

Donate to the Dante Club Legacy Fund!

# DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER Ron Pane

### Wrecking crew winds down with project

After almost six months of sometimes daily efforts, our "wrecking crew" remodeling endeavors have finally come to fruition.

As I write this, the floor in the Tuscan Room and an exterior paint job are the only major tasks remaining. The transformation of the Dante Club to the Dante Event Center is almost complete, and I think our members and guests will like what they see.

For added security, we're investigating installing a gate at the front entrance to mitigate unwanted traffic at odd times of the day and night.

We're also in the embryo stage of designing a new logo and neon sign for the front of the building. The green awning that reads "Dante Club established 1926" will remain.

I recently returned from a fishing expedition to Missoula, Montana. Angling always gives See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5 **ALMOST DONE!** 



### Tuscan Room floor among final tasks



After removing carpet strips, Joe Porata, Don Agnostelli, Peter Pesetti and John Rosso, photo right, tackle the Dante Club's original linoleum floor laid by the first president, Victor Panattoni. At left, John Caselli applies his ranching skills to the floor preparation task as he takes command of "Big Bertha."

## First members dinner, outdoor wedding both successful

Thanks to all our members who showed up Sept. 21 and made our first members dinner since the beginning of COVID a success. We hope to inspire more members to return to enjoy all that's happening here at our new Dante Event Center.

We'll hold our next members dinner on Oct. 19. Reservations are due by the end of the day Oct. 12. *No exceptions will be made at the door*.

Cost of the meal is \$15, which can be paid by cash, check or credit card, in person, over the phone or online. Depending on county pandemic restrictions, we may be able to dine inside.

The October dinner will feature a Tuscan-style menu that includes housemade garlic bread and a strawberry mixed green salad with blue cheese crumbles, candied pecans, cucumber, Fuji apples and strawberry vinaigrette. The main course of pan-seared chicken breast will be served

See DINNER, Page 6



#### Advisory and finance update

The combined advisory and finance committees met Sept. 21 before the members dinner.

During the meeting, treasurer Tom Mezzanares reported that the Dante Club is financially sound after the recent facility remodel, with a balance remaining to cover ongoing expenses.

President Ron Pane reported on the final phase of the remodeling, including the Tuscan Room floor and an exterior paint job.

Loans, including a federal paycheck protection loan, have paid for the project and operating expenses.

Tom Mezzanares will provide details of the loans and their balances next month through a simplified treasurer's report that he, Dan Calcagno and Pat Orelli are creating.

During the early days of the pandemic, our print shop closed, so we couldn't print and mail hard copies of *Dante's Inferno* to members who don't have computer access for emailings. We now have a new printing source and can resume mailing newsletter hard copies to those members.

A redesign of our club website continues. Webmaster Dan Calcagno said the improved site should be up and running in the next month or so.

Ron Pane asked the advisory committee to explore ways to generate more funds to help pay for our remodeling project and to hold club members accountable for attending a minimum number of social events annually.

To accomplish this, a threemember advisory committee task force, led by Rich Battistessa, was appointed to develop a plan.

Another three club members will be recruited. Members who have ideas and want to participate should contact Rich.

Our general manager, Jennifer Perretti, reported increased interest from groups wanting to hold events at Dante. She said the remodeled facility has been a selling point.

Noted during the meeting: A few members were not able to attend the evening's dinner because they didn't make reservations by the previous week's deadline. The staff must receive reservations in a timely manner to provide low-cost, high-quality meals.

A \$15 gourmet Italian dinner with wine is nearly unheard of, so we ask that members honor the reservations deadlines.

### **New committee**

President Ron Pane has established an entertainment committee responsible for bringing speakers and performers to public and members functions.

Rich Battistessa will head up the group, with Jim Dimino as vice chairman. Members are Ralph DiLibero and Dan Calcagno.

Two to four more members are needed for this committee. Please contact Rich for more information.

### **Newsletter marketing**

The response to making the newsletter a more interactive marketing vehicle remains positive.

Members Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist and



### CLUB AND MEMBER EVENTS ON HOLD UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

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.

So, too, have the Italian Cemetery in Colma and Realtor Pat Vogeli. Many thanks to all.

Others who wish to advertise in the newsletter should email John Caselli at Jac6652@aol.com.

### **Bocce postponed**

As we remain vigilant during the pandemic, we will continue to delay the start of our bocce season. We hope the first ball can be thrown sometime this month.

Members should look for updates via email blast.

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

### Save pull tabs

We continue to ask Dante Club members to save the pull tabs from their aluminum cans and bring them to the club. We'll donate them to a Sacramento Ronald McDonald House program based at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7



### **2020 Committees and Assignments**

(revised 9.25.20)

### COMMITTEES

### **ADVISORY AND OPERATIONS**

Tom Novi, chairman; Michael Micciche, vice chairman Members: Tom Novi, Frank Calcagno, Richard Battistessa, Mark Pedroncelli, 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

### **FINANCE**

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph DiLibero, Dan Calcagno

### **INVESTIGATION**

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

### **MEMBERSHIP**

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

PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY (special committee) Tom Novi, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman Members: Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Pat Orelli

VOLUNTEERS (special committee to 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; sergeantat-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: <u>rbfiorica@frontiernet.net</u>
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: timezzan@gmail.com

### **BOARD MEMBERS**

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



### Auxiliary members encouraged to view Dante facility

Happy October! I'm not sure about the rest of you, but I am tired of this heat and so looking forward to fall.

I love the crisp mornings, the leaves falling, hot soups and a roaring fire in the fireplace.

On Sept. 21, the men's club had a fabulous dinner at the new Dante Event Center. Members enjoyed drinks in the bar, then walked outside to the lawn area to dine

Club president Ron Pane said everything was wonderful, although nighttime began to fall before the dinner was over

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS Debra Cattuzzo

Our Ladies Auxiliary board briefly considered holding an outdoor October dinner as well.

However, because most of our members are seniors, we were worried about their exposure to COVID-19, as well as the difficulty of walking on the lawn, especially in the dark.

We've decided to hold off until there is more concrete evidence that the virus is on its way out and that we can have our meals safely indoors again.

One suggestion is that if we do have a function outside, we might have a brunch meeting on a Saturday or Sunday. Does this idea interest our members? Please let me know. Call 916-442-2266 or email catttuzzod@gmail.com.

I encourage members to tour the renovated Dante facility. It's really quite amazing.

The men have worked daily during this pandemic. Much of their See AUXILIARY, Page 5

### **AUXILIARY BOARD**

- Debra Cattuzzo, co-president: <u>cattuzzod@gmail.com</u>
- Carole Stefani Chivaro, co-president: cchivaro2@aol.com
- Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice-president: hpveneman@yahoo.com
- 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: jfarina56@yahoo.com
- 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: <u>mapc50@comcast.net</u>
- Debra Jefcoat, trustee/caller: djefcoat6@sbcglobal.net
- Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller: ndoyle@stfrancishs.org
- Janet Gatejen, trustee/caller: urbanhound@me.com
- Margaret Lynch, trustee/caller: <u>gmlynch@sbcglobal.net</u>
- Karol Rehm Buccola, past president
- Anna Tenderella, hospitality (with Linda Rariden and Diana Dionisio): annatenderella@sbcglobal.net
- Debra Duccini Hansen, bocce: dducc56@gmail.com
- Jodie Maita, bocce: jodie.maita@gmail.com

### America's journey to equality of opportunity noble but bumpy

### **By Ralph DiLibero**

The single greatest honor and privilege granted to me in my life has been my exquisite good fortune to have been born in the United States of America.

But I am the proud premier product of a sometimes harsh history that befell generations of immigrants from my ancestral homeland of Italy.

Their painfully slow but steady journey to equality of opportunity and societal acceptance is not, of course, a uniquely Italian-American experience.

Many other people representing various ethnic, racial, religious, gender and cultural groupings have

strived to become equal partners in the great and wonderful amalgamation that is the United States of America

To set the stage: From 1497 to 1504, Amerigo Vespucci corrected the erroneous maps of Cristoforo Colombo and discovered the actual continental land masses of the "New Worlds," rather than a new sea route to India.

Then Giovanni Caboto explored the northeastern coast of the future United States and claimed the land



#### President's Corner CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me an opportunity to reflect.

As I looked back over the past six months, I felt amazed at the generosity of the many people who make the Dante Club great.

To those who have given time and money, I'm forever grateful. The camaraderie that has developed since March has been unique.

I hope that painting the outside of our building will amplify the wow factor as members and guests pull into our parking lot. However, we do need to expand the ranks of our wrecking crew to include a few more able-bodied people who are good with a paint brush.

All qualified members are asked to reach out to Ernie Tomassilli for an assignment. Those who don't know how to use a paint brush could consider donating to our Legacy Building Fund.

We are just shy of hitting the \$15,000 mark.

Monday, Oct. 12, is Columbus Day. Recently, there has been a push to rewrite history and amend the impact that Christopher Columbus had on the United States.

Although Columbus may not have been politically correct by today's standards, I still would have invited him to join our club.

So on Oct. 12, raise a glass of your favorite vin and say, "Salute!"

### Bylaws changes require review

Because we haven't been able to meet in person, we've shared our proposed bylaws changes in *Dante's Inferno* for the last few months. The board wants all members to review the proposed changes so there are no misunderstandings in the future. A second reading is tentatively planned for the October meeting and a call for a vote in November. Here are the proposed bylaws changes:

### 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" For questions or concerns, call Ron Pane at 916-798-0111 or email him at repane@icloud.com.

#### Auxiliary CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

work was structural, so in the kitchen, for example, you can't really see that.

But the place looks so much bigger and brighter, with new paint, new flooring and wall art. Even the parking lot is improved.

So please take a moment to drop by. Someone is there daily, but call to make sure. Anyone would be proud to hold an event in our building.

In the September edition of the *Inferno*, I listed my family's recipe for gnocchi and asked members to

send me their family recipes. I didn't receive one recipe!

I know that gnocchi can be prepared in several different ways some with potatoes, others with semolina flour, butternut squash and even ricotta — so please send me your family's favorite way.

We hope to return to our normal meeting schedule soon and have the ability to see everyone again. The board and I have been talking about how much we miss our members.

And don't forget to keep saving those aluminum pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House.

Have a wonderful fall!



DANTE'S INFERNO

America CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

as a "New England."

Then, in 1524, Giovanni Verrazzano explored the entire Atlantic coast of what was to become the United States.

With the goal of empire dominance, various European kingdoms sought to colonize these lands by military force, fighting bloody ownership wars.

Caught in the fray were 90 million native inhabitants with advanced Stone Age cultures in which horses had been hunted to extinction, the wheel had not yet been invented, and European diseases were unknown.

In 1519, Spain was the first kingdom to colonize the North American land mass.

More than 200 years later, North American English colonists, organized as patriots, sought a life of individual liberty and personal property ownership unencumbered by despotic kingly authority.

In a bloody rebellion, they ultimately overthrew generational totalitarian rule.

The resulting representational democracy, guaranteed to citizens of this great American experiment, has proved successful overall.

Our forefathers sought continuing societal change that could improve the human condition and preserve freedom and justice within an evolving cultural unity.

The slow but steady progress toward equalizing economic opportunity within a multicultural melting pot set an example for the rest of the world. **ff** The slow but steady progress toward equalizing economic opportunity within a multicultural melting pot set an example for the rest of the world.

Since 1871, the United States has been a global economic superpower, now boasting the world's greatest per capita wealth and leading the world in science, technology, industry, military defense and humanism.

See AMERICA, Page 9

#### Dinner

continued FROM PAGE 1 with an artichoke and sundried tomato Tuscan sauce and accompanied by rosemary-roasted fingerling potatoes.

Dessert will be chocolate mousse.

Our new general



Brothers Richard and George Zarzana move through the outdoor food line at the first members dinner since February.

manager, Jennifer Peretti, said event bookings are steadily rolling back to the Dante.

"Clients are completely blown away by all the renovations our amazing members have completed over the last seven months," she said. "We successfully held our first fully outdoor wedding here on Sept. 19. George Procida and his crew have worked miracles to make our outdoor area a beautifully manicured space for weddings and special events."



Jim Dimino and his friends enjoy a Tuscan-style meal of pan-seared chicken breast, fingerling potatoes, salad, garlic bread and chocolate mousse.

Peretti said she has high hopes for getting the Dante Event Center into the spotlight of the Sacramento area's wedding and special events community. She said 11 weddings have been booked so far.



### **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 \$14,537.07 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

### News, Notes and Otherwise CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

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.

### 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 <u>peddc@surewest.net</u>.

- 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

### Membership update

The board has approved Chris Troughton and Paul Jacobs to receive club badges.

Additionally, we have received membership applications from 12 people. The applicants and their sponsors are:

• Leroy Dal Porto, sponsored by Richard Zarzana

• Ryan Dimino, sponsored by Carl Perricone

• Andy Danovaro, sponsored by Don Agostinelli

• Daniel Dalfonso, sponsored by Anthony Catanese

• Louis Lodi, sponsored by Ronnie Pane

• Carl DeNigris, sponsored by Robert DeNigris

- Ron Pane, \$3,507.38
- Vito Parisi, \$200
- Donald Pasquini, \$150
- John Patella, \$100
- Peter and Carol Pesetti, \$200
- Joe Porata, \$250
- Peter and Linda Raridan, \$100
- Jim Relles, \$100
- Tom Relles, \$100
- James Riolo, \$100
- John Rosso, \$2,597.30
- Elaine Panattoni Schaedler, \$500
- John Skinner, \$100
- Anna Tenderella, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, \$106.39
- Gloria Tomei, \$300
- George Zarzana, \$100
- Richard Zarzana, \$100
  - William Charles Zellars, sponsored by Robert DeNigris
  - Frank Michael Lienert, sponsored by Robert DeNigris

• Joseph Constantine Bonacci, sponsored by Frank Calcagno

- Scott Medford, sponsored by Richard Battistessa
- Rico Bertini, sponsored by Ronnie Pane
  - Rick Sabbatini, self-referred Interviews with the

prospective new members will take place as soon as member meetings resume.

Members should email Dan Calcagno at <u>dmcalcagno@aol.com</u> if they have any corrections to their contact information.



### 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. <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.



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



#### America CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

But the road toward cultural unity and equality of opportunity has at times been bumpy.

The United States has not been immune to what Marcus Tullius Cicero called "the mistake mankind has made century after century" — that is, one dominant group in a society tries to protect and preserve its lifestyle for posterity and gain prejudicial advantage over other groups.

There have, unfortunately, been many instances throughout the history of the United States in which one dominant group, in an effort to safeguard its fragile personal property of economic success, has insidiously undermined or destroyed the economic competitive advantage of another group.

This ugly, non-American strategy became known as systemic prejudice.

In an example from history, "No Italians Allowed" headlined a posted proclamation that read:

"On May 28, 1888, council passed a resolution to the effect that parties receiving the contract for paving East Washington Street shall bind themselves not to employ any Italian labor."

This was at a time in American cultural advancement when work done by immigrant Italians was, by mandate, confined to manual labor, a systemic prejudicial suppression, rigidly enforced because financially successful immigrants were especially feared. Educated and financially successful immigrants could and did eventually destroy opposing groups' economic competitive advantage of systemic prejudice.

Economics is and always has been the true but unspoken basis for systemic prejudice.

Immigrants were at first ostensibly distrusted and feared for their dominating religions, then despised for their popular social customs. But these were just politically motivated cover-ups designed to hide the prejudicial inhibition of what seemed the frightening potential for immigrant economic power and political influence.

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

### DANTE'S REMINDERS



### 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 <u>ca.ernest@pacbell.com</u>. You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or <u>michael.micciche@gmail.com</u>.

#### 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 <u>http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html</u>.

### Dante Club apparel

If you'd like to purchase club shirts or other specialty clothing items, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or <u>peddc@surewest.net</u> 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 <u>jac6652@aol.com</u>. 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 <u>dmcalcagno@aol.com</u>.