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Legacy Fund!**

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

### *Keeping club connection strong takes commitment*

Reading Ralph DiLibero's piece on the Italian experience in America for this month's *Inferno*, I was reminded of one of the things I hold dear about the Dante Club: the connection to those who came to Sacramento and started our organization back in 1926.

I don't dwell on it often (maybe I should), but it's hard to imagine that my dad's family left Calabria in 1905 and settled here in 1915—106 years ago. I wonder what Sacramento looked like in 1915.

My family's connection to Sacramento and the Dante Club runs deep, spanning three generations. I feel a real bond with both my biological family and my club family that I don't find elsewhere.

It's a big part of who I am. As my grandmother used to say: It's in my DNA.

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



Elegance reigns Sept. 10 in the Dante Event Center's Sicilian Room for an engagement party, one of many recent events.

## **Bookings bonanza and a baby: That was the August that was**

**A**ugust 2021 was one for the record books at the Dante Event Center.

After immense marketing efforts, great customer service and lots of word of mouth by event center staff, this August was one of the first in years to be profitable, according to general manager Jennifer Peretti.

The event center hosted 24 events throughout the month, including weddings, baby showers,

birthday parties, engagement parties and two charity events.

"We are so excited to see where things will lead us in the future," Peretti said.

Peretti reports that September and October are "jam-packed months," with the return of monthly meetings of local organizations, as well as many bookings for weddings, anniversaries, celebrations of life and conferences.

Peretti not only managed all this

See BOOKINGS, Page 5



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committee met Sept. 8 to review Dante Event Center operations, the club's financial condition and the status of facility repairs and renovations.

General manager Jennifer Peretti discussed business activity and bookings. The 25 August events were profitable, she reported.

She said a substantial number of events have been booked for September, and more events are coming in daily.

She also said customer reviews have averaged 4.4 stars out of 5, making the month positive in terms of business and customer satisfaction. Peretti also said nearly every weekend is booked through the end of the year.

The Tuscan Room air conditioning compressor had to be replaced at a cost of \$9,600. Event center maintenance continues as a high priority, with weekly inspections and repairs.

Peretti also reviewed her plans to monitor and manage the event center during her upcoming pregnancy leave.

The committee reviewed and approved the Dante Club policy manual update for presentation to the board.

### Buildings and grounds

The buildings and grounds committee has recommended removal of a tree near the bocce courts, which an arborist found to be failing, at a cost of \$2,000.

A new awning for the Magpie School was requested, at a cost of \$1,263. The current awning is tearing and cannot be repaired. Both items were approved.

A mulberry on the event center grounds was cut into 18-inch lengths and offered to members at no charge. A new awning will be installed by Oct. 31.

Rain gutters and gutter guards for the back of the Magpie School, at a cost of \$2,530, were requested and approved, but installation will be delayed until the earth behind the building can be graded to ensure that water runoff drains away from the building and parking lot.

All expenditures were based on a consideration of multiple bids.

The treasurer's report was positive for business activity, profitability and the club's overall fiscal condition.

### Bylaws in print

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

### Club apparel

The Dante Club has expanded its opportunity to brand items with the club logo. Working with Julie Brown at Premier Graph-x, we can brand many items, including hats, men's and women's T-shirts, jackets and aprons, in an array of colors.

Items can be ordered online. Visit the club website or click here: [danteclub.shopgraphx.com](http://danteclub.shopgraphx.com).

Members also may contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net).

Call Julie Brown at 916-787-0603 or, for special orders, email her at [julie@premieregraphx.net](mailto:julie@premieregraphx.net).



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

### October 14

#### Stag Sausage Feed

**Times:** 5 to 9 p.m.

**Menu:** Mixed green salad; Italian sausages and bratwurst; sauerkraut, peppers, onions and mushrooms; rigatoni with marinara; seasonal vegetables; spumoni

**Cost:** \$25 per person  
*Reserve by midnight  
Tuesday, Oct. 5.*

### October 18

#### Members Dinner and Meeting

**Times:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Caesar salad, ravioli trio (beef, cheese and mushroom), roasted zucchini and squash, dinner rolls with butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$18 per member  
*Reserve by midnight  
Tuesday, Oct. 12.*

### November 15

#### Members Dinner and Meeting

**Times:** 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Minestrone soup, caprese chicken with rigatoni and marinara sauce, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$18 per member  
*Reserve by midnight  
Tuesday, Nov. 9.*



# 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)



## September meeting features good food, new member welcome

After our summer break, 100 Ladies Auxiliary members attended the September dinner meeting. We enjoyed a delicious lentil soup and a scrumptious chicken cacciatore with polenta.

Five new members were added since our last meeting in June: Norma Cappello, Susan Quiarte, Lindsay DeFazio, Susan Pricoo and Judy Agaccio Skillicorn.

We discussed the mercado planned for our Oct. 11 dinner meeting. Please note that our annual calendar shows the mercado in November, but it's actually in October. We've lost some of our regular vendors this year, including the biscotti lady and the jam vendor.

I ask members to seek out new vendors who can display their wares. They may contact me, Debra Cattuzzo, at 916-442-2266 or [cattuzzod@gmail.com](mailto:cattuzzod@gmail.com).

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

*Debra Cattuzzo*

There's no cost to be a vendor, but we ask that vendors donate a prize of at least a \$20 value to the raffle. I'll help vendors set up tables and electrical plugs as needed.

Players and volunteers are needed for the Dante Club's annual Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament on Monday, Oct. 25.

If you want to play in the tournament, go to the Dante Club website and sign up. If you'd like to volunteer to help at this event, email Richard Battitessa at [drbattitessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattitessa@comcast.net).

Dante Club board member Tom Novi and his wife, owners of the midtown Sacramento gift store Mixed Bag, have invited the Ladies Auxiliary to an evening of

shopping at the store at 25th and K streets.

On Oct. 28, auxiliary members are invited to enjoy a glass of Prosecco at the store while they peruse the aisles. They'll also receive a 15% discount on their purchases.

Mixed Bag offers jewelry, candles, lotions, kitchen towels, mugs, baby items and many other delightful and fun gifts. It's a great opportunity to get some early Christmas shopping done!

Thank you to Ann Zacharias and Marissa Barone for delivering pull tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

A few members won lovely prizes during the September raffle. Marissa Barone won a salad bowl with stainless-steel tongs and a kitchen dish towel, and guest Laverne Suine won an olive oil and champagne vinegar

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### LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, co-president: [cattuzzod@gmail.com](mailto:cattuzzod@gmail.com)
- Carole Stefani Chivaro, co-president: [cchivaro2@aol.com](mailto:cchivaro2@aol.com)
- Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice president: [hpveneman@yahoo.com](mailto:hpveneman@yahoo.com)
- Helen Manfredi Pierson, co-vice president: [helen@medicambulance.net](mailto:helen@medicambulance.net)
- Tina Luchini Bowers, co-treasurer: [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: [nadoyle@stfrancisshs.org](mailto:nadoyle@stfrancisshs.org)

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





## Club members share their origin tales

By Ralph DiLibero

**S**tories abound of Dante Club members' immigrant family migrations to the Sacramento area. These wonderful stories are worth sharing.

The Caselli family, for example, were among many travelers from Northern Tuscany who made their way here.

The pure water of the Serchio River flowed from the Northern Tuscan hills to the picturesque foothills of rolling vineyards and olive groves north of Lucca, through the region of Pisa and then into the Mediterranean Sea.

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Eleina Marie Peretti

### Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

success in her job at the Dante Event Center, but she also managed to welcome a new addition to the Peretti family at the same time.

Eleina Marie Peretti was born at 2:08 a.m. Sept. 16, weighing 6 pounds, 18 ounces and measuring 19.25 inches.

Mom and baby are happy and healthy.

### September

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set from iLeoni in Petaluma. Other winners were Cathy Agostinelli, who won a free dinner for October; Judy Kaminski, who won a maroon scarf; Sharon Helton, who won \$10; Harriet Lamana, who won a marble-base wine holder with a bottle of De Loach cabernet; and a guest, who won a lavender and vanilla candle and essence set.

In addition, Sandy Calcago won a bottle of merlot from my cousin Robert Marani's vineyard in the Aptos region.

Our bingo caller extraordinaire Gloria Tomei was unable to attend the meeting, so we were left without a caller. We were going to do it ourselves, without the funny jokes, but we couldn't find the bingo balls.

So I had to do some fast talking in an attempt to entertain our group. We sang happy birthday to those who'd had summer birthdays, and a few members told jokes and sang songs. I hope everyone had a fun time!

### President's Corner

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This connection is what makes our club unique. As with all relationships, though, you have to work at maintaining it and keeping it strong.

You get out of it what you put into it.

Beyond the obvious opportunities to do this, such as attending our members dinners and special events like the upcoming sausage feed, there are a slew of other opportunities, large and small.

For instance, you could consider becoming a board member when elections are held in November.

You could give a few bucks to the Legacy Fund or help Ernie Tomassilli and his crew maintain the building.

You could invite a potential new member to our annual golf tournament on Oct. 25.

Bottom line: You have many, many ways to help strengthen your connection to the club. It would be shame to let your connection break down.

After meeting recently with our general manager, Jennifer Peretti, I'm proud to report that special-event bookings at the Dante Event Center over the next 15 months are strong.

Our reputation as a premier event center continues to grow.

Congratulations to Jennifer and her team, which now includes her new daughter, Eleina, born at 2:08 a.m. Sept. 16, right after the bar closed.

I look forward to seeing all of you at the Stag Sausage Feed on Oct. 14.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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**Bocce wrap-up**

Seven teams and more than 30 players met Saturday mornings for competition and fun during the Dante Club's recently finished spring and summer bocce season.

Level of play and knowledge of the game have greatly improved among those who participated.

The club looks forward to more rollers joining our fall league. It's a great way to get to know fellow members and have a fantastic Italian experience. Our tentative start date is Oct. 9.

For more information, contact Rich Battistessa. Novices and experienced rollers alike are encouraged to get involved.

**Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament**

Volunteer help is needed to ensure the success of the annual Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament on Oct. 25.

Members can support the fundraiser by assembling foursomes to play in the tournament, sponsoring holes on the golf course or working at the event.

Members can sign up foursomes and sponsor holes on the Dante website. They also can donate prizes for a raffle that will be drawn during the tournament luncheon. Contact Frank Buccola or Rich Battistessa to offer assistance.

The tournament benefits our scholarship fund, one of our most important programs. Through the fund, we help graduates with their college expenses.

**Membership update**

After the summer break, the membership committee has swung open the doors for new faces coming into the club—and several more on the way.

The September general meeting saw the induction of Joe Bonacci, sponsored by Frank Calcagno, and Bill Zellars, sponsored by Bob DeNigris. They were inducted and introduced to attendees.

Candidates interviewed by the committee since June were included on a ballot for members' vote of acceptance.

These candidates and their sponsors were approved for induction at a future dinner: Gino Bartucco,

sponsored by George Procida; Jim Di Pinto, sponsored by Ralph DiLibero; Louie Lodi, sponsored by Ron Pane; Brooks and Jason Novi, sponsored by Tom Novi; Alex Orelli, sponsored by Pat Orelli; and Aaron Patella.

A few more candidates remain on the waiting list. Applications have been distributed to nine others expressing interest.

Members are asked to continue promoting our club to friends and to encourage application submission.

The forms are available for Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members on the website, in the club office or from membership committee members.

**Outreach committee**

Outreach committee chairman Matt Longo is developing innovative ways to aid member communication about club activities and needs.

Members can call or text him at 916-397-5869 with their names, email addresses and areas of interest and expertise, such as carpentry or cleanup.

He will compile the gathered information to create email and text notifications in the future.

**Newsletter marketing**

*Dante's Inferno* coordinator John Caselli reports that two companies have been added to the rapidly expanding list of newsletter advertisers.

They are Zellars Concrete and Fondazione Properities. Both are owned by Bill Zellars and Robert DeNigris. Zellars is a new member and DeNigris has been a member since the 1960s.

New advertisers are always welcome. Anyone interested can email Caselli at [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com).

**Save pull tabs**

Since Ron Cristoni challenged members to collect aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, we've collected more than 1,250 pounds' worth.

Proceeds help parents who can't afford to stay at the lodging place while their children are hospitalized at nearby University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento. The \$1,250 raised has paid

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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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for more than 60 nights of lodging.

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

**Drinks policy revisited**

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

**Legacy Building Fund**

Many thanks to these members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary for their generous contributions 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).





Vincenzo Caselli and Luigi Caffaro pose on Vincenzo's 88th birthday on Aug. 16, 1923.



Mary Chippo Poggi, Callia Chippo Mezzanares, Tom Mezzanares, Rena Mezzanares and Frank Mezzanares (grandfather of Dante Club treasurer Tom Mezzanares) gather at the Sacramento train station en route to San Francisco. They flew from San Francisco to New York, then traveled on the Queen Mary to Europe. Final destination: Piana degli Albanesi in Italy.

## Stories

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Italian peasant families from those regions, such as the Casellis, began their American experience on the East Coast in cities such as New York and Boston, but they soon sought opportunity across the continent.

In 1849, the California Gold Rush was underway, but the transcontinental railroad wasn't yet completed.

So Italian immigrants with their eyes on San Francisco or the gold mines of Sonora had to take long and circuitous routes, including through Central America.

Vincenzo Caselli sailed through the Nicaragua straits in 1853, labored in the mines and then as a

gardener until he eventually unleashed his entrepreneurial spirit by purchasing 60 acres just outside of Sacramento.

Today, John Caselli, his great grandson, is editor of the *Dante's Inferno* newsletter.

Also from Lucca, Angelo and Angelina Casali migrated to New York in 1901.

The railroad brought a son, Giovanni, to California in 1934. A grandson, Jim, settled in Sacramento to become an accountant and building contractor.

By 1919, families migrating from the same region in Italy, such as the Novi family, had to pass through an immigration station at Ellis Island, migrate as far west as Michigan, then work as firemen or

engineer-mechanics for the transcontinental railroad to finally reach the neighborhoods of Roseville and Sacramento.

Many immigrants still faced incarceration during World War II

despite their hard-laboring sons joining the U.S. Army.

Second-generation Italian-Americans, such as Dante Club vice president Tom Novi, were blessed by their

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**DANTE CLUB**  
SACRAMENTO

**VIC MARTINELLI GOLF TOURNAMENT**



October 25th, 2021 | 9AM  
Four Person Scramble  
\$100.00 per player – Green Fees, Cart, Balls & Lunch to follow @ The Dante Club of Sacramento

**ANCIL HOFFMAN GOLF COURSE**

Register by October 18th, 2021  
Check or Card: Dante Club of Sacramento  
2330 Fair Oaks Blvd | Sacramento, CA | 95825  
916.925.8230 | [danteclub.com](http://danteclub.com)



**Stories**

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forefathers' efforts, giving them an educational leg up to attend colleges.

Most immigrants embarking from the port of Palermo in the 1880s, such as the Mezzanares family, first settled in New Orleans.

Before they could afford to start up their own independent business trades, they first had to find transitional jobs.

Railroad construction offered that opportunity, and Sacramento became a popular western final destination.

The immigrants settled in tenement apartments or flats—two- or three-story buildings with

as many as three bedrooms per flat.

Their first settled area in Sacramento, known as Alkali Flats, was bounded by the railroad station and tracks to the north, G Street to the south, 7th Street to the west and 12th Street to the south.

That growing population of Italian immigrants then ventured a few blocks farther south into a newer neighborhood called Mansion Flats.

Mezzanares family descendant Tom Mezzanares is our current Dante Club treasurer.

Many Italian Americans migrated to the Sacramento area from Sicily, along with Albanese and Arberesh immigrants, to work

on the Southern Pacific Railroad. Needing the ability to walk to work, they usually settled in the Alkali Flats neighborhood.

The Zuccaro family moved from San Jose to Sacramento's Mansion Flats at 23rd and D streets in 1924.

Family members were employed by Southern Pacific. The Zuccaro grandson, Richard Zuccaro, is a current Dante Club member.

Pat Orelli, a retired member of the Dante Club board who worked for many years as an accountant in Sacramento, is the great grandson of Agostino Orelli, who in 1852 emigrated from Ticino, Switzerland, via New

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## 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).



## Stories

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York to Georgetown.

Great grandfather Orelli then participated in three migrations across the Isthmus of Panama to San Francisco during the Gold Rush. He worked as a rancher, shopkeeper and mortician.

Pat Orelli's grandfather Orelli moved to Southern California and produced a Long Beach-born son, Christopher, who settled in Placerville.

Dante Club member Fred Pasquini's grandfather—also named Fred Pasquini, per Italian tradition—left Lucca in 1890 to eventually settle in Sacramento by way of New York in the early 1900s.

Fred Pasquini's maternal grandfather, Vito Scifo, left Piana

degli Albanesi and went first to New Orleans in the early 1900s, then to Chicago.

He finally settled at in a Front Street railroad flat in Sacramento, where he worked as a carpenter.

Grandfather Pasquini established a bar on 3rd Street between J and K streets. Father, known as "Nib," and mother Ann met in Sacramento and married in 1934.

Nib worked for Southern Pacific and later at Muzio Bakery. Ann taught elementary school. A sister, Marianne, also had a career in teaching.

Nib died at the early age of 43, leaving Ann to raise her two children alone.

Active club board member Ernie Tomassilli traces his family back 500 years to farm workers in

Pratola Peligna L'Aquila, Abruzzo, Italy.

His parents, Sebastiano Tomassilli and Luigia Bice Liberatore, married in 1930. Sebastiano traveled back and forth across the Atlantic to see his family, eventually settling in 1936 in Steubenville, Ohio, where he called for his wife and two siblings.

The men worked in a steel mill and joined a patriotic club, the Pratolana Mutual Benefit Society, that traveled to picnic spots and baseball games.

Born in Steubenville in 1944, Ernie Tomassilli moved to San Jose after serving in the U.S. Army. He pursued a career in medical sales for 30 years. He moved to Sacramento in 1988.

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Pane grandparents

**Stories**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

The club's Ron Pane traces his roots to brothers Antonio and Giuseppe Pane, who emigrated

from Panettiere, Calabria, to New York in 1905.

Giuseppe went on to Joliet, Ill., and Antonio returned to Italy to marry and then return to Joliet

in 1913 with his wife, Maria Melania. In 1915, a railroad job brought Giuseppe to Sacramento, where he produced six sons and one daughter. Son Julio had two sons, Ronnie and Paul, who found employment in the Sacramento criminal justice system. Ron is the current Dante Club president.

Antonio followed his brother to Sacramento in 1918, with six daughters and one son. Son John ran the Clover Club on Folsom Boulevard. Daughter Elizabeth

married Donald Waldron, producing a daughter, Marie, and a son, Johnny, who ran a barbershop. All the families still live near M and J streets.

Migration to Sacramento never really ended. I know of one Italian immigrant born near Cassino, Italy, who migrated to Providence, Rhode Island, in 1906 as an infant, and whose son migrated to Sacramento a century later, in 2006: Raffaello Giovanni DiLibero.

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