



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ron Pane

Resolutions for 2021 have an Italian flavor

I made a few New Year's resolutions for 2021 that I'd like to share with my fellow Dante Club members:

1. Eat Italian food daily because it's part of the Mediterranean diet.
2. Drink red wine daily to help strengthen my red blood cells.
3. Fly the Italian flag in front of my house on Columbus Day.
4. Wear red, green and white daily except on the Fourth of July.
5. Paint one bumper red and the other green on my white truck.
6. Support our Sunday Night Family Dinners either remotely or in person.
7. Donate to the Dante Club's Legacy Fund.

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Dante Event Center rooms get transformed with elegance for, above, a wedding and, below, another recent event.

Debut of Sunday dinner sets tone for 2021 success

Our first-ever Sunday Night Dinner was a complete success, with 146 meals sold, according to Dante Club general manager Jennifer Peretti.

After receiving feedback and suggestions from supporters about the Dec. 19 Christmas-to-Go dinner, we made changes and put new systems into place that made the Sunday dinner a smooth event.



"No guest had to wait for their meals, everything was served hot, and we were able to bring the spirit back to the Dante," Peretti said. "Thank you to those who gave us the chance to redeem ourselves."

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

The advisory committee continues to work with Jennifer Peretti, Dante Event Center manager, in her efforts to make the newly remodeled facility a destination location for the Sacramento region.

A tent that will allow groups to meet outdoors during the pandemic should be completed shortly, weather permitting.



The revised Dante website is nearly complete, and numerous events are being booked, with weddings particularly popular.

Peretti has contacted all previous customers to encourage them to return to our remodeled facility. She reports very positive responses.

Club nominations and elections for 2021 have been delayed until we're able to meet again, but



Sunday night to-go dinners will serve as a proxy for our traditional social events in the meantime.

A January lasagna dinner was successful, with 146 dinners served. The traffic problems and delays we experienced with the Christmas dinner were solved. Everything went smoothly, with many positive comments.

The Feb. 7 Sunday night dinner, featuring chicken Parmesan, promises to be well-received.

Several renovation projects remain on the to-do list, so members are encouraged to contribute to the Legacy Fund to help finish them.

Those who can't pound nails can help buy the hammer and nails. Members are encouraged to do their part to help finish the work.



Bylaws in print

Changes to our club bylaws were approved and are now being printed.

Copies will be available when members are able to return to regular meetings. They also can pick up a copy anytime at the Dante Club.

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UPCOMING TO-GO MEALS
Call the Dante Club at 916-925-8230
to pay and reserve a pickup time

February 7

Sunday Night Dinner

Time: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Mixed greens salad with champagne vinaigrette, chicken or eggplant Parmesan, seasonal vegetables, French bread rolls and butter, chocolate chip cookies

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 ages 12 and younger for to-go service; wine available for purchase

Reserve at 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, Feb. 2. Food pickup in 15-minute time slots; space limited.

February 8

Ladies Auxiliary Monday Night Pickup Dinner

Time: 4 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Roasted fennel salad with champagne vinaigrette, Italian beef braciolo with Parmesan linguine, roasted root vegetables, rolls and butter, tiramisu

Cost: \$20 for to-go food service

Call Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266 by Feb. 1 to reserve. Raffle for prizes, including grand prize of an Insta-Pot.

February 15

Members Monthly Dinner

Time: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Caesar salad, Italian beef braciolo with Parmesan linguine, roasted root vegetables, rolls and butter, tiramisu

Cost: \$15 per person for to-go service; no quantity limit; wine available for purchase

Reserve at 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, Feb. 9. Food pickup in 15-minute time slots; space limited.

March 7

Sunday Night Dinner

Time: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Caesar salad, fettuccine Alfredo with or without chicken, seasonal vegetables, French bread rolls and butter, chocolate chip cookies

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 ages 12 or younger for to-go service; wine available for purchase

Reserve at 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, March 2. Food pickup in 15-minute time slots; space limited.



2020 Committees and Assignments

(revised 10.19.20)

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY AND FINANCE

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman

Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph DiLibero, Frank Calcagno, Richard Battistessa, Jim Dimino

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman

Members: Ron Pane, Bob Guidera, vacancy

BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman

Members: Michael Micciche, Richard Battistessa, Ralph DiLibero

ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Ralph DiLibero, Dan Calcagno, two vacancies

MEMBERSHIP AND INVESTIGATION

Dan Calcagno, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

PUBLICITY

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman

Member: Mark Pedroncelli, Dan Calcagno

SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Joe Porata, Mike Battistessa, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

SOCIAL

Michael Micciche, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Colin Orelli, vacancy, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Tom Novi, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman

Members: Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Pat Orelli

VOLUNTEERS (recruit members to assist with painting, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, social activities, internet, website and other club needs)

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Ron Fiorica, vice chairman

Members: Michael Micciche, Frank Calcagno, Jim Dimino

ASSIGNMENTS: Bocce, Rich Battistessa and Ladies Auxiliary; Dante Club apparel, Mark Pedroncelli; general membership meetings, John Caselli, Joe Porata, Ron Bacher; sergeant-at-arms, John Fiorica, general meeting; Ladies Auxiliary liaison, Richard Battistessa

2020 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- Ron Pane, president: repane@icloud.com
- Tom Novi, first vice president:
tomnovi@aol.com
- Patrick Orelli, second vice president,
pat@apcpagroup.com
- Ron Fiorica, secretary:
rbfiorica@frontiernet.net
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer:
tjmezzan@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

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



Auxiliary hopes to-go dinner Feb. 8 becomes monthly event

Hello, Ladies Auxiliary members. Is it almost over?

With the vaccine on its way, we hope this pandemic will be over soon and that we can get back to our normal meetings.

In the meantime, we'll have a pickup dinner on Feb. 8, the night of our next auxiliary meeting.

I've sent the information to all members who have email addresses and mailed fliers to those who don't.

I've already received many confirmations for the wonderful meal that's planned.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

We hope we can make this a monthly event. I love having someone else cook for me, and it would be great to see all the members again. The board has certainly missed everyone.

I'd like to introduce another board member and caller, Nancy Lynch Doyle.

Nancy was born and raised in Sacramento and attended St. Francis High School. She even took Italian classes there from

one of our own Dante Club members, Norma Petta.

Nancy loved St. Francis so much she ended up working there for 25 years, retiring last year. She served as the dean of students for 10 years and as a guidance counselor for nine years.

I've worked on a committee with her for SELFe, an annual event for women sponsored by St. Francis.

Nancy got her Italian heritage from her mother, whose family came from Southern Italy. Nancy's grandmother, Nancy

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LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, co-president: cattuzzod@gmail.com
- Carole Stefani Chivaro, co-president: cchivaro2@aol.com
- Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice-president: hpveneman@yahoo.com
- Helen Manfredi Pierson, co-vice-president: helen@medicambulance.net
- Tina Luchini Bowers, co-treasurer: rkb0719@sbcglobal.net
- Debbie Duccini Hansen, co-treasurer: dducc56@gmail.com
- Judy Farina, secretary: jfarina56@yahoo.com
- Rosemary Micciche, trustee/caller: rosemarymicciche@gmail.com
- Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller: 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

**Auxiliary**

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Verdina McFadden, was a wonderful cook whose specialties included homemade ravioli, breads, soups and the most amazing Sunday gravy.

The gravy recipe sounds suitable for our Dante cookbook!

Despite the pandemic, Nancy said 2020 was a wonderful year for her family, with two weddings, a law school graduation and, best of all, a new grandson. Congrats!

Any auxiliary member with fun stories or news to share can email me at cattuzzod@gmail.com.

Hope to see everyone on Feb. 8!

President's Corner

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8. Bring in three new members whose last name is not Pane.

9. Be proud of our new facility, the club's longevity and my Italian heritage.

10. Refer to all my Italian friends as "goombah" although it isn't politically correct to do so.

Above all, have a Happy New Year!



Dante Event Center staff Jennifer Peretti and Andrea Parker, left, feel positive about the success of the January dinner night. A banquet room, above, is decked out in style for a recent event, one of many bookings that have been rolling in since the event center was renovated.

Debut

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Going forward, the Dante Club will host a to-go Sunday Family Dinner on the first Sunday of every month, at least until life returns to normal—but, with luck, before then.

Our next to-go Sunday dinner will be held Feb. 7, with reservations accepted through midnight Feb. 1.

The following month's dinner will be held on March 7.

Menus for these meals can be found on the Dante Club website and in this newsletter.

They also will be emailed out to members,

who should call soon to make reservations.

During these pandemic times, we plan to offer our monthly members dinners in the to-go fashion as well.

The Ladies Auxiliary will host its first to-go dinner Feb. 8. The deadline for reservations and payments is Feb. 1.

The Dante Club's monthly to-go dinner will be Feb. 15, with a reservations deadline of Feb. 10.

"We will send out the menus shortly and hope to see everyone there—at a distance, of course," Peretti said.

Even with the pandemic in full swing, the Dante Event Center is

“

We have guests and clients calling and lining up to take tours of our newly renovated facility.”

”

Jennifer Peretti

General Manager

recognized on a daily basis, she said.

"We have guests and clients calling and lining up to take tours of our newly renovated facility," she said.

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Many immigrants deported after discriminatory health exams

By Ralph DiLibero

The plaque on the Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor features Emma Lazarus's "New Colossus" sonnet, with its famous lines, "... Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore ..."

In the early 1900s, however, more than a quarter million

"wretched refuse" immigrants were immediately turned away and returned to their transport ships when they failed to pass administratively enforced health-inspection processing at the Ellis Island port of entry.

Short of New York proper's "golden door," Ellis Island proved for some a pause at an Island of Hope. But for those

turned away, it was *L'Isola dell Lagrime* or Island of Tears.

In the early 20th century, the United States sought laborers for blossoming industrial sweatshops. Immigration policies were generally open, if one could pass the health examination.

For immigrants who survived the treacherous transatlantic

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News, Notes and Otherwise

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Club apparel

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

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.

Buildings and grounds update

The mild winter to date has provided the Dante Club with a chance to begin installing a tent on the east side of the property, adjacent to the bocce courts. The board voted to allocate money for the project.

Ground has been broken and installation of cement forms has begun.

Weather permitting, the complete installation should be completed within 30 to 45 days.

New lighting for the front of the building has arrived and awaits installation.

In the meantime, members' help is needed to help maintain our facility. We're committed to performing ongoing maintenance rather than delaying until major repair is needed.

Members interested in helping may contact Ernie Tomassilli at 916-541-9507.

Annual dues

The 2021 member dues of \$100 were due Jan. 31. Payment can be made on the Dante Club website at <http://www.danteclub.com/members.php>.

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

Members also can come to the Dante Event Center and pay in person by cash, check or credit card.

New committee

The advisory committee has established an entertainment committee responsible for bringing guest speakers and performers to special events.

The new committee, led by Rich Battistessa, includes members Dan Calcagno, Ralph DiLibero and Jim Dimino.

Save pull tabs

Since Ron Cristoni challenged club members to collect aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald

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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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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 we've raised has paid for more than 60 nights of lodging.

Members can reach out to Cristoni or John Rosso about delivering their pull-tab collections.

For more about the program, go to www.rmhcnc.org.

Bocce update

If vaccine distribution picks up and our numbers are positive, we have a plan in the works to play a little bocce soon.

We're looking at the potential of a late February get-together to roll a few balls. Stay tuned.

Scholarship update

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

Unfortunately, the past year has been particularly difficult for the Dante Club because we weren't able to host our annual golf tournament, and our annual cioppino dinner also looks unlikely to happen.

These two events are our major fundraisers to replenish the scholarship fund each year.

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.

Newsletter marketing

Dante's Inferno coordinator John Caselli offers thanks to these 2020 advertisers: Johnny "the barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist, Mark Pedroncelli of Pedroncelli Chiropractic, Realtor Patrick Vogeli, Ladies Auxiliary board member Helen Manfredi of Medic Ambulance and Troy Milan of the Italian Cemetery in Colma.

The board has extended the end date of these contracts to March 31.

Anyone interested in advertising in the *Inferno* in 2021 can email Caselli at Jac6652@aol.com.

In memoriam

The Ladies Auxiliary has lost one of its longtime members, Maria Tobia.

Maria often accompanied Cathie Agostinelli to auxiliary dinners.

Her late husband and sons were members of the Dante Club, and two sons served on the board.

Maria was the mother of nine children and taught geology part time at California State University, Sacramento.

2021 Legacy Building Fund

Many thanks to these seven members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary who have contributed to the Legacy Building Fund so far this year, for a total of \$700:

- 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

Contributions to the Legacy Fund for 2021 are now being accepted.

Members might also make the Dante Club part of their estate plans, creating a legacy for themselves and providing future financial support to the club.

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 way for members to have a lasting impact on their Italian heritage beyond their lifetimes.

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

**Deported**

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voyage but failed the exam, deportation was a newly learned American word that was feared and despised.

An immigrant's induction was a 30-second evaluation by a physician to determine the need for deportation due to "health reasons."

Physicians routinely placed a white X chalk mark on the left shoulder of an immigrant's garment.

One out of five immigrants received a chalk mark, indicating they'd likely get sent to stand in the deportation line.

William Williams, an Ellis Island commissioner from 1902 to 1914, said U.S. immigration should open only for "potentially productive residents."

Williams' philosophy transferred to the admission policy of the Ellis Island Hospital. Deportation procedures were quickly arranged for all who didn't show potential for productivity.

Many hospitalized patients were eventually released as immigrants into New York and beyond, but the remainder were deported.

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

Debut

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"We already have 33 weddings booked for 2021, with one under our belt already and 16 other outside events booked, not including returning groups and members events."

Peretti said the Dante Event Center received a five-star review from a recent wedding client.

The client said our facility is "fun and beautiful and provided great customer service."

Business looks promising for the event center in 2021. We look forward to more positive reviews from clients and hope to see our members there soon.

DANTE'S REMINDERS

**Member volunteers**

To volunteer, contact Ernie Tomassilli for anything related to buildings and grounds and Michael Micciche for anything related to social events. You can reach Ernie at 916-541-9507 or ca.ernest@pacbell.com. You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or michael.micciche@gmail.com.

Donations

Donate to our scholarship or building funds in memory of a loved one or a friend to keep their legacy going. And buy raffle tickets! Donations can be made easily online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

Dante Club apparel

If you'd like to purchase club shirts or other specialty clothing items, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or peddc@surewest.net or speak to him at a members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order.

Newsletter photos and news

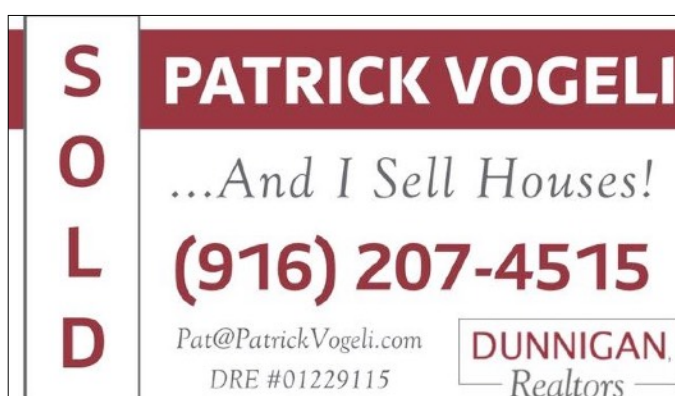
Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your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

Contact information

Have you recently changed your address or phone number? Please alert Dan Calcagno at 916-481-8368 or dmcalcagno@aol.com.



Please patronize our paesanos



LED LIGHT BULBS: SUCH A DEAL!

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

Members can buy them for \$1 each.

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.

