



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

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

### *Joint efforts help our club move forward*

My goal to bring the Dante Club building into the 21<sup>st</sup> century is coming to fruition. Repairs and construction are progressing, but, still, there's more work to be done.

I'm delighted (and exhausted) with how far we've come since mid-March. For weeks, Ernie Tomassilli and his building and grounds committee have chipped away at the long list of deferred repairs that should have been done as the club aged. Our "new home on Fair Oaks Boulevard" is now 60 years old.

I would like to thank Ernie and his group of merry pranksters who show up daily and put in a full day's work. Their compensation is a fast-food lunch and years of memories and great camaraderie.

I encourage other members to please reach out to Ernie if they're able to help, too.

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



In the refurbished club kitchen, at left, Ron Agostinelli, Ernie Tomassilli and Joe Porato inspect the newly installed gas lines. At right, Don Agostinelli takes inventory of supplies in the liquor closet.

## **Work continues to repair and improve building**

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, and his dedicated committee workers continue making repairs and improvements throughout our Dante Club facility.

Since last month, our workers have cleaned the kitchen from top to bottom, painted and made repairs in many areas. Storage areas east of the kitchen have been cleaned and painted, and new shelving and enclosures have been installed, including in the liquor closet and

the break room. Employee lockers were ordered and should be in place this month.

A new stove and oven have been installed, as well as a charbroiler and a stand. A natural gas deep dryer is on its way.

The dishwasher was refurbished with new motors, and the swamp cooler needed when the cooking area exhaust fans are on will work again soon. It hasn't worked since 2008 when the copper pipe was cut and stolen.

See BUILDING, Page 4



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

**Ladies Auxiliary**

Ladies Auxiliary members hope to meet July 13, even though the auxiliary doesn't normally meet in July or August. Members will be notified if a meeting is scheduled.

Last month the auxiliary lost a longtime member, Anna Marie Teresa Onofri. Members are asked to send their prayers to her two sons and their families.

Board member Tina Luchini Bowers also lost her mother, Elsa Luchini, suddenly last month. Elsa was not a member, but her husband and two sons are Dante Club members. See obituary on Page 6.

When the club will reopen is uncertain, but the auxiliary still plans to play bocce. Players will be advised when they can start practicing. Anyone who wants to sign up can email co-chairwoman Debra Duccini Hansen at [dduc56@gmail.com](mailto:dduc56@gmail.com).

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 members' ideas for entertainment at auxiliary dinners, especially if it celebrates our Italian heritage. Past entertainers include the Sacramento Accordion Society and the Balliamo Italian dancers.



*Courtesy of the Italian American Facebook page*

**Newsletter marketing**

The decision to make our *Dante's Inferno* newsletter a more interactive marketing vehicle continues to be very 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 interested in advertising may email John Caselli at [Jac6652@aol.com](mailto:Jac6652@aol.com).

**Bocce break**

We encourage our paisani to go to their closets and storerooms, and look for those marbles and steelies they've been hoarding for their grandkids. Proceed to the family room and roll a steely 10 feet. Then take the marbles and practice rolling to the palino.

We'll return to our bocce courts as soon as the world settles down. Stay well!

**Scholarships awarded**

The Dante Club takes great pride in providing scholarships to outstanding candidates representing Italian families.

This year we have awarded academic scholarships to these four



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

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

**UPDATES:**

- Aug. 9 San Francisco trip for *My Fair Lady* canceled
- August golf tournament moved to October; more details as available

graduating high school seniors: Isabell Oneil, daughter of Debra Cattuzzo; Ryan Hammer, grandson of Dennis Zan; Megan Rucker, granddaughter of Roy Jones; and Jake Kirkland, grandson of John Rizzardo.

We wish these students well as they face new challenges. Congratulations!

**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.

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

- Ronnie 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)





Frank Bartucco repairs a hole in the fence on the Dante Club property.

## Building

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

Finally, a grease trap will be replaced in the kitchen, and the inside sewer and drainage system will be upgraded to current standards.

In the men's and women's bathrooms, wallpaper has been stripped, and our busy workers are in the process of mudding, texturing and painting



A new stove and oven are now installed in the Dante Club kitchen, along with a new charbroiler with a stand.



The Dante Club bar area is draped in plastic during renovations that have included removal of the bar's dated popcorn ceiling.

the walls. We're waiting for new sinks, fixtures and exhaust fans.

In the bar area, we're in the process of removing the popcorn ceiling, which will then be mudded and textured. The small bar in the southwest corner has been removed, and the main bar will be gutted and replaced.

The bar area also will have better sewer drainage and water supply, as well as new carbon dioxide installed along with new piping for the bar guns. The flooring in the Venetian Room will be replaced.

Outside the building, trees in the parking lot

have been removed. Many thanks to George Procida and company for donating time and materials.

A new electrical and water line will be installed. The area behind the facility will be replaced and graded for drainage.

The front parking lot will have a new slurry covering, and a storm drain will be placed outside the office and connected to our sewer drain.

Ernie Tomassilli and club president Ronnie Pane acknowledge and thank these hardworking committee members responsible for the many

improvements: John Rosso, Don Agostinelli, Steve Lavazzo, Richard Kinzel and Joe Porata. They've worked at the club daily since we closed for the pandemic, and all the repairs would not have happened without their help.



Newly installed gas lines are among multiple improvements that have been made in the Dante Club kitchen.



Islands in the club parking lot are temporarily unshaded after workers removed fruitless mulberry trees that damaged the asphalt.

### President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Members who have ventured out from their self-imposed isolation recently and found themselves in the Dante Club parking lot will have noticed the handiwork of George Procida and company.

The fruitless mulberry trees in the islands have been removed because of the damage they were doing to the asphalt. (See above picture of the parking lot sans the trees.) This meant that wearing waders to the winter meetings was a must. New trees that are better suited for our parking lot will soon be planted.

Lastly, all the purchases necessary to make the aforementioned repairs would not have been possible without the help of club treasurer Tom Mezzanares.

Tom has spent hours working with area banks and federal agencies to secure the financial help we need to help us turn the Dante Club into a facility we can all be proud of.



Dante Club member Michael Micciche, center, and a few companions examine a map during a trip to Italy's Piedmont region. Among other famous sights are, below left, the centuries-old Ponte Vecchio in Florence, rebuilt in 1345 after a flood. The Roman Colosseum, below right, is thought to be the largest amphitheater ever built and is among the most visited sights in Rome.



## Italy lifts lockdown to revive tourism industry

Travelers from United States welcome once again later in June

By Michael Micciche

**R**itorno a Sorrento, Roma, Toscana, Sicilia, e tutti d'Italia! Italy is scheduled to reopen its borders early this month, ending one of Europe's strictest lockdowns during the coronavirus pandemic. Officials hope to revive the country's tourism industry, which contributes about 13 percent of Italy's gross domestic product.

As of June 3, the government will eliminate the 14-day quarantine for people arriving from abroad and will reopen regional and international borders in Europe.

Later in the month, travel will open for people arriving from outside of Europe, including the United States.

That means that tourism in Italy will resume but with precautions and maximum safety.

Those of us who love Italy must be allowed to return to enjoy it, in compliance with governmental and regional guidelines.

I, for one, will visit the homeland shortly. I hope we will all consider

See ITALY, Page 9





## Dante Club Treasurer's Report

By Tom Mezzanares

Since the May newsletter, we have received approximately \$1,700 in additional donations, which puts us at a total of \$7,657.84 donations to date for 2020. Thank you, everyone! We will continue to accept donations via the Dante Club website at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

As noted last month, I have submitted numerous loan applications to help us through this period. Many programs have become available for small businesses and organizations like ours, so as soon as I learned about a new one, I completed the paperwork and applied for the Dante Club.

This has paid off. We now have been approved for loans from Banner Bank, the U.S. Small Business Paycheck Protection

See REPORT, Page 9

## Dante Club Legacy Building Fund

These members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary have generously contributed to our building fund since January 2020, for a total of \$7,657.84 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
- 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 (new total)
- Vito Parisi, \$100
- Donald Pasquini, \$150
- Linda M. Raridan, \$100
- Tom Relles, \$100
- John Rosso, \$768.52
- John Skinner, \$100
- Anna Tenderella, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, \$100
- Gloria Tomei, \$300
- Richard Zarzana, \$100

## News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

The program helps subsidize lodging costs for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near the medical center while their children are hospitalized.

### In memoriam

Elsa (Mazzon) Luchini died suddenly on April 21. She was the wife of lifetime Dante Club member Ottavio Luchini, a member since 1952, and the mother of longtime members Romano and Eric Luchini, Ladies Auxiliary member Tina and Dante Club supporter Lisa.

Born in the province of Treviso outside Venice, Italy, in 1929, Elsa arrived at Ellis Island with her mother in 1936 after a three-week journey by ship. They traveled to Klamath Falls, Oregon, to join her father, who was working for Southern Pacific. In her new home, she went to school and taught herself English, mostly from listening to the radio.

Elsa moved to Sacramento in 1950 and married Ottavio in 1952. They lived in various east Sacramento

homes before building their dream home near St. Mary's Church. It was affectionately christened the Luchini Family Corporation by their Italian relatives.

She was the mother of four children, five grandchildren, including two past Dante Club members, and two great-grandchildren.

Elsa was not as proud of her Italian heritage for the sake of her nationality as she was for the legacy of her Italian family at the nightly dinner table, where the most amazing, joyous, crazy, family-bonding conversations took place.

Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, a memorial service will be held in the summer. Donations can be made in Elsa's memory to the Alzheimer's Society and the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation.

### 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).



## Group lobbies city to recognize deep Italian roots of east Sacramento

Sacramento's longtime Italian American community is currently pursuing a new initiative with the city of Sacramento.

The community is asking the city to recognize and designate the neighborhood of east Sacramento as the Little Italy Historic District.

"It is important for Italian Americans to preserve the local memory of Little Italy and the Italian history of the neighborhood," said Bill Cerruti, executive directive of the Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento, which is involved in the effort.

"Recognizing Little Italy would be a tribute to those generations of Italians who settled there and created a way of life for the Italian people."

Cerruti said the designation also would provide a greater awareness of the neighborhood's strong Italian heritage and provide a sense of connection to the larger Italian community of the Sacramento region and the state.

In recent years, several California cities, including San Diego, San Jose and San Pedro, have created Little Italy historic zones to revitalize their historically Italian-populated areas.

The cities have identified these zones in a variety of ways, with arches, banners, flags, monuments, piazzas and festivals, to celebrate the Italian heritage of the communities.

Anyone seeking more information about the Little Italy initiative or wanting to lend their support may call Bill Cerruti of the Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento at 916-482-5900 or email him at [Italy1@surewest.net](mailto:Italy1@surewest.net).

## *Committee proposes changes in club bylaws*

Ron Fiorica and his bylaws committee have been reviewing club bylaws, some of which date back to the club's inception in 1926.

To better reflect the times, the committee has proposed these changes, which will be presented when club meetings resume:

### **Nonsubstantive, semi-technical**

- changing the word "shall" to "may"
- renumbering certain agenda items
- combining position titles financial secretary and treasurer to treasurer/financial secretary

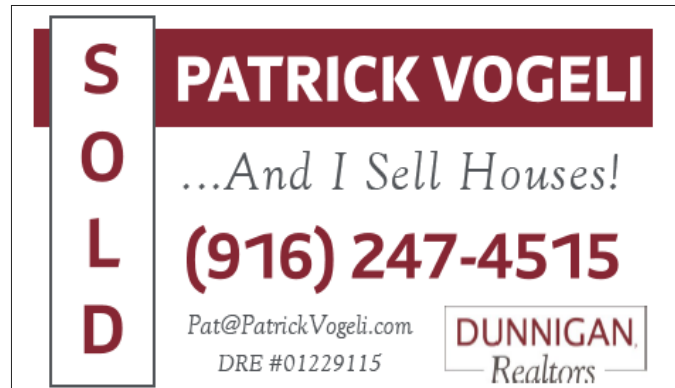
### **Substantive**

- combining advisory and finance committees and their duties
- combining membership and investigating committees and their duties
- 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"
- changing the membership of certain committees

For questions or concerns, call Ron Pane at 916-798-0111 or email him at [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com).



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## 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.



**Report**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Program and the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Along with the SBA loan, we will receive an additional \$10,000 that we aren't required to pay back.

Club president Ron Pane called a special meeting of the board of directors on May 2 and presented a list of items that need immediate attention.

Funds from these loans have been earmarked for much needed equipment repairs and replacement and building updates and repairs.

The funds also will provide a monetary cushion to help us through the pandemic.

**Italy**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

discovering everything that Italy has to offer.

Why do people the world over love to travel to Italy?

Browse through previous editions of *Dante's Inferno*, and I think my articles about Italy can help us all remember why

visiting Italy is so special, especially for those of us with Italian roots.

Italy is all about the food, the wine, the art, the scenery, the culture, the sea, the mountains, the islands, the history and the modern. There's so much to see and do. And there are so many ways to see and do and to enjoy those things more affordably than anyone might think.

I hope these photos from my trips to Italy will rekindle the urge to visit. They're just a taste of what awaits. Viva Italia!



Juliet's Balcony adorns a Gothic-style museum in Verona.

## 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).