



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ron Pane

Members inspire pride in our club

I was recently thinking about what makes the Dante Club unique. We all share our Italian heritage and the pride we take in that, but it's our collective body that makes the club vibrant. It's our members and our potential for greatness that make me feel proud to be the club president.

Being a member in good standing, however, comes with responsibilities. To make the Dante Club the best it can be, our members must be involved at multiple levels—from the maintenance of our facility to attending and participating in club events.

The beauty of being involved with the club is that members have all kinds of options. If heavy lifting isn't someone's forte, perhaps they're good with a broom. If roofing isn't their thing, maybe they can wash windows.

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Dante Event Center on track for busy year of bookings

General manager Jennifer Peretti reports that the Dante Event Center continues to thrive.

"April was an exceptional month for the event center," she said. "We had many events go off without a hitch, adding to our success in helping us make our mark in the Sacramento area."

Forty-four weddings are officially booked for 2021 and six are booked for 2022, with more wedding inquiries coming in daily.

In addition to weddings, the center has received numerous calls for graduation parties, celebrations for high school students and medical residencies, birthday parties, business meetings, anniversaries and celebrations of life.

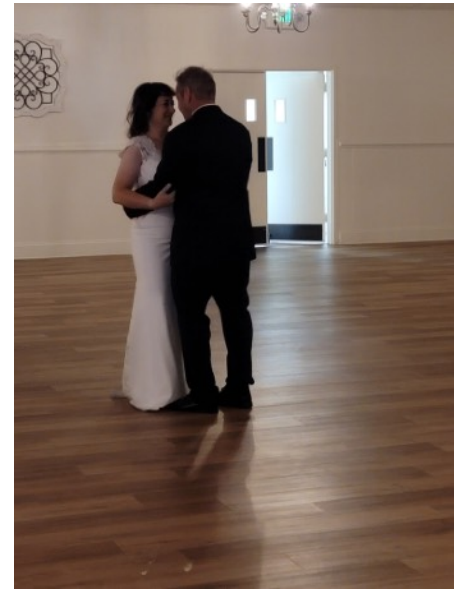
More local organizations are expressing interest in returning to the Dante Event Center for their monthly meetings. The Jazz Cooperative, for example, will officially return in July.

The center's recently installed outdoor tent and garden area are operational, Peretti said, and a few functions have been held there already. With the help of Ron Pane and George Procida, additional landscaping is planned to enhance the area.

The Sunday Family Dinner has increased in popularity as more events and meetings return indoors. The club hopes to receive ongoing support from members as well as the community into 2022 and beyond.

With the growing interest in the Dante Event Center, the board of directors in May approved a staff expansion, with the addition of an event coordinator and banquet captain.

A hiring committee consisting of Peretti, executive chef Jonathan Diaz,



A newly married couple enjoy a dance at their May 21 wedding reception at the Dante Event Center.

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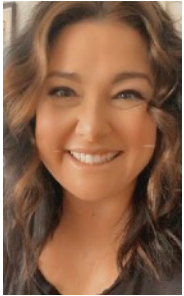


NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

At the May 10 meeting of the advisory and finance committee, Dante Event Center general manager Jennifer Peretti reported that inquiries and event bookings are increasing substantially, with weddings and other bookings extending into 2022.

Peretti and club treasurer Tom Mezzanares said April showed a net profit for the center of more than \$19,000.



Maggie Mae Licastro

Peretti reported that an event coordinator, Maggie Mae Licastro, has been hired to help with the high volume of events. Peretti also shared the format of a profitability report that will be used to track revenue and expenditures for prior months' events. The information will be shared monthly with the advisory committee and the board as part of her report on business profitability.

Peretti also is implementing an evaluation process that will help measure customer satisfaction with the Dante Event Center experience. The results will be shared monthly with advisory and the board.

An open house event for the business community is scheduled for June.

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, and club president Ron Pane reported on progress in resolving remaining facility

issues. Repairing and painting the Magpie School area, installing a metal gate at the facility entrance, extending electricity to the outdoor tent and bocce courts and repairing the center roof are among the club's top maintenance priorities.

Peretti will work with Tomassilli and Pane to develop and implement a weekly facility monitoring report to identify maintenance problems so that they can be quickly corrected. She will report her findings to the advisory committee and the board each month.

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 June meeting.

Entertainment committee

Mike Alberghini, head football coach at Grant High School from 1969 to 2021, will be the guest speaker at this month's members meeting, according to entertainment committee leaders Jim Dimino and Rich Battistessa.

Over his 52-year tenure at Grant, Alberghini established a 282-win record, making him the winningest coach in Sac-Joaquin Section history. The almost 300 wins earned Grant seven section titles, 17 league championships and a playoff berth for 27 consecutive years. The school

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UPCOMING DINNERS

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

June 6

Sunday Family Dinner

To-Go Meal Pickup: 3 to 4 p.m.

Indoor Service: 4 p.m.

Menu: Caesar salad, beef or cheese ravioli with marinara sauce, seasonal vegetables, French bread rolls with butter, chocolate chip cookies

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 ages 12 or younger; wine for purchase

Reserve by midnight Tuesday, June 1.

June 14

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Indoor Service: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: Strawberry mixed green salad with onions, feta and cucumbers; dinner rolls with butter; seasonal vegetables; roasted pork chops; mushroom risotto; spumoni

Cost: \$18 per person

To reserve, members should call Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266 by midnight Tuesday, June 8.

June 21

Members Meeting Night Dinner

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

Menu: Caesar salad, garlic herb chicken, rigatoni with bolognese sauce, seasonal vegetables, French bread rolls with butter, vanilla panna cotta

Cost: \$18 per person

Reserve by midnight Tuesday, June 15.

UPCOMING: Mark Your Calendar

- **July 4:** Canceled for holiday
- **July 19:** Members and guests barbecue
- **Aug. 1:** Sunday Family Dinner



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

Ralph DiLibero, chairman; vacant, vice chairman

Member: 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

Club 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
- Tom Novi, first vice president:
tomnovi@aol.com
- Patrick Orelli, second vice president,
pat@apcpagroup.com
- Dan Calcagno, secretary:
dmcalcagno@aol.com
- 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
- 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



Bocce practice underway, and indoor dining returns this month

The Ladies Auxiliary held its first bocce practice on May 11.

Twenty members showed up to learn the basics of the game from committee heads Debra Duccini and Jodie Maita.

The weather was hot, but, fortunately, the Dante Event Center's beautiful backyard area provided a lot of shade.

Teams will start practicing their bocce skills at 6 p.m. every Tuesday.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

Our May pickup dinner was canceled as not enough members participated.

However, we're happy to announce that we'll have an in-person member dinner meeting on June 14. Our dinners will now cost \$18, with the opportunity to purchase more raffle tickets.

Members will hear from their callers regarding their RSVPs.

Because the meal will be on Flag Day, we will decorate with American and Italian flags. There also will be a contest for the member who is dressed in the most patriotic manner.

We are still collecting pull tabs for the Ronald McDonald House. Members can bring their collections to our June meeting. Hope to see everyone there!

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@stfrancis.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

Our namesake Dante Alighieri influenced the language of Italy

By Ralph DiLibero

A remarkable strip of land with an ancient central mountain range fractured at its tip, somewhat resembling a boot kicking a soccer ball, boldly juts out into the Mediterranean Sea. Ancient Oscan-speaking people named the

peninsula Víteliú, which was long ago translated by Latin and Umbrian languages to mean "The Land of Young Cattle."

The name Italia was eventually given to the greater land mass. Latin became the predominant language until about 700

years ago, when a statesman, poet and political theorist of the late Middle Ages inspired a cultural-linguistic revolution.

From his 1265 birth in Florence to his 1321 death in Ravenna, this poet laureate known as

Dante Alighieri gave birth to the Italian Renaissance.

He took hold of the spoken vernacular in the Tuscany region of Italia and introduced his scripted verses into the eloquent literature of the

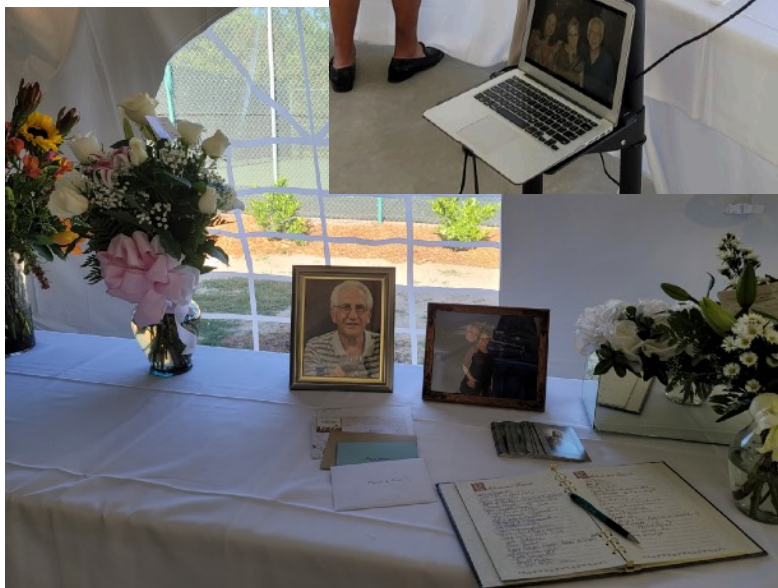
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REMEMBERING A FRIEND

Friends and family paid tribute

May 7 to Johnny Rosso, a longtime Dante Club member who died April 16. A special memorial service featuring photos, tributes and other remembrances of him was held at the Dante Event Center. Over the years, Johnny Rosso was involved with the Dante Club in many capacities, including with last year's labor-intensive building remodeling project. Members are asked to continue to hold the Rosso family in their thoughts and prayers.



*Rest in peace,
Johnny Rosso*

Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

club treasurer Tom Mezzanares and board member Rich Battistessa conducted several interviews and found someone they believe is the perfect fit for the team: Maggie Mae Licastro.

Licastro grew up in Sacramento and later lived near Austin, Texas, where she worked in the event planning industry for years.

She returned to the Sacramento area with her two children in 2019. She started her new position at the Dante Event Center at the end of May.

"We are excited to have her join our team," Peretti said. "We hope that if you see Maggie around the club, you will introduce yourself."

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Options, options, options.

We have all kinds of options with our club events, too—family activities, member meetings, bocce games and a variety of feeds, such as cioppino, sausage and crab.

Members even have the option to host a family function of their own at the Dante Event Center.

What makes these events memorable is good Italian cuisine at a fair price—but also, and most importantly, the camaraderie.

That's priceless.

In my opinion, our members' support of the Dante Club makes it the finest Italian club in the greater Sacramento area.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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stadium bears Alberghini's name.

Alberghini's presentation will feature stories and anecdotes from his long career.

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

Membership update

In May the Dante Club installed two new members, Paul Jacobs and Daniel Dalfonso.

Jacobs was voted in many months ago but was unable to attend previously. Dalfonso was voted in and inducted during our April gathering. Both will work at the members meeting welcome desk this month. Members are encouraged to introduce themselves.

In May we also interviewed Carl DeNigris and Andrea Danovaro, who received glowing support from the committee. Members accepted both on May 17.

The club has 252 regular and associate members and 31 lifetime members, but only 75 attended dinner. Our facilities have been revitalized, our website has been updated, and our new manager is attracting many new events and helping bring former groups back. It's time for more members to attend our events. In the past, 120 and more people commonly filled the room.

Eight candidates were on the waiting list for membership until May, when three applications were submitted. The applicants are Brooks Novi (Tom is stacking the ranks with his sons), Jim Di Pinto (sponsor Ralph DiLibero) and Aaron Patella (John Patella's son).

The membership committee will try to interview at least six candidates in June—all 11 if possible—so they can be installed in September or October.

We always have room for energetic, involved Italians to join forces with the rest of us. Please keep the applications coming. Forms are available on the website, in the event center office or from any committee member—Robert Guidera, Frank Calcagno, Pat Orelli or Dan Calcagno.

Members who have paid their 2021 club dues should have received membership cards. If not, they should let us know. Four mailings have been marked "returned to sender" so we also need updates if any member information has changed, such as mailing and email addresses and phone numbers.

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.

Bocce update

Competition was fierce on the Dante Club bocce courts May 8, with the cousins Zarzana (George and Richard) giving Frank Bartucco and Steve Levezzo a scare with an 11 to 9 loss in the first round. Rich Battistessa and Dennis Noble came from 4 down to win by 7 in a match with Tom Mathews and Doug Troughton.

In the finals, Battistessa and Noble lost to Bartucco and Levezzo 11 to 10, with Big Frank rolling some great deep corner shots. The Cousins Z won their final match, 11 to 0. Great fun!

Ladies Auxiliary members also have taken to the courts, with Tuesday as their designated day. The men play Saturday.

We now have a schedule for league play. The bocce committee encourages men and women to come out and enjoy the courts. During our last season, several members who had never played bocce before became some of our best rollers.

Several social bocce sessions are planned. Details

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News, Notes and Otherwise

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are forthcoming. We also will organize teams for a June kick-off.

Competition is great as we get ready for league play. Watch emails for details on upcoming matches.

Our Dante Club bocce spies have seen Nick Canepa and Larry Otten training during the off-season at East Portal Park. Now that's dedication!

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.

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. Lauren is heading to San Diego State University.

Julia Novi, granddaughter of Tom Novi and a graduate of Amador Valley High School, also is a scholarship winner. 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 academic and extracurricular accomplishments in high school and civic organizations. We wish them the best as they head off to college.

New committee

Matt Longo and his newly formed outreach committee are looking for innovative ways to inform members of events and activities at the club. Longo will use email and text messaging and is researching the availability of 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: 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 \$3,414.07, to date:

- Richard and Dianna Battistessa, \$200
- Lee Bennett, in memory of Shirley Pasquini Bennett, \$500
- John Bertoni, \$100
- 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

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 heritage gift that provides the club with financial support 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.

**Dante**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

time in the form of a new Italian language. The Italian nation has since designated the day of his birth, March 25, as an annual memorial to his contributions.

Dante Alighieri, considered the father of the Italian language, not only changed the language to what is used in modern times but also inspired the creative works of many writers, artists and musicians in the centuries since he lived and worked.

Dante's most famous work, *Divine Comedy*, a narrative poem imagining the afterlife of Heaven and Hell, was first translated into American English by Thomas William Parsons in the mid-1800s.

Poet Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, founder of the first Dante Club in the United States, completed the most notable translation of Dante's scripted verses.

Decades later, in the 1960s, an Italian-American immigrant poet, John Ciardi, was among many other translators of *Divine Comedy*.

The Dante Club of Sacramento is privileged to be able to boast of its national and international heritage. The club likewise pays homage to the accomplishments of Italian-American immigrants who have lived in the Sacramento area from the time of the Gold Rush.

Ninety percent of the 300,000 western-bound prospectors who

rushed to Sacramento to seek their fortunes from pan-mining in 1849 were immigrants. And mores were different then. Indigenous peoples were subjected to mass public executions, and 11 Italians were in the single largest immigrant group to experience the same.

Between 1880 and 1914, more than four million immigrants left that ancient land of Víteliú to sail across the Atlantic, searching for opportunity. They faced many obstacles of prejudice and hostility, but they retained their belief in friendship and fraternity as they sought happiness and success in a new land. As Dante Alighieri wrote, "We cannot have a perfect life without friends."

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

