



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Guidera

Spring promises events for all

It is with great pleasure that I commend all who worked on our very successful cioppino dinner last month. It was truly an outstanding affair.

I must also send a special thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary for all they contributed to our dinner. This is a fine example of a group of dedicated folks working together to make this fine event possible.

Kudos to the kitchen crew, the servers and the contributors of raffle prizes. Thanks to those who enjoyed the grand production.

I'm not a big cioppino fan, but I must say I really enjoyed the dinner and await next year's version with anticipation. The raffle also brought in several thousand dollars to the club. Thank you to all who participated.

Our club posted a very successful February financially, and March also looks good. This speaks very well for our new

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 3



Delizioso cioppino!

Chef Michael Talani, above, stirs steaming pots of cioppino at the Dante Club's March 17 annual dinner and dance event. The uniquely Italian American stew of fish, tomatoes, wine and spices was the star of the evening. Along with dinner, guests enjoyed cocktails, dancing to music by band Crystal Image and a prize raffle. Among diners were club member Dick Zarzana, below, who got carried away with his "bib" attire; Michelle Talani and Judy Delissio, left, taking a break in the kitchen; and, above left, Diane McConnell, Effie Rea, Ben Racoma and Vanessa Mezzanares, happily awaiting the fishy feast to come.





NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary has made its annual donation of \$1,500 to the Dante Club's scholarship program.

Scholarships are awarded to club family members applying for college who have met application criteria.

The Ladies Auxiliary meets for dinner and social events on the second Monday of the month, except for July and August. The group welcomes new members. Those interested may call Karol Buccola at 916-455-4232 or email her at karolrb55@gmail.com.

Members new and old

At our March 19 meeting, we honored recently named lifetime members Al Benedetti and John Procida, Sr. John attended the meeting and graciously acknowledged his 57-year association with the Dante Club. He spoke of his many great experiences and friendships with other members. Grazie to John and Al.

Also during the meeting we inducted Peter Pesetti, sponsored by Frank Buccola. Peter had already volunteered for the cioppino dinner and is looking forward to a positive Dante relationship.

We interviewed Michele Quaranta, a native of Italy with a varied and interesting background. He is sponsored by Pietro Pozzuto.

The club has several openings and a relatively short waiting list. Qualified applicants can obtain forms on the club website or from club manager Allison Nord or Frank Calcagno at 916-515-1117.

Club apparel

Available for purchase is a variety of specialty Dante Club-branded clothing. Members can choose among aprons and four styles of sweatshirts

and polo shirts. Clothing comes in sizes for men, women and children.

To order items, speak to Ron Cristoni at a meeting or reach him at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com.

Save pull tabs

Over the years, the Dante Club has supported and given back to our community in many ways.

During World War II, members wrapped surgical bandages, purchased war bonds, helped the United Service Organizations (USO), sponsored blood drives, supported the opera, donated to the Sacramento Philharmonic, assisted with the Christmas Seals program, purchased beds at Mercy Hospital and purchased a Bramson membrane oxygenator, or heart-lung machine, for the Sutter Hospital Medical Research Foundation.

We can continue supporting our Sacramento community today.

Pull tabs on aluminum soda and beer cans, for instance, are worth more than the cans. We can collect the tabs to support a community need.

Families that stay at the Ronald McDonald House on the University of California Davis Medical Center campus, for example, pay \$55 per night to stay there while visiting hospitalized family members.

We can offset their lodging expenses through pull-tab donations, allowing the families to pay only \$5 per night.

So please save your pull tabs and bring them to Dante Club events. We will collect them and donate them from the Dante Club to the Ronald McDonald House.



Upcoming Events

To reserve and pay online, go to:
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

May 1

Tuesday Night Dinner

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

Menu: build-your-own pizza, Italian chicken wings, rigatoni, salad, ice cream sundae bar, house wine, coffee, iced tea

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

Reservations pending

May 12

Mother's Day Brunch

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50

children age 10 and younger

Save the date; details coming

May 20

Viva Vino and Beer Event

Cost: \$25

Save the date; details coming

June 5

Tuesday Night Dinner

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

Menu: three pasta stations featuring shrimp, chicken and pork; caesar salad, rolls, mini-desserts, house wine, coffee, iced tea

Cost: \$25 adults, \$12.50 children age 5 to 10

Reservations pending

June 21

Italian Heritage Night at the River Cats Game

Cost: \$19

Save the date; details coming

August 4

Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner

Cost: \$85

Save the date; details coming



President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

manager, Allison Nord, who is constantly working to improve our club. She accomplishes many good things while not spending a lot of money.

If you have not met Allison, I encourage you to stop by the office and introduce yourself. She's eager to meet members.

We have an array of events planned for spring, including the Tuesday night dinner in April and our always popular Viva Vino in May.

Tom Mezzanares, our treasurer, tells me a few members still haven't paid their dues for this year. If this is you, please contact Tom right away to avoid losing your club membership.

We're always looking for new members. If you have a friend or a relative who might be interested in joining and who would be an active member, please invite them to apply.

Andiamo avanti!

Club honors two outstanding employees

I am extremely proud to highlight two of our outstanding team members at the Dante Club.



IN THE KITCHEN

Allison Nord
General Manager

He has experience with dishwashing, baking, meal prepping, customer service and warehousing for medical-supply companies and a SaveMart distribution center.

At 23, Oscar welcomed his daughter, Ella Elizabeth Mareno. Not having a strong family foundation has made him realize the importance of a strong support system from a mother and a father.

Oscar devotes every extra minute to his daughter. They love pets and own a dog, four bearded dragons, an iguana, a variety of geckos, a tortoise, and, Ella's favorites, two chinchillas. Yes, all that at once.

"I believe if I teach my daughter the importance of owning

See IN THE KITCHEN, Page 4



Oscar Mareno

The first, our January Employee of the Month, is Oscar Mareno,

who embodies the statement "pulling yourself up by the bootstraps." He is completely self-made.

Born in Sacramento, Oscar is the youngest of two children. He was raised by a single mother, then at age 8 was placed in a foster home until he was emancipated at 16.

At 9, Oscar began working in landscaping development with his foster father. He learned how to mow lawns, dig trenches,

create foundations for walkways and lay cement. His learning didn't stop there.

Oscar eventually helped with remodeling projects, adding on rooms, updating bathrooms and doing other tasks that were necessary to improve the family's home and rental properties.

Always intrigued by developing his skills, Oscar learned how to lay foundations for home additions, how to do framing work and how to install tile, drywall, insulation and roofing — anything to keep busy.

Oscar brings a varied and valuable work background to the Dante Club.

2018 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
• Victor Brida, tour director: vbrida@gmail.com
• Dan Calcagno, Easter Bunny: dmcalcagno@aol.com
• Frank Calcagno, membership: fscal@comcast.net
• John Caselli, publicity: jac6652@aol.com

- Jim Dimino, building and grounds: jkdimino@sbcglobal.com
• 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: porelli@gallina.com



In the Kitchen

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

pets and caring for them properly, it will teach her a good work ethic and a sense of accomplishment," he says. "Not having a very good childhood has established a hard work ethic in me and a sense of drive that I believe comes from having to earn everything I have in life. Not having a very good support system has established a standard for how to properly raise my child."

Oscar is one of the most caring, respectful, protective,

responsible people we have at the Dante Club. I say every day, "Lucky us!" to have such an employee.



Susana Sanchez Roa

I'm also proud to recognize Susana Sanchez Roa, our newest lead server and our February Employee of the Month. Born in Mexico City, Susana loves to cook and spend time with her family.

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"I feel fortunate to have a family that's united," she says. "We help each other in good times and bad times."

Susana has a younger sister and two brothers. Her 10-year-old daughter is the love of her life.

Susana came to the United States in 1991 and started working at the Dante Club with her father more than 10 years ago. She gained a lot of experience and grew close with her co-workers and customers. She enjoys having satisfied customers greet her with warmth and respect.

"I'm very happy to work at the Dante Club," Susana says. "It's like having my other family at work. I look forward to working for this company for many, many years to come."

Susana brings a ray of sunshine every day to the Dante Club. When visitors notice how clean and bright the club looks, that's her doing. She is a happy, helpful, conscientious, hardworking and diligent employee.

Every time I see her smiling face, I know that things at the Dante Club will get done and done right.

Premium winery, brewery, 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

- 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

DANTE'S REMINDERS



Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact club president Bob Guidera or social chairman Tom Novi to offer your help. You can reach Bob at robertguidera@att.net or 916-451-1467 and Tom at tomnovi@aol.com or 916-961-6197. To explore new social events, contact Vic Brida at vbrida51@gmail.com or 916-588-6276.

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! Donate 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 changed your address or phone number? Please alert our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.

WPAC™ Chapter #1 - Sacramento
 Welcomes You to Their

SPRING FLING

Sunday, April 15, 2018 at the Dante Club
 \$40.00 per person

Social: 5:00 PM Dinner: 6:00 PM Dancing: 7:00 PM-10:00 PM

FEATURING THE CRYSTAL IMAGE BAND
(Dance Hosts will be available)

Dinner includes your choice of Entrées:
 Beef Bourguignon with Mashed Potatoes, Carrots and Onions
 or
 Shrimp tossed with Lemon, Garlic Butter & White Wine Sauce,
 Fresh Spinach and Pine Nuts over Angel Hair Pasta, with fresh Asparagus
 or
 Butternut Squash Ravioli in Sage Brown Butter Sauce

Also includes Coffee, Tax & Tip Please note: Wine is no longer included

Reservation Deadline is Thursday, April 5th
Use coupon for reservations

For information, please call:
 Claudia Ezzell Linda Daveiga Betty Stolese
 916-722-1552 916-485-8002 916-635-7875