



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

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

### *Participation is key to a fulfilling club experience*

When you joined the Dante Club, your membership was and is a two-way street. You paid your initiation fees and became part of a special “famiglia.” As with all relationships, what you get out of it is in direct proportion to what you put into it.

So my question is: Are you getting everything out of your Dante Club membership that you possibly can? Consider that there’s more to it than attending a monthly members meeting, enjoying the banter as you check in, telling stories at the bar before dinner and enjoying a good Italian meal with friends.

If that’s your idea of a good relationship with the Dante Club, I think you’re missing out on so much.

I’m the first to admit that I really look forward to and

See PRESIDENT’S CORNER, Page 5



The outdoor gazebo area at the Dante Event Center provides a perfect setting for a June wedding.

## **Dante center attracts multiple bookings for weddings and more**

The Dante Event Center has made a splash in the Sacramento area, with more than 31 events booked during June, according to general manager Jennifer Peretti.

“We hope the hype remains strong as we continue to get referrals via word of mouth and inquiries via our website, Eventective, Weddingwire and [TheKnot.com](http://TheKnot.com),” Peretti said. “Our daily bookings remain high, with literally not an open Saturday left for the 2021 calendar year.”

Peretti said she and her staff are

See BOOKINGS, Page 5



The outdoor tent offers attractive shelter for guests at a recent wedding.



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committee met June 14 to review Dante Event Center operations, club financials and the status of remaining facility improvements.

General manager Jennifer Peretti reported that May was profitable and that bookings are extremely strong through 2021 and into 2022, with customers extremely pleased with their events. The treasurer's report confirmed Peretti's positive financial assessment.

Operational improvements include implementation of a weekly facility review focusing on timely identification and repair of facility problems. Over the past 18 months, president Ron Pane has spearheaded this effort.

To ensure ongoing support, the club will hire an hourly part-time maintenance man under the direction of the general manager. A monthly facility status report will be provided to the advisory and buildings and grounds committees and the board.

A list of approved skilled technicians has been developed and will be used by the general manager to resolve more complex electrical, plumbing and mechanical problems.

Customers are surveyed after each event concerning their satisfaction. The results and customer comments have been largely positive, with a nearly five-star rating. Advisory members and the board will receive survey results each month.

A detailed assessment of each event's profitability has been implemented to capture all costs and revenues, with the results reported to advisory and the board monthly.

Due to the high volume of scheduled events, a business community open house planned for late June has been rescheduled to July 27.

Remaining facility improvements are scheduled for completion over the next three months.

Installing electricity in the tent area and bocce courts should be completed by mid-July. A new entrance gate also is scheduled for completion in July.

Repainting the Magpie Preschool should be completed by August, and the Dante Event Center roof has been repaired.

### Bylaws in print

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

Members can stop by to pick one up. We also will try to have copies at the next 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

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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

### July 19

#### Members and Guests Barbecue

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

**Menu:** Fruit salad, Caesar salad, baked potato bar, corn on the cob, ribeye steaks (with toppings of herbed butter, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions and steak seasoning), rolls and butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$28 per person

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, July 13.*

### 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

*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

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Aug. 10.*



# 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)
- Ralph DiLibero: [ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov)
- Jim Dimino: [jkdimino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkdimino@sbcglobal.net)
- Bob Guidera: [robertguidera@att.net](mailto:robertguidera@att.net)
- Matt Longo: [longomb@sbcglobal.net](mailto:longomb@sbcglobal.net)
- Tom Mezzanares: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@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)





## Members come out in full force at first indoor dinner meeting

On June 14, at the Ladies Auxiliary's first indoor dinner since the pandemic started, we were surprised that 88 members showed up. Everyone was very excited to finally get back and to see the changes to the club.

Kudos to Dante Club president Ron Pane and his crew for spending almost every day of the pandemic working on the club. It looks amazing! Our members were also happy to meet and applaud our new manager, Jennifer Peretti; our new event coordinator, Maggie Licastro; and our new chef, Jonathan Diaz.

Chef Diaz started us out with a mixed green salad with red onions, feta and cucumbers. He followed up with a roasted pork chop over a delicious mushroom risotto, accompanied by *al dente* green beans and carrots, and topped off the meal with spumoni. We ended our fabulous dinner

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

*Debra Cattuzzo*

with a couple of games of bingo called by our famous Gloria Tomei.

Thanks to Anna Tenderella for the wonderful table decorations of the American and the Italian flags as we celebrated Flag Day.

Member Nancy Doyle won a patriotic dress contest with her flashing crown and necklaces. She won a beautiful flag wreath.

Other members were lucky to win wonderful prizes in our raffles. Thanks to Nancy Jacobs Leoni for donating the prizes from her amazing kitchen shop, iLeoni, in Petaluma.

On a sad note, member Fran Kocheski tragically lost her son this month. We send our sincere condolences to the Kocheski family. We are thinking of you.

Since the pandemic started, we have had quite a few new members join our auxiliary. Welcome to Cathy Callaghan, Debbie Soto, Marilyn Nagel, Carol Corda, Loris Cappello Dangberg and, just a few days ago, Susan Pricco. At the June meeting, quite a few members brought guests who showed an interest in becoming members. We keep increasing our membership!

Denise Franzioia brought a special guest, the lovely Dorothy Folena, who just turned 101. She was recognized by many board members and former students, as she worked for decades at St. Mary's Elementary School. She expressed interest in joining our group as well.

As our members know, the Ladies Auxiliary does not meet in July or August, so we'll see you all again in September.

### 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: [rkb0719@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rkb0719@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@stfrancishs.org](mailto:ndoyle@stfrancishs.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)



## *In early 1900s, Catholic churches of Sacramento evolved to serve spiritual needs of Italian American immigrants*

By Ralph DiLibero

In 1900, pivotal events took place in Sacramento that would determine the evolution of future Italian American migrations.

Mary Ellen Bowden bought the Crocker home at the corner of 3rd and O streets. It became St. Stephen's, which included a school, a daycare center and a mission.

The people that served at St. Stephen's were mainly working-class members of ethnic communities other than Irish and German.

At that time, Sacramento's main industry was canning fruits and vegetables. The industry employed many

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## Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

working to fill 2022 dates and have started accepting inquiries for 2023. Anyone planning an event should reach out sooner rather than later to ensure a date is available, she advised.

During June, the Dante Event Center honored longtime Dante Club member George Plescia, Ladies Auxiliary family members and others.

The center also hosted Naval Academy Parents and UC Davis Pediatrics Residency Graduates, as well as an assortment of birthday parties and weddings.

After more than a year of work by Dante Club president Ron Pane and a handful of member volunteers, the club has decided to hire a facility monitor—essentially a maintenance worker or handyman—who will conduct weekly facility surveys and help maintain the club so the renovation and new look will remain pristine.

Maggie Licastro started at the end of May as the Dante Event Center event coordinator and banquet captain. She has been working her way into the hearts of members and the team.

The outdoor area is slowly coming to fruition, Peretti said. With landscaping and electrical work on the horizon, the garden and tent area should become a desired location for weddings, parties, luncheons and other events in the future.

Peretti thanks Dante Club members for helping make the improvements a reality.

"We look forward to hosting year-round events," she said. "And don't forget to make your reservations for the July and August members and guests barbecues, as well as the August Sunday Family Dinner. We look forward to seeing you there."

## President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

enjoy hosting the monthly meetings. I see people I haven't seen in awhile. I have a drink or two and enjoy the evening. But I know firsthand that what the club has to offer and the camaraderie that comes from more than just a monthly dinner is pretty special.

I have seen firsthand the relationships that have been built or rebuilt over the past 18 months of my presidency. Working together with fellow club members creates a bond that you can't put a price tag on. These are bonds that can last a lifetime.

What's even more fulfilling is the notion that we're paying it forward for

the next generation of members so that they, too, can enjoy the Dante Club famiglia.

So ask yourself: Am I honoring my commitment to the Dante Club? Am I getting everything out of it that I can?

As I have said many, many times, there are many, many ways to help. Maintaining our physical facility is an ongoing challenge. There are always things that need to be done on a small and large scale.

Please make an effort to be a part of one of the upcoming work crews. While the payback is not monetary, the rewards are great.

Have a good 4th of July.

# THANK YOU

to all who worked to modernize our club over the past 18 months.  
All your efforts are truly appreciated.

*The Zarzana Families*

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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aprons. Items can be ordered and delivered via our online store.

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

**Membership update**

In June, we had another great in-person members meeting with much noise in the room, food on the table and new faces to share the event with.

After hearing the words of our guest speaker, legendary Grant High School football coach Mike Alberghini, we had the great pleasure of accepting the nomination of Mark Franzioia as a lifetime member of the Dante Club. Franzioia became an active member in

December 1982 and served as president in 1992. We also welcomed Carl DeNigris, sponsored by his dad, Bob.

This continues our streak of one or two new inductees each month. Because we grew the

waiting list during the pandemic closure, we expect the streak to extend for many more months.

Andrea Danovaro was previously voted in but was unable to attend in June. He will be introduced soon. Joining him will be Joe Bonacci and Bill Zellars, who were interviewed in June and approved by members.

Dan Dalfonso, inducted in May, helped staff the Welcome Desk. We hope members did their best to make him feel part of us.

At the next few dinner gatherings, Paul Jacobs will join Joe Bonacci and Bill Zellars to check members in. We encourage members to introduce themselves and let

our newcomers know how grateful we are to have them. We're sure they will come to appreciate the club as much as the rest of us do.

The summer barbecues of July and August will cancel the usual members meetings, so we can't vote on new members, but the membership committee will still hold interviews each month.

Because of that, September through the rest of 2021 should see as many as a dozen new members added to the ranks.

Remaining on the waiting list are Louis Lodi, Rino Bertini, Alexander Orelli, Robert Rossi, Eugene Bartucco, Jason Novi, Brooks Novi, Jim Di Pinto and Aaron Patella. Inquiries have been received from several others. As applications reach us, they will be added to the list.

New-member application forms are available on the Dante website, in the main office or from any committee member—Robert Guidera, Frank Calcagno, Pat Orelli or Dan Calcagno.

Dan Calcagno still has membership cards for David Balassi, Steven DeCristofaro, Jeff Herzog and Harold Price. Contact him to get the cards and update contact 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 events, we can now give our collections to Ron Cristoni.

Members also can review the Ronald McDonald House Center of Northern California website at [www.rmhcnc.org](http://www.rmhcnc.org). Click on Get Involved and scroll down to Pop Tab Program.

**Bocce update**

D Rollers are 1 and 0, Sons of Biocce 1 and 1, Canepa's Stranglers 0 and 1, Avanti 0 and 1, Maestro di

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7



Frank Calcagno, left, and Jim Dimino, right, pose with guest speaker Mike Alberghini before the June 21 members meeting. The combined credentials of these three coaches represent more than 100 years of working with young people in the Sacramento area.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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Bocce 0 and 1, the Infernos 1 and 0 and the Dante Seniors 1 and 0. (Some of these team names are fictitious because they left it up to the Comish to give them a label. Our next report will have the official handles for each team.)

We're still in sign-up mode, looking for a couple more teams. Members are encouraged to join the fun. We do a lot of teaching as well as trash talking.

**Newsletter marketing**

KOLAS has been added to the rapidly expanding list of Dante Club advertisers, *Dante's Inferno* newsletter coordinator John Caselli reports.

Responsible for bringing in the business is Eric Luchini, a past president and longtime supporter of the Dante Club. Luchini's family also has been connected to the club. Many thanks to him for his additional 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).

**Scholarships awarded**

We have awarded scholarships to four deserving high school seniors.

One is Lauren Patella, granddaughter of John Patella and a graduate of St. Francis High School, who is heading to San Diego State University. Also a scholarship winner is Julia Novi, granddaughter of Tom Novi and a graduate of Amador Valley High School. She will attend the 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 four students had excellent achievements in high school and civic organizations. We wish them well in college.

**New committee**

Matt Longo and his outreach committee are looking for innovative ways to inform members of club activities. He'll use email and text messaging and potentially computer software.

Members may call Longo at 916-397-5869 or text him with their name, email address and area of interest and expertise, such as carpentry, painting, roofing or cleanup. He will compile all the information for future notifications.

**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).





## Churches

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immigrant women during the canning season.

In 1904, Father Michael Gualco wrote to Bishop Thomas Grace and to the Apostolic Delegate Diomedeo Falconio about his concern for the spiritual care of Latin Catholics, primarily Italian and Portuguese, in the Sacramento Diocese.

In 1905, Bishop Grace and Father Gualco traveled to the Holy See in Rome to recruit Italian priests to come and serve in the Sacramento Diocese. Later that year, two priests and one seminarian were selected—Father Temistocle Eugenio Mela, D.D., Father Domenico Taverna and Benso Massimo.

Father Mela was the founding pastor of St. Mary's. Father Taverna served in various places, including Sutter Creek, and later became the pastor of St. Mary's.

In early 1906, Franciscan sisters staffed a school that primarily educated children of the immigrant community.

For a time, Bishop Grace preferred to not have a separate parish at St. Stephen's, and it was staffed by priests from Blessed Sacramento Cathedral.

There was a strong desire by the ethnic groups at St. Stephen's, however, to form their own national parishes.

Father Mela began to form what was to become St. Mary's parish. He looked for land and a way to secure money to build a church.

In July 1906, he purchased land at 818 N St. for the original St.

Mary's Church. The first structure was a wooden barn converted into a church, with various modifications over the years. By the first Sunday in November 1906, Mass was offered at St. Mary's and registered about 200 parishioners.

By 1909, the Portuguese community of Sacramento wanted its own separate parish. The 1910 Catholic Directory lists two communities at the 8th and N streets location: St. Mary's (Italian), with Father Mela as pastor, and a church for the Portuguese, with Father J. Azavedo as pastor.

By 1912, the Portuguese community had founded a St. Elizabeth's parish. The reduction of the total parish population resulting from St. Elizabeth's created financial problems for St. Mary's.

In addition, the location of the church at 818 N St. was far enough away from the center of the Italian population that Mass attendance suffered.

So in 1916, Father Mela decided to move the church to the people. He purchased property at 7<sup>th</sup> and T streets, where Our Lady of Guadalupe Church is now located.

The parish didn't have money to build a new structure at the site, so Father Mela decided to section the original building, move it to the new location, reassemble it into a modified structure, construct a steeple and hang the bells.

St. Mary's reopened on Sunday, Aug. 23.

Mass attendance increased immediately. Father Mela considered adding new seating.

Masses were held in Dante's Italian language by Italian priests.

Sunday school attendance for young Italian American children and teens, eager to hear their ancestral musical language, went up 400% in one week.

St. Francis High School and St. Mary's Elementary School in Sacramento today still offer classes that teach the language of Dante to third- and fourth-generation descendants of Italian immigrants.

Father Mela had only four more years to serve at St. Mary's. He died during the influenza pandemic on Oct. 28, 1918. Father Domenico Taverna became pastor of St. Mary's, serving from 1918 to 1931.

In 1923, Father Taverna started a men's organization at St. Mary's Catholic Church to help Italian Americans transition to Sacramento when the church was located at 7<sup>th</sup> and T streets. In 1926, the organization branched out and became independent from St. Mary's.

The immigrant aid organization was founded by Father Taverna as an organization of St. Mary's Catholic Church, considered Sacramento's Italian church.

The organization soon became known as the Dante Club of Sacramento and formed an active auxiliary of 36 original members, growing to more than 175 members.

The Dante Club became the heart and soul for social and business activities within Sacramento's vast Italian community.





# Please patronize our paesanos





## JUNE SAMPLER

Last month brought many happy occasions—with elegant settings, lively music and great food—to the Dante Event Center



Our renovated banquet rooms offer customers a way to celebrate their special events, whether the occasions call for colorful mariachi entertainment or loving family remembrances. Beautifully prepared food, of course, is a given at the Dante.



## 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).