



DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Bob Guidera

August leads into new management welcome

As I write this column, the temperature is triple digits and wearing on all of us, but I have some good things to report about our August events.

First off, our annual Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament, which helps fund our scholarship program, was a huge success. Frank Buccola and his crew did an excellent job putting this event together.

The golfing took place Aug. 17 at Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course in south Sacramento. We had 117 golfers enjoy the round, including one women's foursome. The event concluded with a very nice lunch back at the Dante Club, plus quite an array of raffle prizes.

Turn to Page 4 of this newsletter to see a few photos from the tournament.

Next up, on Aug. 19, came our steak barbecue, the second of two summertime barbecues we have every July and August

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 3

Bocce league nears final championship games

Responding to the requests of many Dante Club members, the board approved expenses needed to install two bocce courts at the club. The courts had their grand opening in July last year and since then have continued to grow in popularity, sparking this year's creation of a bocce league.

Has it been well received? League participants report a strong yes! Forty-eight members and friends have been rolling since March, and in May they began a twice-monthly season. Eight teams playing once against each other for

the first seven sessions and then in three-session playoffs will culminate in October in championship play.

"The heat got to us a few times over the summer but not enough to burn out our enthusiasm," said co-organizer Rich Battistessa.

The final games of our regular season saw the Riolo Rollers (Larry Otten, Nick Canepa, Jim Riolo, George Plescia, Roy Jones and George Procida) take two games from Maestri di Bocce. That resulted in a three-way tie for first. Tie breakers placed the Rollers first

See BOCCE, Page 3

CURRENT BOCCE LEAGUE STANDINGS

Team	Wins	Losses	Seed Number
Riolo Rollers	9	5	1
Sons of Be-occes!	9	5	2
Maestri di Bocce	9	5	3
Bocce's Inferno	8	6	4
Squadra Otto	7	7	5
"D" Rollers	6	8	6
Italian Stallions	5	9	7
Bocce Stalone	3	11	8



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary will resume its monthly dinners on Monday, Sept. 9.

The group's annual mercato will be held during the October dinner. Those who'd like to participate in the event as a vendor or who know of someone who would may call Carole Stefani-Chivaro at 916-698-2036.

Reservations are now closed for auxiliary member Gloria Tomei's planned Nov. 17 excursion to San Francisco for the iconic musical revue *Beach Blanket Babylon*. The popular show is scheduled to close after a final performance on New Year's Eve.

The Ladies Auxiliary welcomes new members. Those interested in joining may contact Carole Stefani-Chivaro.

Club apparel

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

New members

Longtime coaching legend Ralph Rago will be inducted into the Dante Club this month. He is sponsored by another legend in Davis, John Patella.

Also this month, members will vote on member candidate Paul De Quattro, who is sponsored by Joe Porata.

Al La Rocca is waiting in the wings, although he's already played in our August golf event and attended a summer barbecue. Joe Porata also sponsored Al.

Thank you, Joe, for bringing these two applicants to our club.

Loyal member George Zarzana was recently honored by the San Francisco Giants as a All-Time Ball Dude. George has worked many Giants games, including opening day. Congratulations, George, for this distinct honor.

The Dante Club would like to single out Frankie Buccola for his heroic effort in putting on the 56th annual Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament, the major fundraiser for the Dante scholarship fund. Kudos to Frankie and his committee members, as well as to all the players and sponsors who participated.

For more information, call Frank Calcagno at 916-515-1117 or email him at fscal@comcast.net.

Remembrance

Dante Club member Eddie Marsalla, who immigrated to Sacramento with his family when he was 2 years old, died July 24 at the age of 91. He was born March 16, 1928, in Massa Maciania, Lucca, Italy.

Eddie graduated in 1946 from Sacramento High School, where he met Sallie, who would become his wife of 68 years. At 18, he joined the Carpenters Union, Local 46, serving his apprenticeship with Joe Gabrielli and continuing as a working member until his retirement at 65.

He spent a majority of his career at F. Marsalla Construction, working on many schools and churches in the Sacramento area. Besides the Dante Club, he was a member of Piemonte Realle, Romulus, Sons in Retirement and Sacramento Elks Lodge No. 6. In retirement he enjoyed travel with his wife and friends, many golf trips and visiting family in Italy.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 4



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

September 13**New Management Welcoming Celebration**

Time: 6:30 to 10 p.m.

Menu: Antipasto and crudite table with imported meats, cheeses, fruits, olives, nuts; eggplant rollatini bites with marinara; wild mushroom, caramelized onion and arugula flatbread; focaccia sandwiches with mortadella, peppers, provolone; arancini with marinara; charred peaches, ricotta and prosciutto crostini; bruschetta; watermelon and feta skewers; sausage sliders; desserts, hosted wine and no-host bar

Entertainment: DJ music for dancing

Reserve by Sept. 9.

September 16**Meeting Night Dinner**

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

Menu: Melon and cucumber salad, zucchini with pine nuts and Parmesan, braised pork ribs, creamy polenta, spumoni
Cost: \$13 advance, \$18 after deadline

Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13.

October 1**Tuesday Night Dinner**

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

Menu: Minestrone soup, rolls, roasted potatoes, stracotta, apple crisp

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

Reserve by 10 a.m. Friday, Oct. 18.

SAVE THE DATE: Oct. 10 for Stag Sausage Feed



President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

in lieu of our regular membership meetings.

Chef Jessi Moreno provided us with 16-ounce ribeye steaks, as good as they were large. My goal was to not finish the whole thing so I could take some home.

Maybe you can remember that old burger commercial "Where's the beef?" Well, the beef was right here and plenty of it. For all our barbecues, everyone grills their own steaks, which always proves interesting with the various techniques.

On Sept. 13, we will present an interesting evening at the club with an event we're calling the New Management Welcoming Celebration. This will be an opportunity for our customers and members to meet the team behind the Dante Club and to ask any questions they may have.

The celebration will feature a number of delicacies prepared for sampling, including an antipasto table with imported meats, cheeses, olives and nuts, as well as watermelon-feta skewers, sausage sliders and a dessert display.

We will also offer a hosted selection of red and white wines, and, of course, our bar will be no-host. A disc jockey will provide music for dancing. I think this will be an enjoyable evening for all who attend.

We're in our usual summer slow period here at the Dante Club, so if you're planning a family party or have friends who are, please mention us. As they say in the car business, "we are really dealing," and every event you bring to the club helps.

Also, we ask everyone to please keep an eye out for potential new members. Members should encourage anyone they think would be good for our club to apply. Actually, anyone joining from now through the end of the year will receive half off our yearly dues. Another good deal!

As I noted last month, bocce is really taking off here at the club. We have eight teams and more than 40 players, who are all having a lot of fun with it.

Want the details? Talk to co-organizers Rich Battistessa, Mike Micciche or Dan Calcagno, who can fill in members and sign them up.

Andiamo avanti!

Bocce

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and dropped Maestri to third, with Sons of Bocces! claiming second. We won't mention that Bocce Stalone are in last ... oh wait, we just mentioned it. Oops. Beginning Sept. 7, teams will be seeded into the playoffs, so Bocce Stalone can still get revenge against Maestri di Bocce.

All club members are welcome to watch the championship finals. See Dan Calcagno for details.

In just a few months, the bocce league has proved successful, Battistessa said.

"The competition, laughter, smack talk and Italian camaraderie have been exactly what was hoped for when the idea began," he said. "Members

are meeting other members they had not known before. We're using the club for its true purpose: to encourage a social environment."

Many items are still on the bocce to-do list, but organizers wanted to ensure the courts would be used consistently before planning the next phases. Among to-do items are shade for the courts and players, more courts, barbecue and bar areas, more leagues and a locked shed for equipment.

With winter weather on the horizon, the club won't begin the next league until spring but will try to have drop-in dates until then.

Members can start forming teams for 2020 and should consider coming out to share in the joy of bocce with their friends.



HOLIDAY PARTY AT DANTE CLUB OF SACRAMENTO

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We offer several menus at different price points, as well as three distinct rooms, full bar and we're centrally located.



*Limit one per company.





Successful golf tournament keeps scholarship fund going



The Dante Club's annual Vic Martinelli Memorial Golf Tournament on Aug. 17 netted \$4,200, making it another successful fundraiser for our scholarship program. Frank Buccola and his crew did an excellent job putting the event together. One hundred seventeen golfers enjoyed the day at Bartley Cavanaugh Golf Course in south Sacramento, including (clockwise from top left) Tom Mathews, Frank Calcagno, Randy Canova, Mike Dimino, Matt Dimino, John Davis, Pat Pilas, Jim Dimino, event chairman Buccola and Frank Bartucco. Lunch and prizes at the club ended the day.

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Eddie was preceded in death by his parents, Attilio and Giovanna; his brothers, Fernando and Diulio; and his grandson Kyle. He is survived by his wife, Sallie; his daughter, Lauretta (Gary Cascio), and his son, Ed. He also leaves three grandsons and six great grandchildren.

A memorial mass was held Aug. 1 at St. Mary's Cemetery.

Save pull tabs

Dante Club members are asked to save the pull tabs from their aluminum cans and bring them to club events and meetings.

We will donate the pull tabs to the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program, based at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The pull-tab program collects and recycles pull tabs and contributes the proceeds to the Adopt-A-Family Program. It helps subsidize lodging costs for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near the medical center while their children are hospitalized.

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

Club on the road

Dante Club general manager Sarah Nussman and her staff will serve a yummy appetizer, created by chef Jessi Moreno, at an upcoming special event.

The event is Christian Brothers High School's Wine Tasting and Food Extravaganza, which will be held at the school on Friday Sept. 6.

Everything Italian

We like to think the Dante Club is the best darn Italian club in Sacramento, but other groups around town may be of interest to members, too. They are:

- Arberesh — arbereshofsacramento.org
- Italian Cultural Society — 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



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
- Taylor's Market, Sacramento
- 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

2019 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
- Ron Pane, tour director: repane@icloud.com
- Dan Calcagno, Easter Bunny: dmcalcagno@aol.com
- Frank Calcagno, membership: fscal@comcast.net
- John Caselli, publicity: jac6652@aol.com
- Jim Dimino, advisory committee: jkdimino@sbcglobal.net
- 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



2021 anniversary of Dante's death shrouded in controversy

(Editor's note: This recent story by Silvia Donati for Italy Magazine is reprinted with permission. It has been edited slightly for space reasons. Read the original [here](#).)

Seven hundred years on, the question of where the remains of Italian poet Dante Alighieri should be kept remains divisive.

The dispute started after Italy's major daily, *La Repubblica*, published an article hinting at negotiations between the cities of Ravenna and Florence to move Dante's remains to his hometown of Florence in 2021 for the 700th anniversary of his death.

Known as "the father of the Italian language, Dante was exiled from Florence in 1302 for political reasons. He eventually settled in Ravenna, where he died in 1321.

Dante is buried in the Basilica di San Francesco, where 400,000 visitors pay him homage every year. This is why some critics have spoken of "a tourist marketing move with a questionable national and international echo."

Ravenna Mayor Michele De Pascale did not comment on the possible move but spoke of being open to collaborating with Florence and Verona for a major national event to celebrate the anniversary.

Florence eventually came to regret Dante's exile and made repeated requests for the return of the poet's remains.

When Pope Leo X ordered the remains sent back to Florence in 1519, the monks who guarded Dante's tomb refused, going so far

as to conceal the bones in a false wall of the monastery.

During exile, Dante composed his greatest work, *The Divine Comedy*. He never overcame the pain caused by his exile.

In *Paradiso's* Canto 25, he expresses the hope that he would one day return home to Florence:

"If it should happen ... If this sacred poem — this work so shared by heaven and by earth that it has made me lean through these long years — can ever overcome the cruelty that bars me from the fair fold where I slept, a lamb opposed to wolves that war on it, by then with other voice, with other fleece, I shall return as poet and put on, at my baptismal font, the laurel crown ..."

Should we listen to his wish?

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.

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.