white."

The image was reinforced when 40,000 men from the former Italian Army aided the Allies on the beaches of Normandy, and more than 1 million Italian-Americans served in the war.

Author Ralph DiLibero is a Dante Club board member. This article is the second in a series.



Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact Ernie Tomassilli for anything related to buildings and grounds and Michael Micciche for anything related to social events. You can reach Ernie at 916-541-9507 or ca.ernest@pacbell.com. You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or michael.micciche@gmail.com.

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 Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or peddc@surewest.net 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 Dan Calcagno at 916-481-8368 or dmcalcagno@aol.com.