



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Guidera

Steak barbecues and more summer fun heating up

At our fine Viva Vino event in June, the weather cooperated perfectly, we had a nice array of food, wine, beer and music, and, as a bonus, the Niello dealership had a few high-end Italian cars on display. It was a truly fun event for all who attended.

Coming up on July 16 and Aug. 20, we have our annual steak barbecues instead of our regular membership meetings. This is when you can barbecue your steak yourself and go into the Venetian Room for the rest of your dinner trimmings.

This event is one of my personal favorites here at the club. I've been to several, and the steaks and beer have always been great. The barbecues could be a good way to show off the club to a prospective new member.

This year the barbecues will be different. As you may have

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VIVA VINO and BEER EVENT



Guests Roy Jones, George Zarzana, Nicole Novi and Brooks Novi, top photo, sample some of the many specialty wines offered at the Viva Vino and Beer Event at the Dante Club on June 10. The event also featured music by the Blues Dues, above right; Italian cars from the Niello Company and member Michael Micciche, above left; beers from local breweries; and olive oils from Furio Maltese, left.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary donated \$100 to the Dante Club Scholarship Fund in memory of Cathy LaPietra's husband, who died last month. The group also donated \$100 to the fund in memory of longstanding auxiliary member Patricia Gliebe, who died May 22.

The auxiliary dinner on Oct. 8 will include the annual mercato, with vendors selling a variety of items suitable for holiday gift giving. Members are welcome to attend the mercato before, during and after the regular auxiliary dinner meeting.

The Ladies Auxiliary will take July and August off and resume dinner meetings on Sept. 10. Women interested in joining can find applications on the Dante Club website or may call Karol Buccola at 916-455-4232 or e-mail her at karolrb55@gmail.com.

New members

On June 18, the Dante Club inducted Geoff Wharton, sponsored by longtime former board member Tom Matranga.

We also interviewed Marq Truscott, sponsored by Carl Perricone, and Marco Ambroselli, sponsored by Michael Micciche. Marco has dual American-Italian citizenship.

Members approved both candidates, who intend to be active in our club. They'll be inducted in September.

We will continue to interview remaining applicants at our July and August barbecue events.

The club has several openings for qualified new members, and the

membership committee welcomes ideas on how to recruit them. Committee members are Ron Cristoni, Matt Longo, Michael Micciche, Vic Brida, Bob Guidera and Frank Calcagno. Please pass your input to any of these members.

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 club meeting or reach him at 916-457-4516 or roncristoni@aol.com.

Save pull tabs

The Dante Club continues monthly to give back to the community through the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The program collects and recycles pull tabs from aluminum cans and contributes proceeds to the Adopt-A-Family Program, which helps subsidize lodging costs for families staying at the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House.

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

Members are asked to save their pull tabs and bring them to Dante Club events and meetings. We will collect and donate them from the

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

July 16**Barbecue and Bocce**

Time: 4 p.m. bocce, 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

Menu: grill-your-own steaks, salad bar, baked potato bar, sundae bar, coffee, wine, cognac, grappa (and cigars)

Cost: \$20

Reservations required by 10 a.m.

Friday, July 13.

August 4**Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament**

Time: 7 a.m. check-in, 8 a.m. shotgun start, 2 p.m. bar opens, 2:30 p.m. lunch with prize awards

Location: Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course

Cost: \$85 green fees and lunch; \$20 lunch only; additional lunch guests also pay \$20; sponsor a hole for a \$100 donation

Sign up online and pay by cash or check. Questions? Contact Frank Buccola at 916-606-4026 or frankiebuccola@gmail.com.

August 7**Tuesday Night Dinner**

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

Menu: pear gorgonzola salad; trio of angel hair pasta with clam sauce, penne with vegetable pesto and bolognese tagliatelle; seasonal vegetables; garlic bread; mini-dessert trio; house wine, coffee, iced tea

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

August 24**Encore Dante Club Night at Sacramento River Cats Game Against Las Vegas 51s**

Time: 7:05 p.m.

Place: Raley Field, West Sacramento

Cost: \$19; reserve by Aug. 20 and pick up tickets at club before Aug. 24 or at Will Call at stadium

Reserve online. Questions? Contact Tom Novi at tomnovi@aol.com or 916-961-6197.

**President's Corner**

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seen, we've broken ground on our long-awaited bocce courts. We had courts years ago and have been talking for some time about bringing them back.

Well, the time is now. The forms for the concrete borders of the courts will be poured soon. After that, club member George Procida and his crew will level and complete the surface of the two courts.

We're fairly confident we'll have the courts completed and ready to go for our July barbecue. Steak, bocce and beer? How great would that be? So cross your fingers!

Don't forget our annual Vic Martinelli golf tournament in August. You should organize your foursomes now.

As always, we're looking for new club members. Frank Calcagno and his membership committee are considering the possibility of doing some outreach as a way to search for new members, something we haven't done before.

But, of course, there's always the old way, too: If you can think of someone who would make a great member, please invite them to apply. Andiamo avanti!

Childhood memories of bocce at the barbershop linger on

By Richard Battistessa

As a young boy, I remember going to the barbershop for my regular haircut and sometimes having to wait awhile because my barber would go outside where a group of vintage Italians were rolling red and green balls down a pathway.

Their game, bocce, was marked by a little wine, a lot of loud voices, a measuring stick and some great friendships—although, with all the arguing over whose point it was and who was the winner, one might question the relationships.

Eventually, my hair was cut. But the fun of watching the bocce competition always stayed with me. Sometimes they would even let me roll a ball. It was a fun Italian tradition for sure.

Many members of the Dante Club probably can't remember when bocce was last played on our grounds. As stories go, the old bridge club was at one time a hot spot for members to enjoy a few games of bocce. The Calcagnos, longtime club members, claim they

were the last champions of a Dante Club bocce tournament.

We are about to embark on a new era of bocce play at our club. Our steak barbecue July 16 will be opening night for our new courts, which are now nearly completed. We think bringing bocce back to the Dante Club will create a little healthy competition and provide an activity that our families can enjoy.

Bocce is one of the oldest sports in the world, and we'll be celebrating a true Italian tradition.

The plan is to have bocce leagues and opportunities to play before and after members meetings and Tuesday night dinners. We'll also provide instructions on how to play and the rules of the game. The courts will be available to members on a regular basis.

As we get closer to the courts' grand opening, we'll provide more information on how everything will work.

Members with questions or suggestions may contact me at drbattistessa@comcast.net.

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: fscalc@comcast.net
- John Caselli, publicity: jac6652@aol.com

- Jim Dimino, advisory committee: 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: pat@apcpagroup.com

**IN THE KITCHEN**

Allison Nord
General Manager

Event coordinator handles her duties with innate grace

Our June employee of the month is Kim Guterding, our event coordinator at the Dante Club. Kim brings a refreshing, youthful innocence and a genuine honesty that is a pleasure to be around. She is a perfect fit for the feisty management team at the Dante Club.

As we've worked to turn the Dante Club battleship around, we've found in Kim our final missing piece of the puzzle. She is learning skills that will help her move toward her dream career in law enforcement, including life lessons in how to handle conflict, pressure, fellow employees and sometimes difficult customers.

See IN THE KITCHEN, Page 5



Dante Club member Michael Micciche discovered his roots and his relatives during a 2012 visit to his father's home village, Santa Caterina Villarmosa, in Caltanissetta province in the heart of Sicily.

Discovering there's no place like home — Sicily, that is

By Michael Micciche

Sicily, or Sicilia, is one of my favorite regions of Italy, but, in all honesty, I'm biased. This is my father's birthplace and still home to many members of my extended family.

I had the pleasure of finding my roots and relatives after my father passed, during the first of many trips I've made to Italy. The trip was driven by my wanting to meet the relatives and see the village and home where my father and his siblings were born and had lived before immigrating to the United States.

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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

- 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



Supporting our supporters

If you have an interest in Toyota, Chevrolet, Honda, Subaru or Mazda vehicles and would like help with a purchase, Sacramento icon Vince Maita can assist you.

Recently profiled in our *Dante's Inferno* newsletter, Vince is a true American success story.

The son of Italian immigrants, Vince created a network of highly successful automobile dealerships in the Sacramento area.

Vince is active in the community and is a longtime supporter of the Dante Club. He can be reached at his office at 916-481-0855, ext. 500.

As Vince says, "If you're a member of the Dante Club, I'll be happy to personally assist you."

The *Inferno* also recently profiled the J.J. Pfister craft distillery, famous for its potato-based organic vodka.

The distillery features a beautiful Italian distilling system recently

installed by Italian craftsmen.

The distillery will hold its grand opening from 1 to 4 p.m. July 8 at 9819 Business Park Drive in Rancho Cordova. Dante Club members are invited.

Go and enjoy the festivities and discounts on the craft vodka.

In the Kitchen

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Kim has an innate grace about her that makes me smile whenever I see her. Even if the Dante Club is only a pitstop on her career path, we are better because of it. I'll take as much as she will give us.

Born and raised in Redding, Kim is part of a huge law enforcement family and very close with her four siblings and her parents. She graduated from California State University, Chico, with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

"I moved to Sacramento in September of 2017 because of the diversity and small-city feel," she says. "Sacramento is incredible, and I love living here. I'm an aspiring 911 dispatcher and eventually a police officer. I love helping people and have always dreamed of being a first responder."

Kim's favorite things include her cat, Moo, and being an aunt to her 1-year old niece, Brooklyn. She loves fishing, going to the gym, attending concerts and sports games, exploring the Sacramento area, spending time on her dad's boat at Shasta Lake, reading great mystery books, drinking wine and eating pasta.

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Kim Guterding

“
*I moved to Sacramento
in September 2017
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”

News, Notes and Otherwise

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club to the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House.

Scholarship fundraiser

The main fundraiser for our scholarship fund is the annual Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament, which has been going for 56 years.

The golf tournament will be held Saturday, Aug. 4, at the Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course, with an 8 a.m. shotgun start and lunch and prizes at the Dante Club to follow.

Golfers pay \$85 for green fees and lunch. Lunch only costs \$20.

For \$100, area businesses can sponsor a hole at the golf course and be recognized with a sign.



Go Fund Me campaign set up for Dante server's seriously ill nephew

Susana Sanchez Roa, our head server at the Dante Club, has a 2-year-old nephew, Damian, who was recently diagnosed with hepatitis as a result of a cytomegalovirus infection.

Because of a previous misdiagnosis, Damian had to be taken to Mexico to be re-evaluated.

Damian is now fighting for his life and may need a liver transplant.

His parents never thought that their 2-year-old son would ever have to go through so much at such a young age.

For Damian to receive the medical care he needs, his family must travel to Mexico, Los Angeles and other places, which has become extremely expensive.

For Damian to be transported to a medical facility by helicopter, for instance, the cost is \$30,000.

Besides these high transportation costs, the family also must pay for various related expenses.

Susana said her family members and their friends hope to collect enough money through donations to help this little warrior through this hard time.

Anyone interested in helping Damian receive the care he needs and helping the family with their expenses can donate through their Go Fund Me campaign, which seeks to raise \$15,000.

To donate, go to the campaign page here: gf.me/u/i6t5ww.

Thank you very much.

We're off to the races in August!

Dante Club members who enjoy horse racing and scenic views may want to sign up for a daylong event that Ladies Auxiliary member Gloria Tomei is organizing for August.

The event on Sunday, Aug. 26, is a trip to the Golden Gate Fields horse racing and entertainment venue in Berkeley, where generations of fans have gone since 1941.

Set along the shore of the San Francisco Bay, the popular venue offers beautiful views of the San Francisco city skyline, the Golden Gate Bridge, Alcatraz and Mount Tamalpais.

Our participants will have reserved seating in the Turf Club on the top level of the grandstand. The club offers food, a full bar, betting windows and exceptional views of the racetrack and bay.

Recommended dress for the Turf Club is smart and casual—no sweatpants, T-shirts, baseball hats, shorts or sleeveless shirts.

For \$106 per person, we will get either a window view of the racetrack or TV monitors on the

tables for race viewing, as well as an all-you-can-eat buffet lunch.

We may even have a named race, with six or more lucky people going to the winner's circle for a photo with the race winner.

Our group members will travel in their own vehicles, leaving Sacramento at 9:30 a.m. from the Target parking lot at Riverside Boulevard and Broadway.

We'll arrive at Golden Gate Fields at about 11:30 a.m. or noon. The first race starts at 12:45 p.m.

We will leave the venue at about 5 p.m. after the last race and return to the Target parking lot in Sacramento at about 7.

Reservations for the trip must be received no later than Aug. 10.

Checks should be made payable to Gloria Tomei and sent to her at 2785 14th St., Sacramento, CA 95818.

Reservation forms with additional details can be found on the Dante Club website.

Go to the club website at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>.

Call Gloria with any questions about the event at 916-447-5559 or email her at gtomei@comcast.net.

In the Kitchen

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"I've been to many places inside the United States, and the San Juan Islands in Washington is my favorite place so far," she says. "I haven't traveled out of the country yet, but Thailand, Italy and Greece are the top places I plan on traveling to."

Kim feels grateful for the opportunity to work at the Dante Club and to develop her skills.

"I've grown so much over the last several months, and I know it's just the beginning," she says. "I'm excited for the great things to come."



Sicily

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My father's village, the small and rural Santa Caterina Villarmosa, is in Caltanissetta province in the heart of Sicily, not far from Corleone.

Tracing my Italian heritage has been educational, exciting and emotional. The experience has led me back to Italy many times. I feel very close to the country and very comfortable there. It feels like I belong there. It often feels like a second home to me.

To Dante Club members and friends: If you're planning a trip to Italy soon, gather whatever family history documentation you may have and make time during your trip to connect to your roots.



Sicily, just off the toe of Italy's "boot," is the largest island in the Mediterranean Sea. It offers serene views of the sea, such as this one at sunset.

You will be welcomed with open arms, not just by family members—if you're lucky enough to locate some—but by the entire village, neighborhood or city.

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. 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! 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 tjmezzan@gmail.com.