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Dante Club  
Legacy Fund!**

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

### *Team effort needed to 'move the ball down the field'*

As I write this month's column, my calendar tells me that today (July 20) is the 52<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the fulfillment of President John F. Kennedy's dream to have a United States astronaut walk on the moon.

It's hard to believe that more than half a century has passed since Neil Armstrong said, "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind."

I remember exactly where I was on that day, watching as Walter Cronkite's narration blasted over a small black-and-white television in my bedroom.

Our space goal could not have been achieved without the support of a team that was laser-focused on completing it. The effort was more than 10 years in the making, but

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



The Dante Event Center treated an estimated 200 people, including representatives of area businesses, to specially prepared refreshments and tours of the remodeled facility.

## **Dante Event Center wows attendees at July open house**

**R**epresentatives from several Sacramento area companies were among the estimated 200 people who attended a Dante Event Center open house event on Tuesday, July 27.

Companies on hand included Nicoletti, Culjis & Herberger Funeral Home, the Buffalo Chips Running Club and the 20/30 Club.

General manager Jennifer Peretti said she and her staff tried to pull out all the stops in preparation for the public event.

"We made sure that all the elements for a perfect showing were in place," Peretti said. "That meant everything from the club's curb appeal and cleanliness of the



Jennifer Peretti, general manager of the Dante Event Center, and her husband, Shaun, enjoy the fruits of Jennifer's labor in organizing the open house.

entire facility to the food displays and room décor."

The numerous improvements inside and outside of the building

See OPEN HOUSE, Page 5



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committee met July 12 to review Dante Event Center operations, the club's financial condition and the status of event center repairs and renovations.

General manager Jennifer Peretti reported that the 34 events held at the center in June were nearly all profitable.

Member and Ladies Auxiliary dinners were not profitable, because of the board's policies to keep meal prices low and drinks at half-price.

Newly implemented customer satisfaction surveys found that event satisfaction was very high, with reviews very positive.

A weekly facility monitoring process has been implemented to identify and correct facility problems.

The reports are reviewed at least monthly by the buildings and grounds committee and are available in the staff offices.

The committee reviewed the treasurer's report and found the financial picture to be positive in terms of revenue and profitability.

The building and grounds committee reported that repairs and painting of the Magpie School have been completed.

Extending electricity to the outdoor event tent and the bocce courts should be completed by mid-August, and the metal gate at the center entrance should be finished by early August.

Roof repairs were scheduled for completion by the end of July.

The popularity of bocce has resulted in the purchase of a shed that will house bocce balls, scoring poles and other game equipment.

### Bylaws in print

The new Dante Club bylaws have been printed. Copies are available at the Dante Event Center. Members can stop by and pick one up. We'll also try to have copies at the September meeting.

### Club apparel

The board recently expanded its opportunity to brand items with the Dante Club logo.

Working with Julie Brown at Premier Graph-x, we now have the ability to brand many items, including hats, men's and women's T-shirts, jackets and aprons. Items can be ordered and delivered via our online store.

Visit the club website or click here: [danteclub.shopgraphx.com](http://danteclub.shopgraphx.com). Members also may contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net). For special orders, contact Julie Brown at 916-787-0603 or [julie@premieregraphx.net](mailto:julie@premieregraphx.net).

### In memoriam

Lifetime club member and past president Mark "Yogi" Franzioia died July 8 at age 65, due to complications of cancer.

We ask club members to please keep the Franzioia family in their thoughts and prayers.

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**UPCOMING DINNERS**  
Reserve and pay online at  
[danteclub.com/members-event-calendar/](http://danteclub.com/members-event-calendar/)  
or call 916-925-8230

### August 1

#### Sunday Family Dinner

**Times:** 3 to 4 p.m. to-go pickup, 4 to 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Strawberry salad with pecans and feta, French rolls with butter, spaghetti and meatballs, seasonal vegetables, fudge brownies

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$8 children age 12 and younger

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, July 27.*

### August 16

#### Members and Guests Barbecue

**Times:** 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. steaks handed out for diners to grill

**Menu:** Italian potato salad, garden salad, grilled zucchini and squash, grilled peppers and onions, rigatoni with marinara sauce, ribeye steaks (with toppings of herbed butter, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions and steak seasoning), spumoni

**Cost:** \$28 per person, 50% off drinks  
*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Aug. 10.*

### September 5

#### Sunday Family Dinner

**Times:** 3 to 4 p.m. to-go pickup, 4 to 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Caesar salad, regular or chicken fettuccine alfredo, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$8 children age 12 and younger

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Aug. 31.*



# 2021 Committees and Assignments

(revised 4.12.21)

## 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

Open, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman  
Members: Richard Battistessa, Tom Novi

### 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

Richard 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

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman  
Members: Jim Dimino, Pat Orelli

## ASSIGNMENTS

Ladies Auxiliary liaison, Rich Battistessa  
Bocce, Rich Battistessa  
Check-in desk for club meetings, 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](mailto:repane@icloud.com)
- Tom Novi, first vice president:  
[tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Patrick Orelli, second vice president,  
[pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.com)
- Dan Calcagno, secretary:  
[dmcalcagno@aol.com](mailto:dmcalcagno@aol.com)
- 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)
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- 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)





## Consider booking Dante center for upcoming special events

Happy August! I hope everyone is enjoying their summer.

Two new members have recently joined the auxiliary. One is Norma Cappello, mother of active member Lori Cappello-Dangberg (small world—Norma and her late husband, Victor, were friends of my parents).

The other is Lindsay DeFazio, niece of auxiliary members Alyse and Adrienne DeFazio and cousin of member Susan Kasimatis and prospective member Nancy Jacobs Leoni.

Members will remember meeting Nancy of iLeoni, that incredible kitchen gift shop in Petaluma. Nancy has donated some wonderful raffle prizes to the auxiliary.

With the addition of these two, we now have 173 members. We are growing fast.

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

*Debra Cattuzzo*

Some of our Ladies Auxiliary members started playing bocce in May. The teams are on a summer break, but they'll start up again in September, playing on Tuesday evenings.

Any member who is interested in joining a team should contact Debra Duccini-Hansen at [dducc56@gmail.com](mailto:dducc56@gmail.com). Debra and Jodie Maita are the team coordinators.

Auxiliary members who just want to come on out to watch, drink and have fun are, of course, welcome, too.

My family recently suffered the devastating death of my 36-year-old nephew. We held a celebration of life at the Dante Club, and it was wonderful.



Carol Pesetti, top photo, rolls a perfect ball during a recent game of bocce. Bocce line judges Dorothy Folena, Denise Franzioia and Cathy Callaghan, above, keep a careful watch on the action.

Jennifer Peretti and her staff did everything they could to make our event special. The Venetian

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### LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, co-president: [cattuzzod@gmail.com](mailto:cattuzzod@gmail.com)
- Carole Stefani Chivaro, co-president: [cchivaro2@aol.com](mailto:cchivaro2@aol.com)
- Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice president: [hpveneman@yahoo.com](mailto:hpveneman@yahoo.com)
- Helen Manfredi Pierson, co-vice president: [helen@medicambulance.net](mailto:helen@medicambulance.net)
- Tina Luchini Bowers, co-treasurer: [rk0719@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rk0719@sbcglobal.net)
- Debbie Duccini Hansen, co-treasurer: [dducc56@gmail.com](mailto:dducc56@gmail.com)
- Judy Farina, secretary: [jfarina56@yahoo.com](mailto:jfarina56@yahoo.com)

- Rosemary Micciche, trustee/caller: [rosemarymicciche@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarymicciche@gmail.com)
- Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- Phyllis Kielholtz, trustee/caller: [swedgewood@aol.com](mailto:swedgewood@aol.com)
- Mary Anne Chivaro, trustee/caller: [mapc50@comcast.net](mailto:mapc50@comcast.net)
- Debra Jefcoat, trustee/caller: [djefcoat6@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djefcoat6@sbcglobal.net)
- Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller: [ndoyle@stfrancisshs.org](mailto:ndoyle@stfrancisshs.org)
- Janet Gatejen, trustee/caller: [urbanhound@me.com](mailto:urbanhound@me.com)

- Margaret Lynch, trustee/caller: [gmlynch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gmlynch@sbcglobal.net)
- Karol Rehm Buccola, past president
- Anna Tenderella, hospitality (with Linda Rariden and Diana Dionisio): [annatenderella@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annatenderella@sbcglobal.net)
- Debra Duccini Hansen, bocce: [dducc56@gmail.com](mailto:dducc56@gmail.com)
- Jodie Maita, bocce: [jodie.maita@gmail.com](mailto:jodie.maita@gmail.com)

**Open House**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

—thanks to the hard work of Dante Club president Ron Pane, Ernie Tomassilli and a crew of dedicated member volunteers over the past 18 months—were on full display.

*Inferno* newsletter coordinator John Caselli said everyone who attended the event seemed to enjoy the atmosphere and the cuisine.

“I think the positive response could set the stage for an uptick in future business for us,” he said.

Peretti said the Dante Event Center had a strong start to the summer season in June, and she anticipates “a nice pickup in August.”

By all accounts, visitors and customers like what they see at the center.



Mixologists Talitha Blizzeard and Antonio Moreno kept drinks coming during the July 27 open house, which also featured an array of hors d'oeuvres and desserts, below right, prepared by Dante Event Center catering staff.

“Guests are leaving with smiles on their faces and safe hugs all around,” Peretti said. “Word of mouth is helping bring this place back to life.”

During July, the center hosted several memorials, birthdays and weddings.

“We think our successful open house will help us bring in more

bookings from businesses to help fill in the weekdays and keep our hands busy.”

The Dante Event Center is actively booking for 2022 and has even started receiving inquiries for 2023, Peretti said.

She said anyone planning a holiday event this year should call soon before bookings fill up.

**President's Corner**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the results were life-changing.

Not to compare where we have come with the Dante Club in the past 15 months, but as I look back on the progress we've made since March 2020, I must admit there are times when I even surprise myself.

It was truly a team effort, and those who brought this dream to fruition can't be thanked enough.

However, we still have work to do, not just in terms of the actual physical labor, but also in terms of the people required to complete those tasks.

The bottom line is that we need more of our members to step up and help us achieve our goal of becoming Sacramento's premier Italian club and event center. The adage is that you can't build a football team around a quarterback and a tight end. You need a full squad to move the ball down the field.

That's where our members come in. We need your time and/or money to help us score touchdowns.

Our initial successes with physical improvements and new business will not continue unless more members join the team. To continue the football analogy, we

aren't looking for another quarterback or tight end. We need to fill all the positions, as each one brings something different to the effort.

If you can't help with the physical labor that needs to be done, maybe you could donate to the Legacy Fund. Or maybe you could attend the August barbecue. The options are almost endless.

On a sad note, we recently lost lifetime member and past president Mark “Yogi” Franzoia to cancer. Please keep the Franzoia family in your thoughts and prayers.

I hope you all enjoy the rest of your summer.



**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

**Membership update**

The summer months see a pause in member meetings but not in our membership process. We don't induct applicants during the July and August barbecues, but in September we hope to have a large number of prospective members for club approval.

At the July 19 barbecue, we interviewed three candidates—Aaron Patella, son of John Patella; Jason Novi, son of Tom Novi; and Gene Bartucco, sponsored by George Procida.

We plan to chat with three or four others before the Aug. 16 barbecue and will likely see one or two others before the Aug. 9 board of directors meeting.

We continue to receive application requests. Thanks to all for spreading the word that our club is back and flourishing. Member application forms are available on the website, in the Dante Event Center office or from any membership committee member—Robert Guidera, Frank Calcagno, Pat Orelli and Dan Calcagno.

Applicants Joe Bonacci and Bill Zellars, voted in at the last members meeting, should be inducted in September. Remaining on the waiting list are Louis Lodi, Rino Bertini, Alexander Orelli, Robert Rossi, Brooks Novi, Jim Di Pinto, Frank Lienert and, recently added, Tom Comalli. We're contacting them to set up interview sessions.

Dan Calcagno still has membership cards for David Balassi, Steven DeCristofaro, Jeff Herzog and Harold Price. They should contact him to get their cards and update their contact information.

**Save pull tabs**

Since Ron Cristoni challenged 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.

Members can give their collections to Cristoni. To learn more, go online at [www.rmhcnc.org](http://www.rmhcnc.org), click Get Involved and scroll to Pop Tab Program.

**Bocce update**

On July 11, we had the Euro Cup in our own backyard, and it was a great day for the Italian Azzurri.

Dante Club members enjoyed watching an exciting soccer match, with Italy winning over England in a shootout. Our watch group, decked out in Italian colors with the flag flying, helped lead the team to victory.

The Dante Club's dedicated soccer coaching staff keeps a close eye on player performance as Italy beats England 3-2 on July 11.



Watching on the big screen gave us a feeling of being at the

game, and we all enjoyed the pizza and beer as an added treat. Thanks, Joe Porata, for the great event and your fine organization. Viva Italia!

Members should mark Oct. 25 on their calendars for the annual Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament, a fundraiser for the club's scholarship fund. The tournament at Ancil Hoffman Golf Course will feature a four-person scramble with prizes and lunch.

Golfers should start putting together foursomes now for this major event.

The club's Saturday bocce competition is continuing hot and heavy. On a recent Saturday, we rolled in 100-degree heat. Thanks to our new outdoor tent, we didn't suffer heat stroke.

Seven teams are competing in league play. We encourage more members to come out and join the fun. We can find a spot for you.

Here are the league standings:

- D'Rollers, 3-0
- Riolo Rollers, 2-1
- Avanti, 2-1
- Itallian Stallions, 2-2
- Infernos, 2-2
- Maestri de Bocce, 2-3
- Sons of Beocce, 1-3

Bocce courts are available for general play during

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## News, Notes and Otherwise

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the week. Players who want to use the courts on weekdays should let the office know. Balls are available for their use or they can bring their own.

Anyone interested in joining a team should email Rich Battistessa at [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net).

### Drinks policy revisited

A few years ago, the Dante Club board decided to offer half-price drinks as a benefit for members, who received cards that could be used at any Dante event. The benefit was given only to members, not to friends or family.

Last year the state Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control informed our Dante Event Center manager that when reduced-price drinks are offered, they must be offered to all attendees, not just members.

After some debate on how to implement this requirement, the board recently decided to allow all attendees at all Dante Club member events, including friends and family, to partake of the half-price drink policy.

However, when the center is booked by an outside group, which accounts for the vast majority of events, or by a member hosting a personal event, attendees must pay full price for drinks.

This new policy expands the drink benefit to friends and family, is consistent with ABC regulations and provides an even greater Dante Club member benefit.

### Newsletter marketing

*Dante's Inferno* coordinator John Caselli reports that two new companies have been added to the rapidly expanding list of newsletter advertisers. Zellars Concrete and Fondazione Properties are both owned by Bill Zellars and Robert DeNigri, two new club members. Many thanks to them for their support.

New advertisers are always welcome. Anyone interested in advertising in the *Inferno* in 2021 should email Caselli at [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com).

### Guest speaker in September

Thanks to the overwhelming success of Mike Alberghini's appearance as guest speaker at our June members meeting, we'll feature another speaker in September.

Mark Speckman, assistant head football coach at the University of California, Davis, will be on the docket. Speckman, who has been a coach for 38 years, will have some

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## Update: Legacy Building Fund

Many thanks to these members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary who have contributed to the Legacy Fund in 2021, for a total of \$3,615.90, to date:

- Richard and Dianna Battistessa, \$200
- Lee Bennett, in memory of Shirley Pasquini Bennett, \$500
- John Bertoni, \$100
- Dan Calcagno, \$200
- John Caselli, \$100
- Matthew Longo, in memory of Joseph John Longo, \$1,000
- Janet Mathews, in memory of Bonnie Stuto, \$100
- Janet Mathews, in memory of Charles Stuto, \$100
- Michael Micciche, \$100
- Ron Pane, donated food costs for board dinner, \$218.70
- Ron Pane, donated partial payment of new desk for front office, \$569.41
- Ron Pane, donated office supplies from Office Depot, \$25.96
- Patrick Piacentini, \$200
- John and Kelly Procida, \$100
- James Riolo, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, donated tools from Emigh Hardware, \$1.83

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

Gifts can help us maintain the Dante Event Center as a premier venue for club activities and public events. 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](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).



## LOOKING BACK

### *Dante Club evolved from practical support system for immigrants to cultural and philanthropic force in Sacramento*

By Ralph DiLibero

**M**any Italian immigrant transitions to the Sacramento area were difficult.

As the immigrants faced a new country, a new language, a new culture and a new way of life, some grew homesick, missing their relatives and friends in Italy.

The primary purpose of establishing the Dante Club was to help these immigrants adapt to life in the United States among people who spoke their language and had similar customs.

The club helped immigrants learn English and assisted them with the paperwork of finding living quarters and jobs.

At the beginning, providing this type of practical support was the primary goal.

The club significantly helped its members accomplish tasks that were necessary for survival and success in a foreign land at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

But by the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, other purposes evolved to support the immigrants—specifically, the preservation of the Italian language and its unique culture and the encouragement of music, drama, fine art, literature, athletics and social activities.



Easter egg hunts have been an annual youth-oriented event of the Dante Club since the 1920s, when the club was located on P Street in downtown Sacramento. The tradition continues, above, as egg hunters of 2018 invade the current club grounds on Fair Oaks Boulevard. The 2019 event, below, offered children not only egg hunting but also a petting zoo with lambs and goats.

Philanthropy, too, was considered important.

Over the years, the Dante Club has helped purchase hospital equipment for Mercy Clinic (now, Mercy General Hospital) and Sutter Hospital (now, Sutter Medical Center).

The club also has participated in mailings for Christmas Seals, supported the Sacramento Philharmonic and Opera, donated blood to Sacramento blood collection centers, granted scholarships to high school students and supported area soccer and baseball teams.

The Dante Club has donated to many worthy organizations, including the Muscular Dystrophy Foundation, the American Cancer Society, the Make-A-Wish



Foundation and Sacramento's public television station, KVIE.

During World War II, the Ladies Auxiliary sold war bonds, prepared wrapped surgical bandages and assisted local USO programs.

In 1926, the Dante Club of Sacramento purchased its own building, a residence at 1511 P St. that required extensive renovation.

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## Events

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Room was beautifully decorated, and we had a wonderful Italian buffet dinner of Caesar salad, penne alfredo, spaghetti and meatballs, tortellini pesto and garlic bread.

The buffet was displayed in the Tuscan Room, and the staff served the guests as they came through the line.

My sister had asked my Italian cousins to make their special cookies for the service.

My sister and I also made crostoli, like my mother used to make.

I assumed Dante Event Center chef Jonathan Diaz would display

the cookies on a table, but instead he selected a sampling of different ones and put them on platters that were then served to each table.

What a thoughtful idea, I thought, as people were more inclined to eat them.

So I'd like to encourage anyone who's planning a memorial, a shower, a wedding or a party to check out the new Dante Event Center. I know they will be pleased with the result.

Another reminder for our members: Please save those pull tabs from your aluminum cans!

At our June meeting, members Marisa Barone and Sharon Helton brought in their bags of pull tabs. Thanks to both of them!

At future meetings, I will keep a large jar at the front desk where members can deposit their tab collections as they check in for the dinner meeting.

I think I mentioned previously that Friskies cat food pull tabs are made of aluminum, but I believe dog food can tabs are made of steel.

You can double-check the metal in your tabs by taking a magnet to them. If the tabs stick to the magnet, they are made of steel, so we don't need to collect those.

Let's make this project happen for our contribution to the Ronald McDonald House.

## Please patronize our paesanos



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ERIC LUCHINI - DANTE CLUB MEMBER



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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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great stories to share. Mark the calendar for Monday, Sept. 20.

**Scholarships awarded**

We have awarded scholarships to four deserving high school graduates. One is Lauren Patella, granddaughter of John Patella and a graduate of St. Francis High School, who is heading to San Diego State University. Another is Julia Novi, granddaughter of Tom

Novi and a graduate of Amador Valley High School. She will attend University of San Diego.

Carlo Pedroncelli, son of Mark Pedroncelli and a graduate of Jesuit High School, will attend the University of Nevada, Reno. Nathan Zan, grandson of Dennis Zan and a graduate of Vista Del Lago High School, will attend Boise State University. All had excellent accomplishments in school and civic organizations.

**New committee**

The outreach committee is looking for innovative ways to inform members of activities, using email and texting.

Members may call or text committee chairman Matt Longo at 916-397-5869 with their names, email addresses and areas of interest and expertise, such as carpentry or cleanup. He will compile information for future notifications.

## Please patronize our paesanos

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**Looking Back**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

There, Babbo Natale, or Santa Claus, donated food and toys to children every Christmas, and uovo di Pasqua, or egg hunts, entertained children and their families every Easter.

Festivals and social events were held regularly for the enjoyment of the community's many Italian families.

The P Street location remained the home of the Dante Club for more than 32 years.

Club members also regularly used two ball lanes at 1401 Q St.

In 1948, the Dante Club's fundraising projects helped with the construction of a new

*Uovo di Pasqua,  
or egg hunts,  
entertained  
children and their  
families.*

St. Mary's Church building at 58<sup>th</sup> and M streets.

During the 1930s and early 1940s, 48<sup>th</sup> Street between J Street and Folsom Boulevard became a popular Italian-American neighborhood.

Everyone who lived in the 24-square-block area shopped at Louis DeFazio's Italian Market at 48<sup>th</sup> and J streets.

In addition, an abundance of small businesses found fertile soil along Folsom Boulevard.

Local children of the time, who are all now well into their 90s, dubbed themselves "The 48th Street Gang," and their most popular sport was bocce.

Many of those children settled with their families near East Portal Park in what became Sacramento's Little Italy neighborhood.

There, they established a bocce club that continues today, with a total of 65 league teams.

*Ralph DiLibero is a member of the Dante Club board. This is another in his series about the Italian-American experience.*

## 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](mailto:ca.ernest@pacbell.com) and Joe at 530-887-1583 or [jporata@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](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. 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](mailto:dmcalcagno@aol.com).