



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ron Pane

New committee to focus on outreach

Changes have been made recently to the Dante Event Center board of directors and its areas of responsibility.

To strengthen the club so it can more effectively face future challenges, I'm pleased to announce the addition of an outreach committee.

This standing committee will be responsible for reaching out to club members via phone to solicit their assistance with various jobs needed by the club.

Jobs may include meal preparation, building maintenance and community communications — or telling the Dante Club story to area residents of Italian descent who may not know we exist.

As we move forward and continue to build on the momentum from last year's remodel, everyone's assistance will be needed to

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



As part of ongoing improvements, workers lay a cement pad to allow for installation of a tent for outdoor events.

Cement pad for tent laid, but more tasks on to-do list

The Dante Event Center grounds continue their amazing transformation.

The cement pad for our newly purchased outdoor tent has been laid adjacent to the bocce courts.

On March 15, workers with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District replaced existing wooden

See TO-DO LIST, Page 5



Crews with the Sacramento Municipal Utility District replace wooden electrical poles with stronger ones made of reinforced metal.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committee dealt with a number of issues when it met March 8 before the board meeting.

The current policy of providing half-price drinks to members at Dante Club events has been found to be out of compliance with state Alcoholic Beverage Control regulations that require all patrons to be charged the same price for drinks at specific events.

As a result, the committee and the board decided that attendees at member and Ladies Auxiliary dinners will be charged half price for drinks, along with attendees at board meetings, as these are primarily member events.

The committee also considered dedicating the Legacy Fund to major improvements to the facility and grounds and formally recognizing major contributors.

Also considered were different approaches to paying for member dinners on an annual basis and providing incentives for members to attend special events. These ideas were referred for further study to an ad hoc member recruitment/participation committee chaired by Rich Battistessa. This committee will consider various options and make recommendations to the advisory/finance committee and the board in April.

The event center tent foundation has been poured and the tent will be erected shortly. As

a number of repairs still must be made to the buildings, members' support through donations is greatly appreciated.

Scholarship applications are being accepted. Donations are needed to fund the scholarships, as normal fundraising activities, such as the annual cioppino feed and the golf tournament, were canceled last year.

We can gather in person for our April 19 members dinner. Please make reservations early, and plan on enjoying a nice dinner and great fellowship.

Bylaws in print

The new bylaws have been printed. Copies are available at the Dante Event Center.

Stop by and pick one up. We will try to have copies available at the April meeting.

Club apparel

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts for men, women and children. To order clothing items, send an email to Mark Pedroncelli, peddc@surewest.net.

Annual dues due

The 2021 member dues of \$100 were due Jan. 31. Payment can be made online at <https://danteclub.com/2021-membership-dues/>.

To pay by check, make payable to the Dante Club and mail to:

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 6



UPCOMING DINNERS

Reserve and pay online at
danteclub.com/members-event-calendar/
or call 916-925-8230

April 11

Sunday Family To-Go Dinner

Meal Pickup: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Housemade garlic bread, Italian lentil soup, roasted asparagus, chicken or vegetarian cacciatore, fudge brownies
Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 ages 12 or younger; wine offered for purchase
Reserve and pay online or call 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, April 6. Pickup in 15-minute increments; space limited.

April 14

Ladies Auxiliary To-Go Dinner

Meal Pickup: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Organic mixed green salad, rolls with butter, chicken marsala, garlic mashed potatoes, roasted asparagus, vanilla panna cotta
Cost: \$18 per person
To reserve, members should call Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266 by Wednesday, April 7.

April 19

Members Meeting Night Dinner (returns to indoors!)

Times: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, meeting to follow

Menu: Mixed green salad, chicken marsala, asparagus risotto, seasonal vegetables, French bread rolls with sweet butter, spumoni ice cream with chocolate drizzle
Cost: \$18 per member
Reservations required; no walk-ins. Pay online or call 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, April 13.

SAVE DATES: Family dinner, May 2; members dinner, May 17



2020 Committees and Assignments

(revised 3.12.21)

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY AND FINANCE

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman

Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph DiLibero

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Matt Longo, vice chairman

BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman

Members: Richard Battistessa, Ralph DiLibero

ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Member: Frank Calcagno

MEMBERSHIP AND INVESTIGATION

Dan Calcagno, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman

Members: Frank Calcagno, Pat Orelli

PUBLICITY

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman

Member: Dan Calcagno

SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Phyllis Keilholtz, Nancy Doyle

SOCIAL

Joe Porata, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

OUTREACH

Matt Longo, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman

Members: Frank Calcagno, Ralph DiLibero, Mark Pedroncelli, Ernie Tomassilli

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: Frank Calcagno, Jim Dimino

ASSIGNMENTS: Ladies Auxiliary liaison, Rich Battistessa; Bocce, Rich Battistessa; check-in desk for club, membership and publicity committees; club apparel, Mark Pedroncelli; sergeant-at-arms, John Fiorica

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: jkdimino@sbcglobal.net
- Ron Fiorica: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Bob Guidera: robertguidera@att.net
- Matt Longo: longomb@sbcglobal.net
- Tom Mezzanares: tjmezzan@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



Auxiliary decides to continue to-go dinners for time being

The Ladies Auxiliary held another successful pickup dinner at the club on March 14, with 34 members ordering a total of 88 corned beef dinners for their families and friends.

Special thanks go to members who ordered multiple dinners, including Tina Cates, who ordered seven, and Elaine Schaedler, who ordered eight.

The meal was so tempting that even I ordered 11 of them! The pickup went smoothly with no wait time.

Our raffle winners were excited to receive their prizes. The

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

grand prize, a set of fluted bakeware, went to Susie Franzoia Rozewski.

Other winners and their prizes were Susan Kasimatis, dessert plates; Laretta Marsalla, handmade flower soaps; Carole Orelli, gift set of Sicilian lemon balsamic vinegar and blood orange olive oil; Tina Cates, flower stationery; Cathy Maffei, spring gift bag with gardening

gloves, rose sachet and other goodies; and Sandy Calcagno, white cuddly throw.

Elaine Schaedler, who brought in a baggie of pull tabs to donate to the Ronald McDonald House, deserves a shout-out. Remember, members can also collect pull tabs from cat food and soup cans.

Although the men's club has decided to resume their meetings indoors, the Ladies Auxiliary will continue to offer only to-go dinners.

Our next pickup dinner will be from 3 to 6 p.m. Wednesday,

See LADIES AUXILIARY, Page 6

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: fscal@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



More events on books as county lifts restrictions

On Tuesday, March 16, Sacramento County officially moved into the less restrictive red tier of the state's COVID-19 response plan.

This means that monthly members dinners at the Dante Event Center can move back indoors in April.

We also are allowed to host larger-scale events indoors for as many as 200 guests.

With the new website up and running and our marketing efforts continuing on Facebook, Instagram, WeddingWire, TheKnot and Eventective, as well as through word of mouth, the Dante Event Center is making great strides, slowly making our way as a top Sacramento destination for weddings, meetings and special events.

In the past few months, we've even received a few five-star



A wedding and a birthday celebration were among events held recently at the Dante Event Center.

reviews and many thank-yous from our guests.

So far for 2021, we have 40 weddings booked. We also have four bookings for 2022. Including members dinners, 104 events are now on the 2021 calendar.

"We're still reaching out to monthly groups to confirm their return dates, but all in all, things are turning around for the better," said general manager Jennifer Peretti. "The phone is literally

ringing off the hook with inquiries. Organizations that had utilized the Dante Club in the past want to come here and see the newly renovated facility and bring their groups back. We continue to stay optimistic of the great things to come."

On April 1, Peretti said, the Dante Event Center will host its first crab feed, for the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange, since the pandemic began last year.

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

make the club the best it can be.

The old 80/20 rule (20% of members doing 80% of the work) will no longer work if we truly want to make the Dante Event Center the premier location for member functions and special events.

Members' participation in this journey will make the Dante Club an organization of which we can all be proud. Please join in.

To-do list

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

electrical poles with sturdier ones made of reinforced metal.

Our punch list of repairs to the building exterior, however, still needs immediate attention.

In addition to getting the new tent up, ensuring that the roofs of both buildings are watertight is a high priority.

Also, eight sections of the fence on the south property line

need to be replaced, and some of the lights in the parking lot need repair.

Finally, minor repairs are needed to doors, windows and fans in the event center's three main rooms.

Our newly formed outreach committee will call Dante Club members at the beginning of April to see who is willing and able to help fix these items in a timely manner.



Ladies Auxiliary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

April 14. Be sure to let friends and families know about it.

We ask our members to please place their friends' orders under their own names. Members are the only ones who are eligible to win the raffle prizes.

I will email or mail a notice to everyone as soon as I have a menu from our chef. Happy Easter to all!

Talent, grit served Italian immigrants well

By Ralph DiLibero

During the 1920s, the U.S. Congress responded to prejudicial actions at Ellis Island by passing equally biased immigration legislation.

The Emergency Quota Act of 1921 passed when the U.S. economy was soaring. Unemployment was at 1% in 1926. The United States was responsible for 23% of the world economy.

The Johnson-Reed Immigration Act of 1924 further restricted immigrants from Southern and Eastern Europe, particularly Jews, Italians and Slavs.

The legislation passed with majority votes from Democrats and Republicans and formally introduced racial, or national origin, bias into American law.

The law's excuse for "primary intent" in limiting immigration from Southern Europe and Eastern Europe was "to preserve the ideal of American homogeneity."

But the law also limited immigration from Arab and African lands and excluded it entirely from Asian nations. President Calvin Coolidge officially signed

See IMMIGRANTS, Page 7

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Dante Club of Sacramento; Attn. Tom Mezzanares, treasurer; 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.; Sacramento, CA 95825. Or pay in person by cash, check or credit card.

Membership update

The membership committee continues to wait for pandemic restrictions to lift so we can meet and interview applicants. We ask members to continue thinking of family and friends they'd like to invite.

Requests are gladly accepted, and we'll interview as many as possible when the time is right.

Applications are found on the website. Call Dan Calcagno at 916-481-8368 for more information.

Save pull tabs

Since Ron Cristoni challenged club members to collect aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, we've collected more than 1,250 pounds' worth.

Proceeds help parents who can't afford to stay at the lodging place while their children are hospitalized at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento. The \$1,250 raised has paid for more than 60 nights of lodging.

With the resumption of indoor club events, we can once again give our collections to Ron Cristoni or to John Rosso.

Members can learn about the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northern California program at www.rmhcnc.org. At the upper right of the home page, select the "Get Involved" tab, then select "Pop Tab Program" in the drop-down menu.

Bocce update

Let's get rolling! Friday, April 16, will be our first bocce session for 2021.

For the first month or so, we'll have general play, working into league play by June. Bocce coordinator Richard Battistessa said this will allow members to enjoy playing with a lot of different partners.

Play will start as early as 2 p.m. on April 16, followed by a short organizational meeting at 4 p.m. Potential club members are welcome.

This year both the men's club and the Ladies Auxiliary will use the facilities.

Battistessa will work with the Dante Event Center manager to develop ideas for social activities to accompany the bocce matches, such as a Friday happy hour with drinks and snacks.

More to come on the social plans. Email Richard

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net with any questions or suggestions.

Newsletter marketing

All but one of the 2020 *Dante's Inferno* advertisers have returned for April through December 2021, reports John Caselli, newsletter coordinator: Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist, Patrick Vogeli of Vogeli Relators, Ladies Auxiliary board member Helen Manfredi of Medic Ambulance and Troy Milan of the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

This month the Sacramento Tree Foundation joins us. New advertisers are always welcome. Anyone interested in advertising this year can email Caselli at jac6652@aol.com.

Scholarship update

It's that time of year when high school seniors are thinking about scholarship applications.

Unfortunately, the past year has been difficult for the Dante Club because we weren't able to host our annual golf tournament, and our ability to hold the annual cioppino dinner also looks unlikely. These two events are our major fundraisers for the scholarship fund.

Scholarship applications can be found online, however, and Italian American high school seniors are still encouraged to submit their requests for this school year.

In the past, we've awarded four or five students with scholarships, but we'll need to evaluate the funds we have available. Members can certainly help by donating to the fund, and we're also looking at creative ways to raise money.

We will do our best to support local students as much as possible. For more information, email Rich Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net.

2021 Legacy Building Fund

Many thanks to these members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary who have contributed to the Legacy Fund, for a total of \$2,618.70 to date:

- Richard and Dianna Battistessa, \$200
- John and Kelly Procida, \$100
- Janet Mathews, in memory of Bonnie Stuto, \$100
- Janet Mathews, in memory of Charles Stuto, \$100
- John Bertoni, \$100
- James Riolo, \$100
- Matthew Longo, in memory of Joseph John Longo, \$1,000
- John Caselli, \$100
- Michael Micciche, \$100
- Lee Bennett, in memory of Shirley Pasquini Bennett, \$500
- Ron Pane, donated food costs for board dinner, \$218.70

We're very grateful for the generosity of these contributors.

Another way members can give back to the Dante Club is to make it part of their estate plans, creating a legacy for themselves and providing it with financial support into the future.

Gifts can help us maintain the Dante Event Center as a premier venue for club events and activities booked by the public.

It's a simple, meaningful way for members to have a lasting impact on their Italian heritage beyond their lifetimes.

Those who would like to make such a gift or inform us if they've already done so should email Dante Club treasurer Tom Mezzanares at tjmezzan@gmail.com.

Immigrants

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

into law the racially restrictive act the same year he officially dedicated the Statue of Liberty as a national monument.

Systemic racism became an accepted component of the American justice system, setting the stage for what would become institutional racism, victimization philosophies and structural poverty 40 years later.

Italian Americans, however, have valiantly triumphed over all those historically prejudicial forces, overcoming limits and feelings of victimization.

The triumphs of millions of these immigrants seeking the American way of life have repeatedly defeated failures.

Italian Americans' secret to success lies in their unfailing willingness to educate themselves, to fully integrate into the general population and to migrate to areas where viable job opportunities exist.

They have strived to master skills from any available apprenticeship for vocational or academic training. They have pursued many entrepreneurial enterprises.

The origins of derogatory terms designed to suppress Italian American achievements are mixed. The term "wop" probably came about by a slurring of the Italian Camorra's well-dressed dandy or "guappo"

See IMMIGRANTS, Page 8

**Immigrants**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

to “whapo-po” and then to “wop.”

“Greaser” originated as an economic dominance slur to characterize all Italians as poor, dumb day laborers. The unjustly degraded occupation of “daygoers” may have been a source for the term “dego” or otherwise derived from the name Diego.

Lighter-skinned blacks from New Guinea were often of natural mixed ancestry, and because the skin color of many Italians was slightly darker, the pejorative term “Guineas” was sometimes applied to Italian immigrants.

Because Guido and Mario were common Italian names, all Italians

were put down as indistinguishable when they were labeled Guido or Mario. The individuality of their proper names wasn’t recognized.

Mistranslating and mispronouncing the word “compatriota” or “compare” in immigrant Italian enclaves in the United States gave birth to such words as “goombah” and so many other slang terms, mostly related to ethnic foods.

Other words were initially slur terms, such as a polenta-eaters or “polentini” and peasant-farmers or “terrioni,” but many folks of Italian origin have since come to embrace and even relish them.

The United States of America is a geopolitical nation that isn’t

defined by its geography or any particular cohort of people.

Instead, it is a miraculous melting pot of all human types, races, nationalities and religions, defined by a cherished and courageously defended core of values and by a root of common law that embraces individual freedom.

I could not possibly have chosen a better time or a finer place in this great world to have been born and to have honorably worked for my daily bread. As a proud Italian American, I am grateful to have been able to live a fulfilling, thrilling and uniquely spectacular American way of life.

Ralph DiLibero is a member of the Dante Club board of directors.

DANTE'S REMINDERS

**Member volunteers**

To volunteer, contact Ernie Tomassilli for anything related to buildings and grounds and Joe Porata for anything related to social events. Reach Ernie at 916-541-9507 or ca.ernest@pacbell.com and Joe at 530-887-1583 or jporata@sbcglobal.net.

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 online at <https://danteclub.com/donations/>.

Dante Club apparel

Purchase club shirts and other clothing items by contacting Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or peddc@surewest.net or by speaking to him at a members meeting. Cash or a check is needed to place an order.

Newsletter photos and news

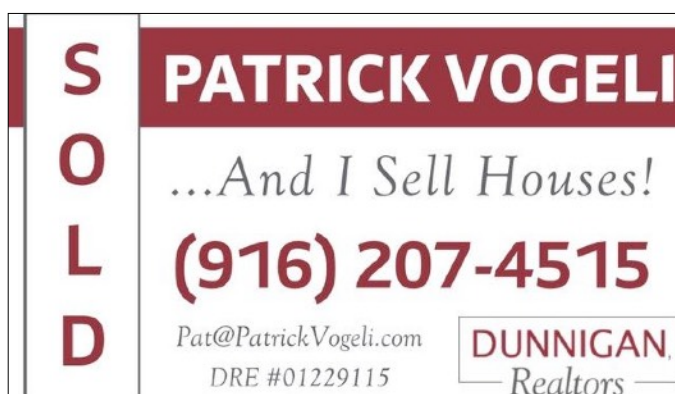
Submit photos and news items for Dante’s Inferno to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month’s newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. Members also can post news and photos on the Dante Club’s Facebook page.

Contact information

Recently changed an address or phone number? Please alert Dan Calcagno at 916-481-8368 or dmcalcagno@aol.com.



Please patronize our paesanos



LED LIGHT BULBS: SUCH A DEAL!

The Dante Club has a cache of LED light bulbs that we no longer need.

Members can buy them for \$1 each.

Still available for purchase are four 12.5-watt, seven 13.5-watt and 46 30.7-watt bulbs.

For more information, call
Ernie Tomassilli at 916-541-9507.

