



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Ron Pane

Facility set to face the future in style

I'm delighted to report that the Dante Event Center is on its way to a great 2021.

The building has been brought up to 21st century standards, sporting sparkling new interior and exterior improvements, upgrades and decorative features.

Cutting-edge equipment is now housed in the kitchen and throughout the facility.

On top of that, we have a new management team, including a new chef who has developed a new menu.

A new pricing structure is in place as well.

We also have a redesigned website that I encourage our members and friends to visit.

Lastly, I have a little secret that's about to make its debut. Keep your eyes open for changes at our bocce courts.

Soon we'll have a 40-foot-by-60-foot tent, which is under construction now.

See **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**, Page 5



Newlyweds dive into the standard cake-eating ritual during a recent wedding in a newly redecorated Dante banquet room.



A DJ sets the mood for a wedding at the Dante Club.

Year off to a strong start with multiple event bookings

The Dante Club's Sunday night dinners have proved successful, with more than 100 meals sold each night.

The Sunday family dinner for next month has been moved a week — to April 11 — in honor of Easter. The Ladies Auxiliary has returned with a bang, logging 110 meal orders on Feb. 8.

We hope to continue the success of our to-go meals while businesses are slowly reopening throughout Sacramento.

The Allied Arts Club, a longstanding luncheon group founded in 1935, has returned for its monthly meetings at the Dante Club, and we've received word from several other organizations of their intended return as well.

Among them are the Sacramento chapter of the Real Estate Appraisers Association, the Sacramento chapter of the American Public Works Association and the Sacramento

See **BOOKINGS**, Page 5



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

The advisory committee has been meeting jointly with the board during these trying COVID-19 times.

Progress has been made in the purchase and installation of an event center tent to be installed in the grassy area near the bocce courts.

The tent has been delivered, but pouring the concrete foundation has been delayed because of recent inclement weather. As soon as the rain gods choose to cooperate, club president Ron Pane and his crew will install the base.

As promised last month, the Dante Club website redesign has been completed. Take a look, everyone! It's an excellent improvement over the previous website.

Our general manager, Jennifer Peretti, continues to book weddings and other special events at our facility.

Efforts to bring former breakfast and luncheon service clubs and business groups back to the Dante Club has been slowed because the groups haven't been meeting regularly during the pandemic.

As we return to more normal times, we expect many of the groups to return.

Members have strongly supported our Sunday family and member take-home dinners, offering many positive comments about the quality of the meals and the modest prices.

Anyone who hasn't participated in the takeout dinner program should consider it. Menus and ordering instructions are on the website.

Finally, we encourage all members who are able to contribute to the Dante Club's Legacy and Scholarship Funds to support our facility, as well as the college careers of our children and grandchildren.

In memoriam

Steve Beneto, a Dante Club member and the founder of Beneto Tank Lines in West Sacramento, died Jan. 7.

A former club member, Robert Beckley Sr., died Jan. 16.

Members are asked to keep the Beneto and Beckley families in their thoughts and prayers.

Bylaws in print

Our revised club bylaws are being printed. Hard copies will be available when regular meetings resume.

Members also can get a copy at the Dante Club or request one via email from Tom Mezzanares at tjmezzan@gmail.com.

Club apparel

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts for men, women and children.

To order clothing items, send an email to Mark Pedroncelli, peddc@surewest.net.

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

March 14

Ladies Auxiliary Monday Night To-Go Dinner

Meal Pickup: 3 to 6 p.m.

Menu: Raspberry mixed green salad, corned beef brisket with braised cabbage and boiled potatoes, rolls and butter, fudge brownies with mint frosting

Cost: \$18 for to-go food service

To reserve, auxiliary members should call Debra Cattuzzo at 916-442-2266 by Tuesday, March 9.

March 15

Members Monthly To-Go Dinner

Meal Pickup: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Strawberry mixed green salad, roasted asparagus, Tuscan roasted vegetable and pork tenderloin, cheddar polenta cakes, panna cotta, rolls with sweet butter

Cost: \$18 per person for to-go service; no limit on order quantity; wine available for purchase

Reserve and pay online or call 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, March 9. Pickup in 15-minute increments; space limited.

April 11

Sunday Family To-Go Dinner

Meal Pickup: 3 to 7 p.m.

Menu: Housemade garlic bread, Italian lentil soup, roasted asparagus, chicken or vegetarian cacciatore, fudge brownies

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

Reserve and pay online or call 916-925-8230 by midnight Tuesday, April 6. Pickup in 15-minute increments; space limited.



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



Pickup dinner attracts 110 orders from hungry members

The Ladies Auxiliary's first to-go dinner at the club on Feb. 8 was a success, with 49 members ordering 110 dinners.

Of course, we must mention members who ordered multiple meals. Tina Suine Cates ordered seven dinners, and Elaine Schadler ordered six. And BeBe Leverini Wright ordered 10 dinners, donating three to the Sisters of Mercy. How generous!

Thanks so much to all members who ordered. The pickup went smoothly, with no wait time. The best part? Our board members got to see some of our auxiliary members.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

The night was a huge success, and the raffle winners were very excited to win.

The grand prize, an Instapot, went to Ann Zacharias, a member of the Balliamo Dancers who performed for us at the February 2020 dinner meeting.

Ann saw that our group was so fun, she joined the Dante Club right away. She said she had been wanting to try an Instapot.

Other prize winners were Tina Cates, who won a darling Italian shopping bag; Carole Orelli, who won a beautiful leather framed clock; Debbie Hansen, who won a bangle bracelet; Jan Matthews, who won a bottle of Prosecco; Phyllis Keilholz, who won an electric kettle; and Darlene Ryan, who won lavender soap and hand cream.

I want to acknowledge and thank Sharon Taylor, who gave us a baggie full of soda can pull tabs. Don't forget to save those pull tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

See LADIES AUXILIARY, Page 5

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



Ladies Auxiliary board members who assisted with the Feb. 8 dinner pickup, were, first row from left, co-treasurers Debbie Hansen and Tina Bowers, co-vice president Helen Pierson and secretary Judy Farina; and, top row from left, president Debra Cattuzzo and board members Rosemary Micciche and Sandy Calcagno.

Ladies Auxiliary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I've started collecting the pull tabs from soup cans, chili cans and cat and dog food cans. They're even larger than other pull tabs and will add weight.

But be very careful pulling off the tabs, as it's easy to cut your fingers. I have!

Some of these cans are made of steel, but most are made of aluminum.

See LADIES AUXILIARY, Page 8

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Many thanks to lifetime Dante Club member George Procida, who has donated his time and skills to making this a reality for us.

The Dante Event Center has quickly become an exciting venue where the community can hold special events and enjoy our beautiful Sacramento weather.

Wishing you all a happy, healthy 2021!

Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Jazz Cooperative. We hope many more groups return to our facility as businesses reopen.

We have 35 weddings on the books for 2021 and three for 2022. Inquiries continue to come in daily.

We also have 33 other special events, including memorials and birthday parties, on the calendar.

Many inquiries have rolled in through word of mouth referrals, and tours of our beautifully upgraded facility have been occurring weekly.

We have received two five-star reviews from recent customers who were impressed by the Dante Club's excellent service, attractive facilities and overall ability to make their dream events a reality.

"With our continuing push of online marketing, we hope to keep the good name of the Dante Club and the Dante Event Center spreading throughout the Sacramento area," said general manager Jennifer Peretti.

Our recently revamped website (www.danteclub.com) is officially live.

Members who haven't visited it yet are encouraged to do so.

The website has undergone a complete redesign, with Americans With Disabilities Act compliance in mind.

The site also features updated pictures and information.

"We hope the improved website will boost business and inquiries," Peretti said.



Discriminatory racism toward immigrants institutionalized

By Ralph DiLibero

Before the time of the 1929 Wall Street fiasco, migratory economics twisted the ethics of national prejudice once again.

Previously successful immigrants became jobless ghetto dwellers in big American cities.

The migratory economics of such inner-city crowding and joblessness promoted an

economic correction: a systemic prejudicial eugenics movement.

Psychologist Henry H. Goddard, an overly ambitious Moses Brown Prep School graduate who attended Haverford College and sought a psychology degree at Clark University, championed a despicable suppression of economic advancement.

In 1912, he and two assistants used a fraudulent intelligence-testing program to determine a “scientific” need for deportation of immigrants.

Goddard’s methodology veered from the “healthy versus not healthy” determinations formerly made by the physicians on Ellis Island.

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News, Notes and Otherwise

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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

New lighting for the front of the Dante Event Center building has been installed. Members are encouraged to visit at night to see what a difference the lighting makes aesthetically.

In the meantime, help is needed to help us maintain our luxurious new facility. We plan to do ongoing preventive maintenance to avoid major repair work in the future.

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

Annual dues due

The 2021 member dues of \$100 were due Jan. 31. Payment can be made on the Dante Club website at <https://danteclub.com/2021-membership-dues/>. To pay by check, make payable to the Dante Club and mail to: Dante Club of Sacramento; Attn. Tom Mezzanares,

treasurer; 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.; Sacramento, CA 95825. Or pay in person by cash, check or credit card.

New committee

The advisory committee has established an entertainment committee responsible for bringing guest speakers and performers to special events. The committee, led by Rich Battistessa, includes members Dan Calcagno, Ralph DiLibero and Jim Dimino.

Look for a slate of guest speakers to coincide with indoor events.

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.

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

The club is looking at a late March (weather permitting) opportunity to roll a few bocce balls once again. A plan is in the works, and we trust that good health practices will prevail.

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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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Newsletter marketing

Dante's Inferno coordinator John Caselli offers his personal 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.

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 ability to hold the annual cioppino dinner also looks unlikely. These two events are our major fundraisers for the scholarship fund.

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

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

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

2021 Legacy Building Fund

Many thanks to members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary who have contributed to the 2021 Legacy Building Fund this year, for a total of \$1,800 to date:

- Richard and Dianna Battistessa, \$200
- John and Kelly Procida, \$100
- Janet Mathews, in memory of Bonnie Stuto, \$100
- Janet Mathews, in memory of Charles Stuto, \$100
- John Bertoni, \$100
- James Riolo, \$100
- Matthew Longo, in memory of Joseph John Longo, \$1,000
- John Caselli, \$100

Contributions to the 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 would like to make such a gift or inform us if they've already done so can email Dante Club treasurer Tom Mezzanara at tjmezzan@gmail.com.

Racism

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

Goddard publicized flawed data and criteria such as head circumference, facial width and facial expression to prove genetic inferiority.

Goddard introduced words such as moron, imbecile and idiot into the medical literature.

Those affected were mostly Jews, Slavs and Italians, who had been productive in their industrial employments.

Suddenly, they were considered a genetically inferior immigrant menace.

The immigration center then decided that 80% of these people were mentally deficient based on their national origin and criminally falsified medical criteria.

Thus, racism became an accepted political reality in the 20th century.

The prejudicial line of reasoning was a harbinger of hate used to give one group an economic advantage over another.

President Woodrow Wilson had the chance to oppose segregation practices that fostered generational societal impoverishment, such as separate schools, separate public toilets and drinking fountains and separate entrances to some stores for people of color.

But he looked the other way and chose not to.

The 1857 Dred Scott decision was negated in 1886, allowing American citizens of color to

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**Racism**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

vote, but Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896 legalized separate accommodations.

The 1886 Chinese Exclusion Scott Act was also passed during the term of President Grover Cleveland. Not until 75 years later, during the term of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, did the Supreme Court outlaw school segregation, and 10 years later, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 became President John F. Kennedy's legacy.

Ladies Auxiliary

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In the recycle symbol, it will say steel if it's a steel can. If it just says recycle, it's likely made of aluminum.

Remember, if you need help pulling the tabs off saved cans, please call me at (916) 442-2266. I will come to your house and do it for you or pick up your cans.

Throughout the pandemic, I have saved quite a few tabs.

While picking up their dinners, many of our members took a quick tour through the

newly remodeled Dante Event Center and met the new general manager, Jennifer Peretti.

Jennifer is adept at managing the pickup dinners. She told me the center has booked more than 30 weddings and other events for the coming year.

The club also is installing a concrete pad for a beautiful tent that can hold as many as 200 people for outdoor weddings and events.

Take a moment, grab a mask and stop by to see the new digs. I will be so happy when we can get

back inside for our meetings.

To avoid our next dinner falling on the Monday after the men's Sunday night dinner, our next pickup dinner will be on Sunday, March 14.

For those observing Lent, Sunday is a great day to eat what you want. Save the date!

We will once again award raffle prizes. When I receive the menu, I will send out a notice.

Happy St. Patrick's Day to everyone!

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

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

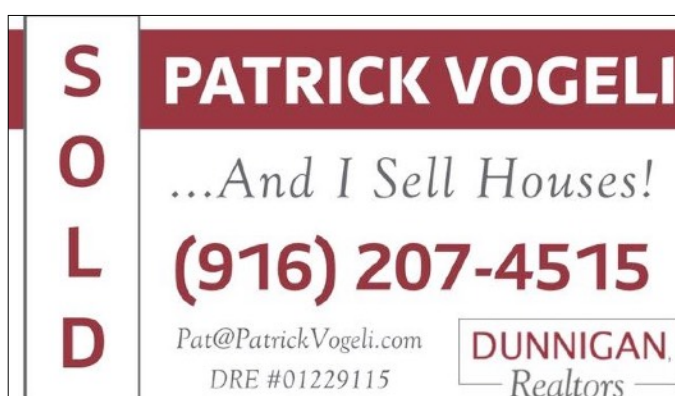
Submit photos and news items for Dante's Inferno to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your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

