



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

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

### *Gardening: A perfect metaphor for club success*

As many of you know, gardening is one of my passions. I enjoy the entire process, from the soil prep to the planting and harvesting.

Sitting down to a plate of fresh caprese salad before a big Sunday night dinner is a true delicacy. I enjoy the fruits (and vegetables) of my labors.

I would not be able to partake of these seasonal treats, however, without a certain amount of toil.

I think the same applies to the success of our club, on several levels.

Without member support for the club and our new Dante Event Center and our fellow members, all of us would not be able to enjoy the benefits of being a part of the best Italian social club in the Sacramento area.

As I've mentioned many

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



A Sacramento Jazz Society concert honoring the music of Chet Baker drew interest in July at the Dante Event Center.

## **July, August defy usual odds for summer bookings at Dante**

**H**istorically, event bookings in July and August have been a struggle for the Dante Club. Not so this year.

With effective marketing, word of mouth, great customer service and a beautifully remodeled facility, the Dante Event Center was able to make July a successful month, not only for special events but also for the club. With the same game plan and mentality, the center is on track to making August a successful month, too.

General manager Jennifer Peretti reports that September and October are full to the brim.

"Every weekend is fully booked," she said. "Most of our weekdays are officially booked as well, with the return of monthly meetings of organizations like Allied Arts, the 20/30 Group, Sons in Retirement

See BOOKINGS, Page 5



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Advisory and finance update

The advisory and finance committee met Aug. 9 to review Dante Center operations, the club's current financial condition and the status of facility repairs and renovations.

General manager Jennifer Peretti provided a written report that highlighted maintenance and repairs over the past month. She said the event center now serves Lavazzo brand Italian coffee, a significant quality upgrade over Nescafe, our previous coffee.

Peretti also reported that the air conditioner unit in the Tuscan room had failed and that replacing the compressor could potentially cost \$8,700. Center staff and the buildings and grounds committee are working to get the repairs completed.

Business in July was seasonally slow but generated a substantial gross profit. Peretti said it appears the center will at least break even for the month, after considering overhead expenses.

The committee reviewed a written treasurer's report that found the event center's financial condition to be positive, with a substantial repayment of the remodeling loan made in July.

Buildings and grounds reported that electrical installation for the outdoor tent and bocce court area has been completed. A new metal gate for the entrance also has been installed.

The Dante board in September will consider further awning and gutter repairs for the Magpie Preschool building and trimming of a nearby tree.

### 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 September 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 now have the ability to brand many items, including hats, men's and women's T-shirts, jackets and aprons, in a wide array of colors.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 6



## UPCOMING DINNERS

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

### September 5

#### Sunday Family Dinner

**Times:** 3 to 4 p.m. to-go pickup, 4 p.m. cocktails, 5 to 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Caesar salad, regular or chicken fettuccine alfredo, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$8 children age 12 and younger

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Aug. 31.*

### September 20

#### Members Dinner and Meeting

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

**Menu:** Italian lentil soup, chicken cacciatore over polenta, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, tiramisu

**Cost:** \$18 per member

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Sept. 14.*

### October 3

#### Sunday Family Dinner

**Times:** 3 to 4 p.m. to-go pickup, 4 to 7 p.m. dinner

**Menu:** Caesar salad, meat or veggie lasagna, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, chocolate chip cookies or spumoni

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$8 children age 12 and younger

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Sept. 28.*

### 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 roll with butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$18 per member

*Reserve by midnight Tuesday, Oct. 12.*



## 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: [jkdmino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkdmino@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)



## Past month saw loss and changes to board and caller roster

I've been looking forward to this month as we resume our dinner meetings.

Our auxiliary board has changed a little. We say goodbye to one of our co-presidents, Carole Stefani Chivaro, a member since 2017 and on the board since 2018.

Carole is now caring for her 100-year-old mother and has other responsibilities, so she can't devote the time needed. I hope she will still come to meetings, as she will be incredibly missed if she doesn't.

We also are losing two callers—Rosemary Micciche and Janet Gatejen. Both have been callers for a couple of years. Rosemary has been a member since 2012, and Janet since 2017.

When I asked for volunteers to replace them, quite a few members stepped up. So we've decided to add three more callers—Ann Zacharias, Susan Kasimatis

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

*Debra Cattuzzo*

and Roseann Jamison. Let's welcome them to the Dante board.

Having additional callers will lessen the number of members each caller is responsible for, at least until our membership increases, which I'm happy to say is happening. This month we welcome new member Susan Quirarte, who is a friend of member Janet Asher.

We've experienced much sadness this month as well. We lost member Alicia Relles on Aug. 9. The daughter of member Marilyn Relles, Alicia was only 44. She had been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary since 2013.

Also, our auxiliary vice president, Helen Manfredi Pierson, lost her husband, Bill Pierson, on Aug. 5. Helen and Bill

had the quintessential love story, meeting in high school and married for 44 years. They raised a son and twin daughters and have nine grandchildren.

Remember that our next dinner meeting is scheduled for Monday, Sept. 13.

Please come early! At 5:30 p.m., Norma Petta will tell us about a trip to Italy she is organizing.

Enjoy a glass of wine as Norma gives a short presentation about the 10-day escorted trip to the Veneto region and Florence, planned for April 2022.

For more information, contact her at 916-457-1220.

**Correction:** On Page 4 of the August *Inferno*, the woman in the bocce photo was incorrectly identified as Carol Pesetti. Cathie Agostinelli was pictured instead.

### 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)

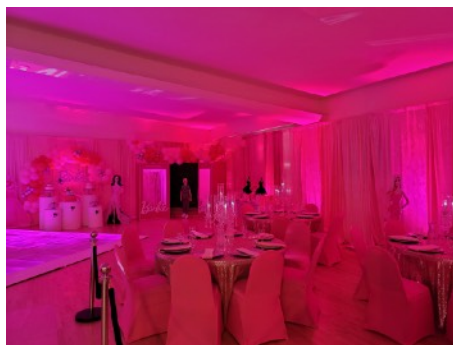
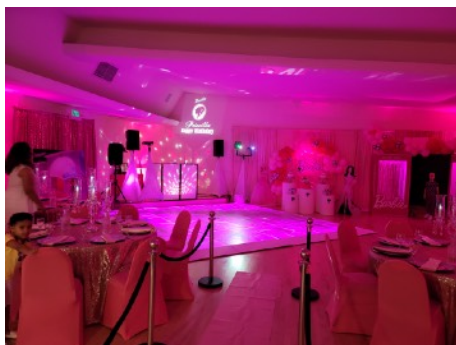
- Judy Farina, secretary: [jfarina56@yahoo.com](mailto:jfarina56@yahoo.com)
- Rosemary Micciche, trustee/caller: [rosemarymicciche@gmail.com](mailto:rosemarymicciche@gmail.com)
- Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- Phyllis Kielholtz, trustee/caller: [swedgewood@aol.com](mailto:swedgewood@aol.com)
- 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@stfrancisshs.org](mailto:ndoyle@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)





A young woman and her parents, above, are the picture of joy during her summer quinceañera at the Dante Event Center. A 10-year-old with a summer birthday celebrated with a Barbie theme, right.



## Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Branch 69, the California School Employees Association and a few more.”

Peretti said the return of the monthly groups will help ensure that the event center will continue to thrive in the months to come.

The center has already begun to receive booking inquiries for 2022 and even for 2023.

Peretti said the array of special events have kept the place hopping.

“In the past few months, we have brought back Jazz at Dante, and we’ve had lots of birthday parties, retirement parties, weddings and baby showers—and so many more are coming up.”

## President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

times in previous editions of the *Inferno*, there is a plethora of ways to support the club and our fellow members.

We are constantly looking for members who can help maintain the facility and save us some do-re-mi in the process. No experience is needed.

The club's calendar of events that members (and sometimes guests) can enjoy is running over

with opportunities to support the club and have a good time.

Some of the club's signature events, such as the annual crab and cioppino feeds, always need helping hands with setup in the kitchen, for example.

The upcoming Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament committee also needs helpers. And the list goes on.

If such events aren't the right fit and members just want to be a “knife and forker,” they can pull out their checkbook and send a

few dollars to the Legacy Fund. They'll be glad they did.

I recently learned that longtime member Jim Relles' daughter, Alicia—a member of the Ladies Auxiliary—passed away suddenly on Aug. 9.

I hope members will keep the Relles family in their thoughts and prayers.

The members meetings will return this month. I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on Sept. 20.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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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). For special orders, contact Julie Brown at 916-787-0603 or [julie@premieregraphx.net](mailto:julie@premieregraphx.net).

**Bocce wrap-up**

Sept. 18 will be the ending date for our spring/summer bocce league. Winners will be announced at the Sept. 20 members meeting.

These are the teams and standings:

- Sons of Beocce, 2-4: Pat Orelli, Colin Orelli, Tom Mezzanares, Jim Brennan, Ben Racoma
- Maestri di Bocce, 2-5: Jim Dimino, Frank Bartucco, Tom Mathews, Carl Perricone, Matt Dimino
- Infernos, 3-3: Dennis Noble, Brian Noble, Joe Porata, Jeff Herzog, Jim DeVard
- Avanti, 2-4: Steve Levezzo, Doug Troughton, Robert Traversi, Ernie Tomassilli, Don Agostinelli
- Riolo Rollers, 3-2: Nick Canepa, Larry Otten, Jim Riolo
- D Rollers, 7-0: George Zarzana, Dick Zarzana, Tom Novi, Rich Battistessa, Mike Battistessa, Mark Pedroncelli
- Italian Stallions, 3-3: John Rizzardo, Al Tirapelli, Frank Calcagno, Dan Calcagno, Peter Pesetti

**Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament**

The golf committee is looking for support from club and Ladies Auxiliary members. We're in dire need of replenishing our scholarship fund, for which the annual Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament raises money. The past year's pandemic, unfortunately, has limited our fundraising ability.

Members can help in several ways. They can put together a foursome to participate in the Oct. 25 tournament. The event also is open to golfers outside of Dante, so members can recruit their golfing buddies.

Those who don't golf can help in other ways, such as becoming a hole sponsor. Individuals, businesses and families can sponsor a hole with a \$100 donation.

Signs are placed at each hole acknowledging the sponsor.

Volunteering with check-in, photography and food preparation on the day of the event is another important way members can help. Contact Frank Buccola or Rich Battistessa to volunteer.

The scholarship fund is one of the Dante Club's most important programs. The fund allows us to help high school graduates with their college expenses.

**Membership update**

Just because we haven't had member meetings for awhile doesn't mean the membership committee has been on vacation. Here's a recap of recent months:

In June, Carl DeNigris was inducted into the Dante Club. We also met with Bill Zellars, sponsored by Bob DeNigris, and Joe Bonacci, sponsored by Frank Calcagno. Their names were presented to members, and both were voted in. Zellars and Bonacci will be asked to attend the September meeting for induction.

In July we interviewed Aaron Patella, son of John Patella; Jason Novi, son of Tom Novi; and Geno Bartucco, sponsored by George Procida. These candidates are awaiting members' vote.

August brought prospective members Jim Di Pinto, sponsored by Ralph DiLibero; Louie Lodi, sponsored by Ron Pane; Frank Lienert, sponsored by Bob DeNigris; Alex Orelli, grandson of Pat Orelli; and Brooks Novi, son of Tom Novi. Interviews with them will be scheduled soon.

Three candidates remain on the waiting list: Rino Bertini, sponsored by Ron Pane; Robert Rossi, sponsored by Jim Relles; and Tom Comalli, sponsored by John Rizzardo. We are scheduling them for the Sept. 20 members dinner.

Members are asked to attend the September meeting for three important reasons. They can introduce themselves to Carl DeNigris, who may run the Welcome Desk.

They can be on hand for the induction of Bill Zellars and Joe Bonacci, who will say a few words so members can appreciate how good they will be for our organization.

And, finally, they can vote for the acceptance of eight to 11 applicants interviewed since June.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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**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 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.

**Newsletter marketing**

*Dante's Inferno* coordinator John Caselli reports that two new companies have been added to the rapidly expanding list of newsletter advertisers. Zellars Concrete and Fondazione Properties are both owned by Bill Zellars and Robert DeNigri. Zellars is a new club member, and DeNigri has been a member since the 1960s. Many thanks to them for their 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).

**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).





## HOT FUN (AND FOOD) IN THE SUMMERTIME



A crowd of diners, left, gathers around the grill to make sure their steaks are cooked to perfection during the August barbecue at the Dante Club. Guests brought their steaks indoors, above, where they added the meat to other menu delights, including Italian potato salad, rigatoni and grilled vegetables. About 200 people attended.

## Shared sense of “being Italian” at heart of club success

By Ralph DiLibero

In 1958 members of the Dante Club of Sacramento decided that a larger clubhouse with adequate space for parking was necessary. Sam's Rancho Villa on Fair Oaks Boulevard seemed to fit the bill.

Patrons at Sam Gordon's restaurant gathered in a waiting area with an illuminated fountain and visited the Capri and Eden Rock cocktail lounges before enjoying buffet-style meals in the Venetian, Candlelight and Continental dining rooms.

In the 1960s, Dante Club past presidents Nick Martinelli Sr. and Vic Martinelli led the effort to relocate the club from P Street to the

Rancho Villa site at 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd.

Always fiscally sound, the club was able to pay off its mortgage within just a decade.

Over the years, the club became known for its Via Vino wine-tasting festival, annual Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament and culinary events such as Mangia Italiana and special dinner nights featuring cioppino and endless crab.

In the 1980s, events such as the Saints and Sinners roast for Sacramento radio personality Rush Limbaugh packed the banquet rooms with an overflow of 800 guests.

In the past year, the grounds, buildings, kitchen, bar and banquet rooms of the renamed Dante Event Center have been renovated,

and a 200-seat outdoor gazebo area has been added. The Dante Club looks forward to increasing membership

See SUCCESS, Page 9



**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)



**Success**

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and presenting multiple events as Sacramento's premier event venue.

Today's descendants of Italian immigrants rank above average in yearly income, accumulated wealth and education. Their connection to their Italian roots may not be as strong as that of their ancestors, but they are eager to embrace their history.

The Dante Club of Sacramento is dedicated to empowering these later generations of Italian Americans to recognize and celebrate their unique heritage.

The club also seeks to fulfill their social, business and political

wants and needs in honor of the prose, political proclivity and persistence of namesake Dante Alighieri, who remains alive in members' hearts and minds.

A typical club member might ask himself: Why do I bother to come here? How does my club membership and meeting attendance benefit me? Does eating, drinking and socializing provide any societal benefit, relieve any psychological stress or satisfy any essential function?

Let's try to answer these questions.

Our earliest cave-dwelling ancestors hunted all day, then gathered at night around a communal fire where they ate and

told stories, safe and secure in the shelter of their cave.

Elders shared their knowledge and experiences with younger tribe members.

A sense of purpose was continually passed up and down the generations to eliminate gaps and ensure ongoing tribal success. Camaraderie helped overcome the stress of daily primitive existence.

In our modern lives, we may work at demanding jobs, then yearn for discourse with trusted others in a safe, secure place. Our Dante Club is such a place.

Here, we can gather to reminisce, share stories and relax,

See SUCCESS, Page 10

## 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).

**Success**

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with laughter and refreshments.

We can form lifelong friendships with people of similar background.

We can find a congeniality that helps us overcome the stresses of everyday life.

It's all possible because of our deep-rooted, shared sense of "being Italian."

There's a wonderful commonality, a loving force, that unites all Italians.

Perhaps the force originated from our method of selectively identifying as "friend" anyone sharing a common interest—a bonding starting with the family structure.

In la famiglia, the pater-familias was the acknowledged breadwinner, but the mama ruled

the roost. Another glue that has united Italians is being within earshot or sight of a church bell tower, or "campanilisimo." And people from Italy's various regions who had similar customs, or "regionalismo," also found common ground.

Italy wasn't recognized as a nation until the "risorgimento" efforts of Garibaldi unified the fragmented regions and constantly warring city-states in the 1870s.

Eventually, all Italians identified together to create a national unity—that force of "being Italian."

Of course, the common people always knew in their nonpolitical hearts that they were all Italians.

Societal and wealth mobility demanded a political and economic system that obtained bestowed favors through personal

connections while also boasting the uniqueness of each city-state through competing art, engineered beauty and fashion.

The conquest of Rome in 1870 finally put an end to all the political-warfare bickering by clearly separating church and state and allowing a powerful and commonly shared Italian character to emerge, in which heated argument actually became one of the great pleasures of life.

Therefore, there is no mystery in understanding the success of the "risorgimento" in creating unity out of chaos. There is no mystery in Italian Americans enjoying their common character and gathering together for safety, security and collegial friendship.

That's our heritage, and that's what we celebrate and cherish at the Dante Club of Sacramento.

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**Johnny**

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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

**Guest speaker**

Mark Speckman, assistant head football coach at the University of California, Davis, will be a guest speaker Sept. 20. He's been a coach for 38 years.

**Scholarships awarded**

We've awarded scholarships to four high school graduates. One is Lauren Patella, granddaughter of John Patella and a graduate of

St. Francis High School, now at San Diego State University. Julia Novi, granddaughter of Tom Novi and a graduate of Amador Valley High School, is now a student at University of San Diego.

Carlo Pedroncelli, son of Mark Pedroncelli and a Jesuit High School graduate, is attending University of Nevada, Reno. Nathan Zan, grandson of Dennis Zan and a graduate of Vista Del Lago High School, is at Boise State University.

**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.

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