



**Donate to the
Dante Club
Legacy Fund!**

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ron Pane

Floor installation last step in remodel

Barring unforeseen circumstances, the completion of our remodel mission is close at hand. Installation of the floor in the Tuscan Room began the week of Nov. 23, with an estimated completion of Dec. 3.

We are, in football terms, first and goal.

Since my last message, new signage has been installed and now adorns our building facade. A mirror of this sign, which says Dante Event Center, fills the monument position on Fair Oaks Boulevard.

I invite everyone to drive by the club and see it for themselves. It's particularly impressive at night. A new paint job on the building exterior adds to the wow factor as people drive into the parking lot.

Because of Sacramento County's recent graduation to the purple tier of COVID-19 restrictions, indoor club events have been postponed, including

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The Dante Club's new name in prominent letters now adorns the front entrance of the building.

Tent purchase under review

Proposal aims to facilitate
safe outdoor club events

Dante Club general manager Jennifer Peretti and her staff have been brainstorming ideas on how to keep our Dante Event Center moving in the right direction, even with Sacramento County's purple tier status for COVID-19 restrictions.

A proposal was drafted and presented to the board of directors about purchasing a large party tent that could be placed in the beautifully manicured outdoor grass area. The tent would allow our facility to continue hosting events outside while restrictions are in



The monument facing Fair Oaks Boulevard shows the new name of the event center to passersby.

place. It also could help us sell the outdoor space more often, especially during spring and summer, and would be very beneficial when the bocce league returns.

Since Jennifer's arrival at the Dante Event Center, business has taken off, with or without the pandemic. Clients are emailing inquiries, calling and stopping by multiple times a week.

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committee continues to work on several projects, including publication of Dante Club and Dante Event Center policies, updates to the website and changes designed to increase membership and member attendance at events.

Newly reinstituted COVID-19 restrictions, unfortunately, have brought many club activities to a halt, including membership dinners, Sunday night family dinners and monthly board meetings.

If patience is a virtue in these difficult times, we must all be saint-like by now.

On a positive note, an ad hoc committee composed of advisory chairman Tom Novi, club president Ron Pane and bocce chairman Rich Battistessa met recently with Dante Event Center manager Jennifer Peretti to review the business case for an event center tent.

The tent would be erected in the lawn area near the gazebo and bocce courts.

The tent and lawn area would be used for outdoor events, such as weddings and parties, and would provide shade to bocce players in the summer.

Jennifer reports a high demand for such a tent from people inquiring about booking the Dante Event Center.

The committee has agreed to the concept and worked out the details. A meeting of the board has been scheduled to vote on the proposal.

New committee

The advisory committee has agreed to establishing an entertainment committee that will find speakers and performers to enliven club and public functions.

Rich Battistessa will lead the group, with help 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 thanks to these 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 advertising exposure more limited this year via monthly meetings, the board has extended



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

**ALL CLUB AND MEMBER
EVENTS ON HOLD UNTIL
FURTHER NOTICE**

the end date of existing contracts to March 31, 2021.

In the meantime, anyone interested in advertising their business in the *Inferno* 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 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.

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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 Guidera, 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:
tjmezzan@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

- Richard Battistessa: drbattistessa@comcast.net
- Dan Calcagno: dmcalcagno@aol.com
- Frank Calcagno: fscal@comcast.net
- John Caselli: jac6652@aol.com
- Ralph DiLibero: ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov
- Jim Dimino: jkdmino@sbcglobal.net
- Ron Fiorica: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Bob Guidera: robertguidera@att.net
- Matt Longo: longomb@sbcglobal.net
- Tom Mezzanares: tjmezzan@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



Each month, get to know our auxiliary board members better

Happy Holidays! I'm sorry to say that we will not have a Christmas dinner this year. I love when the Dante is all dressed up for Christmas, but the governor has shifted us back to the purple tier so we can't have meetings for the time being.

I hope that the COVID-19 vaccine comes out soon so we can get back to normal living.

Auxiliary members can now learn more about our board. I plan to highlight a member each month in the newsletter. Last month I shared my Italian ancestry with you. This month, I'll tell a little

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

about our co-president, Carole Stefani Chivaro.

Carole was born and raised in Sacramento. She attended Sacred Heart Elementary School and St. Francis Catholic High School, and she graduated from California State University, Sacramento. She has two adult children and one grandson.

Carole is a kindergarten teacher for Sacramento City Unified School District. Her

mother is of Sicilian descent, from Pianna Di Albanese, and was born and raised in Sacramento. Her father was born in Lucca, Italy, and came to the United States at age 12.

Where is your family from?

This month our hospitality coordinator, Anne Tenderella, sent out a get-well card to auxiliary member Laura Brown. We hope Laura is feeling better.

Anna also sent a get-well card to Mary Ann Talani Robles. Mary Ann has relatives in the auxiliary and is occasionally a server at our

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LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, co-president: cattuzzod@gmail.com
- 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: fsal@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: urbanhound@me.com
- Margaret Lynch, trustee/caller: gmlynch@sbcglobal.net
- 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

**President's Corner**

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the Nov. 16 members meeting.

We hope that our board nominations for 2021, which would have taken place at that November meeting, will happen in December.

We'll email members with an update as this event nears.

Speaking of 2021, club dues for next year are now due. Please pay them promptly. This can be done via regular mail or online. See our website for more information.

I would again like to thank Ernie Tomassilli and his building and grounds crew. These guys worked tirelessly for the past eight months, sometimes seven days a week, eight hours a day, to remodel our facility. The Dante Event Center would not exist without them.

December brings a time of family and giving. As we reflect back on the topsy-turvy year of 2020, we can give thanks for our Dante Club family and all its benefits.

Buon Natale!

Violence and discrimination toward Italians took decades to outlaw

By Ralph DiLibero

Most vigilante lynchings in the United States at the turn of the 20th century involved African-Americans. A fractional remainder were perpetrated on Italian-American immigrants.

Sadly, the law of the land turned a blind eye to this horrible practice.

President Ulysses S. Grant had signed a civil rights act in 1871, but Southern Democrats politically ignored what was called the Ku Klux Klan Act.

In 1890, more than 20 Italian-Americans were lynched. In 1911, 146 Italian-American women were killed in the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire.

Banned from admission to existing American labor unions, some Italian-Americans formed independent workers unions.

In 1914, by order of Woodrow Wilson, the Colorado National Guard burned down a tent city of striking

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Members approve revisions to club bylaws

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.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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Proceeds help assist parents who can't afford to stay at the Ronald McDonald House while their 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 for parents.

Even though the resumption of indoor events is on hold at our club, members can reach out to Ron Cristoni or John Rosso about delivering their pull-tab collections.

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

New-member interviews are again on hold until indoor activity restrictions are eased.

The membership committee is sorry for the delays and hopes to process all applications within two or three months when our doors reopen.

We still encourage prospective members to submit applications to help boost our membership and to allow more people to enjoy our shiny new facility as soon as possible.

Applications are available online or from anyone on the membership committee.

Committee members are Bob Guidera, Frank Calcagno, Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli and Dan Calcagno.

Buildings and grounds update

Our remodel is almost done, and we're now finishing up a few deferred-maintenance items.

Hearty thanks to all who helped reshape our facility over many months: Ronnie Pane, John Rosso, Don Agnostelli, Steve Lavezzo, George Procida, Joe Porata and a host of others.

Also, a special shout-out goes to Tom Mezzanares, who spent hours installing decorative brickwork with the help of his son-in-law, Scott Harshbarger.

Annual dues due

Yearly \$100 membership dues for 2021 are due Jan. 31. Members can pay online at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>.

To pay by check, make checks payable to the Dante Club and mail them to: Dante Club of Sacramento; Attn. Tom Mezzanares, treasurer; 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.; Sacramento, CA 95825.

Dues also can be paid anytime in person by cash, check or credit card.

Tent

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jennifer reports that, since August, we've hosted six weddings, countless church services, three church luncheons, four birthday parties, a baby shower, a two-day training meeting and two memorials.

One baby shower, two pop-up events, six holiday parties, two memorials, three birthday parties and 18 weddings are on the books for the remainder of 2020 and into 2021. More inquiries come in daily.

"With hard work comes rewards," Jennifer says. "Thank you to all the members and friends who have made the Dante Event Center one of the best options in Sacramento for events."

Auxiliary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

dinner meetings. We send our best wishes to Mary Ann.

If our members know of anyone who is ill or who needs help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

If you can think of something fun to share with the auxiliary or have any news to share, please email me at cattuzzod@gmail.com.

Someone suggested that we assemble a book of tried-and-true Italian family recipes.

Would you all be interested in participating in that?



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 \$13,940.33 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, \$350
- John Bertoni, \$200
- Frank Calcagno, \$100
- Kyle Calcagno, \$100
- Nicholas Canepa, \$150
- 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
- Ben Parisi, \$200
- 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, \$109.50
- Gloria Tomei, \$300
- George Zarzana, \$100
- Richard Zarzana, \$100

Italians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

American workers. Two women and 11 children — all Italian-Americans — died.

First introduced in 1922 by Rep. Leonidas Dyer, a federal anti-lynching bill written for “American Blacks” and “Italian-Americans” was defeated by a Democratic Party filibuster in the Senate.

In the late 1930s, an Italian-American East Harlem legislator, Vito Marcantonio, successfully sponsored bills to eliminate the poll tax and to make lynchings a federal crime. He was one of the greatest champions of civil rights for Italian-Americans and African-Americans.

Finally, in 2020, President Donald Trump proclaimed lynching a federal hate crime.

During World War II, the Roosevelt administration first labeled 695,000 legally immigrated, per Ellis Island decree, Italian-Americans as “alien Americans.” The administration then constructed internment or concentration camps in the United States. In Texas and New Jersey alone, more than 2,500 people of Italian ancestry were placed in wartime concentration camps.

Those in confinement were 95 percent Asian-American and 5 percent Italian-American. Concentration camp internment offered a second wind to a subculture of organized crime that had already thrived in the Prohibition Era from the 1920s to 1933. The Italian Mafia, unfortunately, was thus spurred into acceptance among the

downtrodden immigrant community, from the descendants of the Bel Paese.

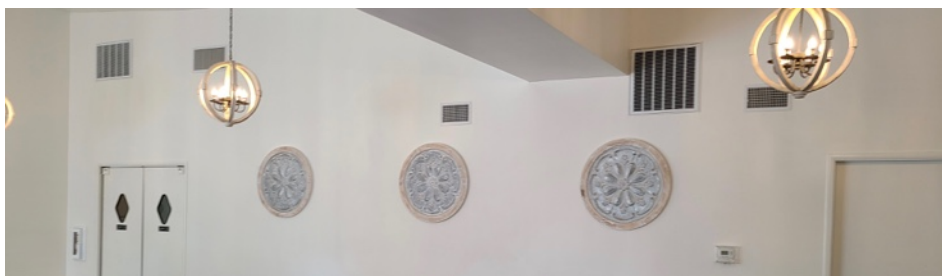
Immigration has made America great. Nothing says it better than these words from President Ronald Reagan:

“Through this golden door have come millions of men and women,” he said. “These families came here to work. They didn’t ask what this country could do for them but what they could do to make this refuge the greatest home of freedom in history. They brought with them the courage and the values of family, work and freedom. Let us pledge to each other that we can make America great again.”

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



A TOUCH OF ART



Club treasurer Tom Mezzanares contributed his creative talents to the Dante Club remodeling project. In the Tuscan Room, he decorated the walls with Italian-style art pieces picked out by his daughter, Jammi Mezzanares Harshbarger.

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 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

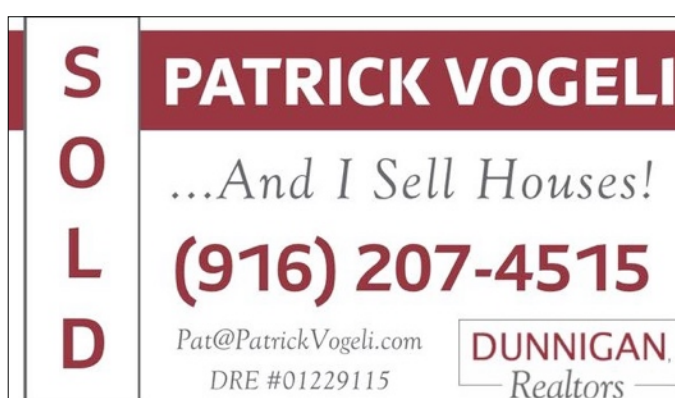
Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your 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.



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. mixedbagsac.com.

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.