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Dante Club  
Legacy Fund!**

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

### *Sea changes afoot throughout the club*

As a reminder, when I became president, I made it clear that I saw several reasons why the Dante Club business had declined over the years:

- Lack of support from club members, as they had done in the past. It's crucial that we reach out to all cultures for business, as Sacramento is our state's most diversified city.
- The Dante Club building and grounds were in desperate need of repair. We would not have been able to continue doing business as an event center without making some substantial improvements.
- The way we did business needed updating. We needed to create a new website and new brochures, and we needed to invest money in publicity.

Since that time, about four months ago, many of us have been working five to seven days a week to bring the club into the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



Club treasurer Tom Mezzanares was instrumental in transforming the look of the interior entryway to the bar and banquet rooms, above, with brickwork, right. A renovation of the bar area, below, is gradually taking shape.



## **FACILITY FACELIFT CONTINUES**





## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

**Ladies Auxiliary**

With the recent uptick in COVID-19 cases, the Ladies Auxiliary has decided against a summer get-together, an idea mentioned as a possibility in the June newsletter.

The auxiliary normally doesn't meet in July or August but had hoped to gather at some point. However, it seems too soon to do so safely, so the goal now is to meet in September. Callers will let members know the status.

Despite the hiatus, the group has welcomed a new member, Lori Cappello Dangberg.

The auxiliary continues to collect aluminum can pull tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House. Members who need help pulling off the tabs or who'd like their cans picked up may call 916-442-2266.

The board seeks ideas for entertainment at future auxiliary dinners and meetings. Members with ideas can let the board know.

Members who would like to share a story or two of what they've been doing during quarantine can email Debra Cattuzzo at [cattuzzod@gmail.com](mailto:cattuzzod@gmail.com).

Cattuzzo said she's been doing a lot of yardwork and celebrating her daughter, Isabella Cattuzzo O'Neal, graduating with honors from St. Francis High School. Isabella was among the four students of Italian descent who won Dante Club scholarships this year.

**Newsletter marketing**

The decision to make *Dante's Inferno* an interactive marketing

vehicle for club and auxiliary members remains positive.

Members Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist and Mark Pedroncelli of Pedroncelli Chiropractic, along with 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.

Other members with businesses who wish to advertise may email John Caselli at [Jac6652@aol.com](mailto:Jac6652@aol.com).

**Bocce postponed**

Because of the recent uptick in coronavirus cases in the Sacramento region and beyond, the Dante Club bocce committee has decided to postpone the start of our playing season.

Look for an update in the next edition of *Dante's Inferno*.

**Save pull tabs**

We continue to ask Dante Club members 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 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.

**Membership update**

The membership committee continues to wait to interview and welcome several prospective new members on our waiting list.

Members are encouraged to submit paperwork for anyone they would like added to the list.

The membership application is available on the club website or from anyone on the membership committee.

Members of the committee are Bob Guidera, Frank Calcagno, Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomaselli and chairman Dan Calcagno.

At the next general meeting, the Dante Club will welcome new member Paul Jacobs.

Sponsored by James Leonard, Jacobs was approved in February.

Applicants waiting in the queue to join our club are Andy Danovaro, Daniel Dalfonso, Louis Lodi, Carl DeNigris, William Zeuars, Frank Lienert and Joseph Bonacci.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 6



## 2020 Committees and Assignments

(revised 3.28.20)

### COMMITTEES

#### ADVISORY AND OPERATIONS

Tom Novi, chairman; Michael Micciche, vice chairman

Members: Tom Novi, Frank Calcagno, Richard Battistessa, Mark Pedroncelli

#### 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

#### 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

#### 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

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](mailto:repane@icloud.com)
- Tom Novi, first vice president:  
[tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Vacant, second vice president
- Ron Fiorica, secretary:  
[rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer:  
[tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

- Richard Battistessa: [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net)
- Dan Calcagno: [dmcalcagno@aol.com](mailto:dmcalcagno@aol.com)
- Frank Calcagno: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- John Caselli: [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com)
- Ralph DiLibero: [ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov)
- Jim Dimino: [jkdimino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkdimino@sbcglobal.net)
- Ron Fiorica: [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Bob Guidera: [robertguidera@att.net](mailto:robertguidera@att.net)
- Tom Mezzanares: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)
- Michael Micciche: [michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:michael.micciche@gmail.com)
- Tom Novi: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Patrick Orelli: [pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.com)
- Ron Pane: [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com)
- Mark Pedroncelli: [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net)
- Joe Porata: [jporata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jporata@sbcglobal.net)
- Ernie Tomassilli: [ca.ernest@pacbell.net](mailto:ca.ernest@pacbell.net)





## Cultural Society director leads effort to oppose statue removal at state Capitol

Bill Cerruti, executive director of the Italian Cultural Society, has formed the California Italian American Task Force to fight against a recent proposal to remove the Christopher Columbus statue from the state Capitol Rotunda.

"Some members of the state Legislature have decided that the statue of Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella must be

removed from the state Capitol Rotunda, where it has stood since 1883," Cerruti said. "The reason given is that the statue represents a polarizing historical figure."

Cerruti has prepared a letter (below) that can be used as a template for Italian Americans who wish to speak out against the statue's removal.

"The legislators disregarded the voices of



A statue of Christopher Columbus and Queen Isabella adorns the Capitol Rotunda.

Italian Americans," he said. "We can let them hear our collective disapproval of their disregard for our

community. Our voices must be heard."

For details, contact Cerruti at 916-482-5900 or [Italy1@surewest.net](mailto:Italy1@surewest.net).

### SAMPLE PROTEST LETTER

Dear (name of legislator),

Regarding the removal of the statue of Christopher Columbus from the state Capitol Rotunda, I want you to know that this is a day of mourning for all Italian Americans who care about their history.

For generations, Columbus and Columbus Day have been symbols of Italian American identity and unity. Each Columbus statue that's destroyed, decapitated and removed strips away the recognition that Italian Americans fought so hard to earn. Shame on those who deny our contributions and prefer to stereotype and discriminate. They do not know our story.

Columbus Day was declared a national celebration in 1892 after the March 1891 New Orleans murder of 11 Italian Americans by a mob in one of the largest mass lynchings in American history. Italian Americans were the second largest group of Americans to be lynched in America.

Columbus Day recognizes the discrimination and abuse Italian Americans endured and the contributions they made to their new home.

In 1934, President Franklin Roosevelt declared Columbus Day a national holiday. While the day is a symbol of pride in Italian American contributions, Columbus also represents the foundations of American history.

The unfair attacks on Columbus, which obscure the truth about the man, his voyage and his motives, should not obscure the reason why Columbus matters to Italian Americans and all Americans. We should not accept the shame narrative of American history, one that does not recognize the history and contributions of millions of immigrants who helped build America, a narrative that abandons their history.

In the past, the main opposition to Columbus Day and to Italian Americans came from the Ku Klux Klan. Now the struggles and successes of Italian Americans are being erased by a new wave of bigotry and intolerance and a prejudiced rewriting of history.

To remove or destroy a statue that is so important to Italian Americans is not OK. If some are offended by the Columbus statues, that's no excuse for their destruction or removal. There would be no statues or public art at all if we, as a nation, were to use the impossible yardstick that some may be offended.

I respectfully request that the statue of Christopher Columbus remain in the state Capitol Rotunda and that the state Legislature celebrate Columbus Day as a state holiday in tribute to the Italian Americans of California.

In protest,

Here are the names of state leaders who want the Columbus statue removed:

- Toni Atkins (San Diego), president pro tempore of the state Senate: [toni.atkins@senate.ca.gov](mailto:toni.atkins@senate.ca.gov) 916-651-4039; California State Capitol, Room 205, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Anthony Rendon (Lakewood), speaker of the Assembly: <https://speaker.asmdc.org/contact-anthony>, 916-319-2063; California State Capitol, Room 219, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 95814
- Ken Cooley (Sacramento, Elk Grove), chairman of the Assembly Rules Committee: [ken.cooley@asm.ca.gov](mailto:ken.cooley@asm.ca.gov), 916-319-2008; California State Capitol, Room 3013, P.O. Box 942849, Sacramento, CA 95814

**President's Corner**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We've made many long overdue structural changes and are in the process of hiring new staff.

Lastly, our club's image in the community needs a fresh and competitive edge. Our staff have mentioned to us often that one of the reasons people do not rent our building is because of the name Dante "Club." Therefore, I will soon submit to the board a suggested name change for our building signage. This will not affect our "doing business as."

My proposal is to remove the word "club" and to instead call our facility simply "The Dante." Also, positioning of the Italian and American flags will be corrected because they are the opposite of what they should be.

In June, the board secured a loan for \$300,000 through Banner Bank to remodel the building and grounds and pay off a prior loan. I encourage all members to stop by and look at our progress.

We have made numerous repairs. Without question, the volunteers have made the renovation a success, helping us save thousands of dollars with their labor. We couldn't have completed this work without them.

I encourage everyone to personally reach out and thank our volunteers for their service.

I believe the Dante is now on the right track. With members' continued support of the Legacy Donation Fund, we can continue to pass on our heritage to future generations. Thank you.



The Piemonte region of Italy is marked by charming scenes of rolling hillsides, vineyards and country estates.

## Piemonte region renowned for its scenic countryside, superior wines

By Michael Micciche

**T**he Piemonte region of Italy has some of the most beautiful countryside vistas in Italy. It also features wonderful wines made from the Nebbiolo grape. We know them as barolo, barbera, dolcetto and barberesco.

Torino is a beautiful, vibrant university city, full of young people and easy for walking and sightseeing. The River Po, site of many rowing competitions, flows through the city.

The cuisine is excellent, especially in autumn when truffles and mushrooms are plentiful. By Italian measures of age, Torino is relatively modern and well-designed, with wonderful views of the Alps. The 2006 Winter Olympics were hosted there.

From Torino, the rolling hills and vineyards of Alba and Asti are a short



Many of the villages in the Piemonte region are small and designed to be easily walkable for residents and tourists alike.

See PIEMONTE, Page 6





# Cautionary tale: Political history can repeat itself

By Ralph DiLibero

Once upon a time, the beginning of the end began for a highly successful representative republic that had risen as a world power after a revolution that ended the rule of a monarchy.

There was a fatal fall from family function and faith. The government shut down businesses for nearly a year. Governmental dependency was considered a service. A growing wealth gap between the rich and the poor translated into pandering politics. Political norms broke down, and the republic's constitution was politically challenged. Senators acted as obstructionists, creating procedural delays to undermine, discredit and punish political foes. Partisan gridlock turned the senate into an ineffectual legislative body. It was difficult to get anything done to advance or enhance the republic.

Then the public murder of someone representing the poor and downtrodden populace sparked a public outcry. Continuing political unrest and societal violence destroyed the republic's basic constitutional values, stabilizing tenets and

See HISTORY, Page 7

## Piemonte

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

drive away. In the town of Barolo, visitors can discover an interactive wine museum and taste barolo wine.

Alba, a wonderful small city in the heart of the Piemonte wine region, is the proud home of some of the best Italian truffles and wonderful wines. It's also home to Nutella, because of the area's major harvests of hazelnuts.

In Alba, travelers can go on a truffle hunt and watch trained dogs sniff and dig out the truffles. Beautiful scenery, with miles of rolling hills and vineyards, surrounds the city.

The area around Alba is easy to see by car because the villages aren't too far apart. The city itself offers a number of historical buildings and is designed for easy walking and enjoying the sights on foot. Visitors who dine out should try a pasta dish with fresh truffles or porcini mushrooms.

From Alba, Asti is a short drive for those who like sparkling wines. A day trip to Genoa and the Riviera also is very doable.



Barolo is among the many wines produced in the Alba and Asti areas of Piemonte.

## News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

### Advisory committee update

Tom Novi and his advisory committee are working hard to reopen the Dante Club facility. Unfortunately, we have lost general manager Sarah Nussman and Cindy Moreno, who managed our events. The long unemployment resulted in their resignations, but the board is actively recruiting a new manager.

President Ron Pane and a crew of members have been working steadily, sometimes as many as seven days a week, to repair and renovate our facility.

But Ron needs more help and encourages other members of the club to step up and pitch in if they can.

In the meantime, the advisory committee is working on a COVID-19 plan using Sacramento County restaurant guidelines.

The Dante Club will institute safety measures that include social distancing, hand-sanitation stations and masks. These measures will become the new normal in our eventual reopening.

We hope to have our planned improvements and changes completed by mid-July.

The past several months have been a difficult time for all of us, but if we work together, we can emerge as a stronger, more vibrant organization in our Sacramento community.

### 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](mailto:peddc@surewest.net).



## History

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

goals. Domestic tranquility was forsaken. Riots, looting, property destruction and murders occurred in the streets. Lawlessness and anarchy prevailed because they were condoned, while personal responsibility and hope for a better future were abandoned.

The confusion gave opportunity for a totalitarian trend to develop. Wishing for an easy way to achieve financial security, the populace forfeited personal liberty and freedom and fell for the false economic promises offered by total governmental authority.

At that point, after more than 200 years, the world's most successful republic ended.

No, this isn't the story of the United States of America. It's the story of ancient Rome. The Roman Republic began in 482 BC after the Roman Revolutionary War shook off the shackles of rule by kings.

Dressed in a black toga, Cato the Younger stymied the Roman Senate with procedural delays that blocked the Senate from voting. Religious holidays were proclaimed every day of the year to shut down businesses. The public murder of Tribune Tiberius Gracchus, who attempted to give landownership to the poor, was met with a public outcry. Unrelenting political-military upheaval and dissent led to the point of civil war. Distrust rendered the Vigili Urbani, the Roman police force, powerless. Highway robbery and plunder prevailed.

"It was a lawless place," novelist Mario Puzo wrote in his book *The Family*. "In the streets, citizens were robbed, houses were plundered, prostitution was rampant, and hundreds of people were murdered each week. ... Neighbor fought neighbor for territory."

Continuing political unrest and societal violence destroyed the constitutional values, tenets and goals of the Roman Republic. Confusion gave rise to a totalitarian trend that enabled an autocrat, Julius Caesar, to declare himself ruler of the republic for life. Senators of the dying republic murdered him. Then, wishing for an easy way out, a quick solution to achieve financial security, the populace forfeited their personal liberty and freedom. They fell for the false economic promises and total governmental authority offered by imperial Emperor Augustus. The Roman Republic ended in 27 BC.

## *Pandemic puts vote on bylaws changes on hold*

During the summer months, our Dante Club activities and meetings typically slow down. Because of the pandemic, however, we took a break even earlier than usual this year and therefore were unable to vote on our proposed bylaws changes.

The importance of these changes cannot be stressed enough. Please keep them in mind during our break as we will surely vote on them as soon as we're able to meet again.

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

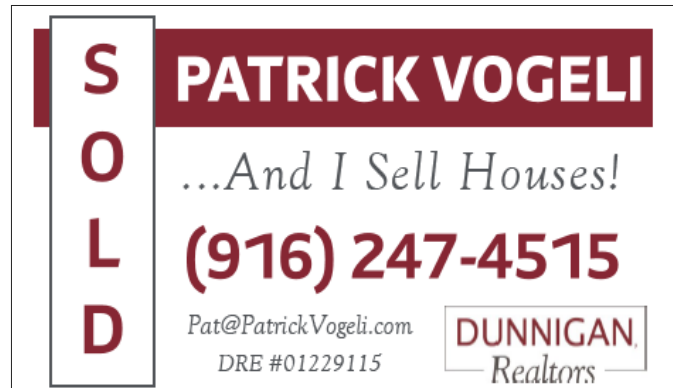
### **Substantive**

- combining advisory and finance committees and their duties
- 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 [rep@icloud.com](mailto:rep@icloud.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](http://mixedbagsac.com).

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE**  
For details, contact John Caselli at  
[jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com) or 916-217-6482.





## Dante Club Legacy Building Fund

These members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary have contributed to our building fund since January, for a total of \$9,207.84 to date. Many thanks to all for their continued support:

- Don Agostinelli, \$250
- 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
- Kenneth Cemo, \$25
- Jim Dimino, \$100
- Nancy Doyle, \$100
- Ron Fiorica, \$100
- Vince Heater, \$100
- J.A. Kaminski, \$100
- Richard Kinzel, \$200
- Fran Koscheski, \$500
- Bill Maffei, \$200
- Thomas Matranga, \$100
- Tom Mezzanares, \$100
- Michael Micciche, \$100
- Tom Novi, \$100
- Elaine Panattoni Schaedler, \$500
- J. Paul Pane Jr., \$250
- Ron Pane, \$2,013.32
- Vito Parisi, \$100
- Donald Pasquini, \$150
- Peter and Carol Pesetti, \$200
- Linda M. Raridan, \$100
- Jim Relles, \$100
- Tom Relles, \$100
- John Rosso, \$768.52
- John Skinner, \$100
- Anna Tenderella, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, \$100
- Gloria Tomei, \$300
- Richard Zarzana, \$100

## DANTE'S REMINDERS



### Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact club president Ron Pane or social chairman Michael Micciche to offer your services. You can reach Ron at 916-798-0111 or [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com). You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or [michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).