



**Reserve now  
for the August  
barbecue!**

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Tom Novi*

### *Record numbers turn out for golf*

Are the dreary dog days of summer here yet? Absolutely not!

July saw our annual Vic Martinelli/Frank Calcagno Golf Tournament, with a record 142 members and guests enjoying a wonderful day of golf at the Alister MacKenzie Golf Course at Haggin Oaks. Skill contests and a cannon that fired golf balls more than 400 yards added to the fun.

After the competition, golfers and spectators found their way to the Dante Event Center for a great luncheon of grilled sausages, peppers and onions, pasta, salad and a libation or two.

Named for our late members Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno, the tournament has for years raised money for the Dante Club Scholarship Fund. This

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6

## GOLF TOURNEY 2022



Among foursomes (fivesomes?) at the annual Vic Martinelli/Frank Calcagno Golf Tournament on July 9 are the group, upper left, of Tom Lagomarcino, Mike Dimino, Gary DiFabio Jr., Ryan Dimino and Gary DiFabio Sr. Mike Dimino won "closest to the pin" during the competition. Event co-chairman Frankie Buccola, left, sits down to the post-tournament lunch, which featured a raffle of prizes, above, donated by the Ladies Auxiliary.

## Staff gets brief reprieve in July after summer bookings bonanza

July was a calm month at the Dante Event Center, after bookings had been coming in nonstop, said general manager Jennifer Peretti. "We were glad to be able to give our amazing and hardworking staff a few days of rest before jumping back into crazy events," Peretti said. "We did, however, host several events in July."

Among July events were weddings, a Monte Carlo-style casino night and monthly meetings of groups such as the Order of Daedalians, Sons in

See BOOKINGS, Page 8



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

### Advisory and finance

The advisory and finance committee and the board of directors previously approved use of the Building Capital Improvement Fund to install a fire alarm system and replace a 50-year-old, roof-top air conditioning unit that no longer works.

Replacement of the AC unit was completed July 1. Installation of the fire alarm system is underway and will be completed soon. In addition, we ordered and received 200 white folding chairs to be used for outdoor weddings and other events.

The Building Capital Improvement Fund relies on earnings from the event center and donations from members. The advisory and finance committee and board are considering additional sources of income to help maintain the fund. Ideas include earmarking income from our annual cioppino dinner, holding a Columbus Day dinner as a new annual fundraiser and increasing club dues, with the increase amount directed to the fund.

Members of the advisory and finance committee would appreciate hearing members' thoughts and suggestions.

### Club apparel

The Dante Club is working with Julie Brown at Premier Graph-x to brand many items with our club logo, including hats, T-shirts, jackets and aprons in a wide array of colors. Members can go online to order items at [danteclub.shopgraphx.com](http://danteclub.shopgraphx.com) or 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).

### Buildings and grounds

During July, the buildings and grounds committee had a 50-year-old air conditioning unit replaced. We hope to get half of those 50 years out of this new unit. (They don't make them like they used to!)

The fire alarm project is still in the works. We also have trimmed two trees behind the gazebo that PG&E identified as growing too close to power lines. We should be good for another year.

### Scholarships

Over the years, the Dante Club has awarded thousands of dollars to students, but we often don't hear much about how the students are faring.

Here is a letter from Tom Novi's granddaughter about her freshman-year experience at the University of San Diego:

"Hello, my name is Julia Novi, and I am going into my second year at the University of San Diego as a business administration and real estate major. I was awarded a Dante Club scholarship last summer going into my first year at USD, and it really helped me a lot. The scholarship not only eased the financial burden of school but also opened up several opportunities for me.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7



### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

#### August 7

##### Sunday Family Dinner

**Times:** 4 p.m. cocktails,  
5 p.m. dinner; pickup  
available at 4 p.m. only

**Menu:** Strawberry mixed  
green salad with pecans  
and feta, homemade  
lasagna, seasonal  
vegetables, rolls with butter,  
chef's choice dessert

**Cost:** \$15 adults, \$8  
children

*Reserve by midnight  
Saturday, July 30.*

#### August 15

##### Members and Family Barbecue

**Times:** 5 p.m. cocktails;  
steaks for barbecuing  
handed out at 6 p.m.

**Menu:** House salad,  
caprese salad, grilled  
zucchini and squash, grilled  
peppers and onions,  
rigatoni with marinara,  
ribeye steaks (toppings:  
garlic and oil, sautéed  
mushrooms, caramelized  
onions, steak seasoning),  
rolls with butter, spumoni

**Cost:** \$28 per person

*Reserve by midnight  
Saturday, Aug. 6.*

**PLEASE NOTE:** No Ladies  
Auxiliary meeting in August.





## HISTORICAL SNAPSHOT

# Unification of Piemonte region took centuries

By Susan Pricco

*Editor's note: Please welcome new Ladies Auxiliary member Susan Pricco. Former president of Piemontesi Nel Mondo of Northern California, she brings a wealth of community and family stories.*

**P**iemonte is the region in northwestern Italy that borders France. Indeed, it is named after its geographical position “at the foot (piede) of the mountains (monti).”

Piemonte's ancient historical and cultural roots date back to

Neolithic times. During the first millennium B.C., Celtic and Ligurian tribes—the Taurini and Salassi—occupied the region.

Then in 220 B.C., they were subjugated by the Romans, who founded colonies, including Augusta Taurinorum, now modern Turin, the regional capital.

After the fall of the Roman Empire, this strategically positioned region became a target for invasions, clashes and conquests—by the Goths and

Burgundians in the 5th century, the Byzantines and Longobards in the 6th century and the Franks in the 7th century.

And yet Piemonte managed to preserve a degree of autonomy.

During the 9th and 10th centuries, it was subjected to new invasions, this time by the Hungarians and Saracens.

Having been divided into counties and marches, the territory was partly unified in the 11th

See PIEMONTE, Page 6



Turin, the capital city of the Piemonte region, is a key cultural and business center in Northern Italy. The city is known for its many restaurants, churches, palaces, piazzas, parks, theaters and art galleries, as well as its wealth of Baroque, Neoclassical, Art nouveau and Rococo architecture.



## 2022 Committees and Assignments

### COMMITTEES

#### ADVISORY AND FINANCE

Pat Orelli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman

Members: Tom Mezzanares, Richard Battistessa, George Procida, Tom Novi

#### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

George Procida, chairman; Don Agostinelli, vice chairman

Members: Matt Longo, Tom Mezzanares, Joe Porata, Ronnie Pane

#### BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Don Agostinelli, vice chairman

Members: Bob Guidera, Dan Calcagno

#### MEMBERSHIP AND INVESTIGATIONS

Dan Calcagno, chairman

Members: George Procida, Don Agostinelli, Dick Zarzana

► Member involvement subcommittee: Tom Mezzanares, Ron Fiorica

#### PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman

#### SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Mark Pedroncelli, Mike Battistessa, Kyle Calcagno and auxiliary members Phyllis Keilholz and Nancy Doyle

#### SOCIAL

Joe Porata, chairman; Rich Battistessa, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Dick Zarzana, John Caselli, Matt Longo, Bob Guidera, Michael St. John

### SPECIAL COMMITTEES

#### BOCCE

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Dick Zarzana, Bill Zellers, Don Agostinelli, John Rizzardo, Frank Bartucco

#### GOLF TOURNAMENT

Members: Joe Porata, Frank Buccola, Rich Battistessa, Tom Mathews

#### DINNER PROGRAM

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Don Agostinelli, Dick Zarzana

#### ENHANCING OUR ITALIAN CULTURE

Members: Ralph DiLibero, Rich Battistessa

#### SPECIAL ASSIGNMENTS

- Ladies Auxiliary liaison: Rich Battistessa
- Check-in desk for club events and raffle: Joe Porata, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman; members John Caselli, Bob Guidera, Matt Longo and new members
- Club apparel: Mark Pedroncelli
- Sergeant-at-arms: open position

## 2022-2023 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

- Tom Novi, president: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com), 916-961-6197
- Patrick Orelli, first vice president: [pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.com), 916-369-2327
- Joe Porata, second vice president: [jporata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jporata@sbcglobal.net), 530-887-1583
- Ron Fiorica, secretary: [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net), 916-687-6406
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com), 916-467-7483

### DIRECTORS

- Don Agostinelli: [donjos451@aol.com](mailto:donjos451@aol.com), 916-451-1155
- Richard Battistessa: [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net), 916-961-4854
- Dan Calcagno: [dcalextra@aol.com](mailto:dcalextra@aol.com), 916-481-8368
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- George Procida: [gprocida@gplandscape.com](mailto:gprocida@gplandscape.com), 916-455-4738
- Dick Zarzana: [razarzana@comcast.net](mailto:razarzana@comcast.net), 916-683-4812



## Auxiliary members keep tournament flowing smoothly

Ciao! I'd like to start by thanking the volunteers who worked at the Vic Martinelli/Frank Calcagno Golf Tournament on July 9.

It was a beautiful day, and our Ladies Auxiliary members worked hard, checking in golfers, selling raffle tickets and running the raffle. Everything flowed very smoothly.

Thank you to Karol Buccola, Carol Pesetti, Tina Lucchini Bowers, Adrienne DeFazio, Cathy Maffei, Ann Zacharias, Patty Prest and Gina Gray. We couldn't have done it without you.

I also would like to thank Catherine Ranieri-Zerio for stepping up to help Amelia Benedict translate the old Italian documents for her heritage search.

What is everyone doing this summer? By the time you read this, my 20-year-old daughter,

### LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

*Debra Cattuzzo*

Isabella, and I will be soaking up the sun on the Italian Riviera.

Isabella will spend her fall semester at the University of Bordeaux in France, so I thought I would take this opportunity to show her our Italian heritage. We did go when she was 2½ years old, but, for some reason, she doesn't remember much.

We will travel to Milan, Venice, Rome, Sorrento and Capri. We'll also spend time in Possagno, Paderno del Grappa and Cavaso del Tomba, three very small towns in the province of Treviso.

All four of my grandparents came from those three small towns. I intend to explore our

ancestry, and I am excited to meet some new cousins there.

But before we leave Italy, we will meet one of our Ladies Auxiliary vice-presidents, Helen Manfredi Pierson, in Lido di Camaiore on the Italian Riviera. Timing is such that I will get to celebrate my birthday there. How blessed am I?

Isabella and I will then move on to France, exploring Cannes, Nice, Monte Carlo, Toulouse and the hills of Provence. It will be much easier to get around there, as my daughter speaks fluent French.

We will end up in Bordeaux, where Isabella will make her home for the next four months. I will miss her, but I'm so happy that she gets such an incredible opportunity in her life.

I hope everyone is having a wonderful summer!

## 2022 LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
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**Piemonte**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

century by Olderico Manfredi, who left Turin and Ivrea, two of the larger marches, to his son-in-law Oddone of Savoia.

The unification of Piemonte took centuries to complete under the Savoia. The process was hampered first by

the formation of independent communes and strong marquisates, then by the intervention of powerful overlords from other regions in the 14th century, and lastly by Piemonte's involvement in the power struggles among Europe's largest ruling dynasties in the 16th century.

Finally, in 1559, Emanuele Filiberto of Savoia and his successors embarked on the final stages of unification, which were not completed until 1748. After the interlude of Napoleonic rule from 1796 to 1814, Piemonte followed the destiny of the Savoy Kingdom of Sardinia

and played a central role in the Italian Risorgimento and the unification of Italy in 1861. From then until 1865, Turin became the first national capital.

Piemonte today is one of the 20 Italian regions that make up the Republic of Italy, founded by popular referendum in 1946.

**President's Corner**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year's tournament raised nearly \$10,000 for our college-bound kids and grandkids.

A round of applause goes to the club and Ladies Auxiliary members and event center staff who organized—and many who played in—the tournament, prepared and served the luncheon, and organized the raffle. It was a lot of work for a very good cause.

July also saw the first of our two steak barbecues that we offer every summer. Members grilled their own steaks, adding liberal doses of garlic, seasonings and olive oil, and then added salad and pasta to finish off their meals.

More than 200 members and guests attended, enjoying a festive time in our Italian tradition of great food and drink. Even more people are expected for the second steak dinner in August, so make your reservations early.

Speaking of great food and drink, our Sunday night family dinners, on most first Sundays of each month, have become increasingly popular. More than 200 people attended the last dinner. Designed for family and friends at the modest price of \$15, this may be Sacramento's best-value dinner.

Bocce continues to be popular, with nearly 50 club and auxiliary members now playing on various teams. The Dante Bocce League is in its summer session, with matches on most Saturday mornings.

What began a few years ago as a dream of longtime member Rich Battistessa, bocce has grown with the installation of two courts and more players participating each year. Auxiliary members also play, as do various other groups, such as Sons in Retirement branches that patronize the event center for their monthly luncheons.

If you have an interest in playing or just learning about the game of bocce, talk to Rich, Jim

Dimino or any members who play. You will love it and enjoy meeting other club members, I promise.

The event center continues to replace its obsolete or worn-out equipment, including items such as air conditioning units and ice makers.

The center also is in the process of installing a fire-alarm system to better protect the facility. In addition, center staff are regularly touching up paint and making cosmetic repairs to maintain the building's fresh appearance.

Please thank center manager Jennifer Peretti when you see her. I'm sure she will appreciate your kind words.

Finally, it is with sadness that we note the passing of John R. Procida Sr., a lifetime Dante Club member who died in June. A member since 1961, John will be greatly missed by family and friends. Please keep John and his family in your thoughts and prayers.

Grazie, and stay well.





## News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

With the scholarship, I was very fortunate and did not have to take out any loans to pay for my tuition, which was very helpful.

I was also able to join other activities and organizations on campus because I had a portion of my tuition and educational expenses covered by the scholarship.

During my first year, I rushed the professional business fraternity, Phi Chi Theta, and was able to gain a lot of valuable knowledge about the business world.

I also joined a social sorority and met a lot more people on my campus. Both of these organizations greatly impacted my freshman year at USD.

I wouldn't have been able to join if it were not for the scholarship. Big thanks to everybody at the Dante Club for the opportunity to receive this scholarship."

### Bocce update

Since taking to the courts for the first time for the summer series on June 18, bocce players have faced stiff competition. Here are the standings at July 31:

- Inferno (5-1)
- Maestri di Bocce (4-2)
- Italian Stallions (4-2)
- Sons of Beocces (4-2)
- Avanti (2-4)
- Dante Rollers (2-4)
- Riolo Rollers (2-4)
- Fratelli di Bocci (1-5)

Members who don't have time to play regularly but who want to experience the game and meet the players can put their names in the pool, and we will call them.

The league still has a few open spots, and new players can be added.

Questions? Email Rich Battistessa at [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net).

### Golf tournament

The Vic Martinelli/Frank Calcagno Golf Tournament was a great success, with the largest field of golfers since the tournament's early years at the Davis Municipal Golf Course.

The Dante Club hosted a fun morning of golf for more than 140 players. Afterward, Dante Event Center staff provided a wonderful luncheon.

With the support of the Ladies Auxiliary and Dante Club members, a raffle helped build our scholarship fund for the 2022-23 school year.

Applications for scholarships begin in January and end March 31.

Many thanks to our corporate silver sponsors, Folsom Lake Honda and Emigh Hardware, as well as to the many individuals who contributed time and hard work to make this annual event successful.

### Save pull tabs

Since member Ron Cristoni challenged club and auxiliary members to collect aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, we've collected close to 1,500 pounds of pull tabs.

Proceeds help parents with lodging costs while their children are hospitalized at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento.

The \$1,500 raised so far has paid for more than 60 nights of lodging.

Club and auxiliary members can bring pull-tab donations to their respective meetings. Learn more about the pull-tab program at [www.rmhcnc.org](http://www.rmhcnc.org).

### In memoriam

Dante Club life member John R. Procida Sr. passed peacefully June 18 at age 88. Born in 1933, John joined the club in 1961.

He will be missed by his family and many friends at the Dante Club. Our condolences and prayers go out to the family.

### Membership committee

Dante Club summers mean barbecues in July and August and no members meetings, which means the membership committee doesn't conduct applicant interviews or induct new applicants until September.

However, the committee is always open to receiving inquiries and applications for prospective members, so current members shouldn't hesitate referring friends and family for consideration.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 11



## TRIMMING THE TREES



Two trees near the outdoor gazebo undergo trimming as part of ongoing efforts by George Procida and his building and grounds crew to keep the Dante Club campus looking coiffed. The trees were targeted for maintenance after PG&E identified them as growing too close to power lines.

## What's so special about being Italian?

Italian singers and crooners have long been considered among the best of the best — and none more so than Anthony Dominick Benedetto, better known as Tony Bennett.

An East Coast Italian born in 1926 in Astoria, New York, Bennett is a true musician, with 17 Grammys, numerous hit songs and more than 50 million records sold over the course of his long career.

Perhaps his most iconic song, "I Left My Heart in San Francisco," was a hit in 1962 and is now played after every Giants game victory.

No less an Italian crooner than Frank Sinatra was quoted as saying, "For my money, Tony Bennett is the best singer in the business."

Bennett's recent concert with Lady Gaga may have been the creme de la creme of his storied career.

As Anthony Benedetto, he is also an acclaimed painter. Many shows have featured his paintings, many of which have been donated to charitable causes.

Tony Bennett is truly an Italian great to be appreciated for both his talent and his generosity.

## Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Retirement Branch No. 69 and the California School Employees Association. The center also hosted the Crimes Against Humanity Tour USA on July 16.

The July barbecue for members and guests hosted 208 people this year, Peretti said.

"To me, this is a great example of how big the Dante Club family truly is," she said. "We look forward to seeing everyone at the Aug. 7 Sunday Family Dinner, as well as at our Aug. 15 barbecue."

Peretti said the event center is booking events for the 2022-2023

season. Members interested in hosting a personal event at the center should inquire soon.

To host an event, a member must schedule an in-person meeting with Peretti or event coordinator Annah Rose.

Available dates and rooms, type of event, estimated guest count, event timing, any catering needs and other pertinent details will be discussed.

"We will then place the room and the date on hold for two weeks to allow time to decide if the center is the best place for the event, without the date getting booked in the meantime," Peretti said. "At the end of the two

weeks, if the security deposit has not been received, the date will be released. To confirm an event, a deposit must be paid, and a contract signed and dated."

**Club members can rent a banquet room at a 50% discount for a special personal event for themselves, immediate family members—including spouses, parents and children—or a personally owned business.**

Members with questions about the rental discount can contact club president Tom Novi at 916-961-6197.

Booking inquiries can be directed to [info@danteclub.com](mailto:info@danteclub.com) or 916-925-8230.





## Tuna pasta satisfies appetite and desire for simplicity

**W**henever you don't want to spend a lot of time in the kitchen, but you still want something that's scrumptious to eat, here's a great recipe idea: pasta with tuna.

This dish is very simple to make, and it's also delicate and delicious.

It's the perfect recipe for an easy-to-prepare meal when you don't feel much like cooking.

### PASTA WITH TUNA

#### Ingredients:

- 1 can of tuna in olive oil

### JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

*Richard Battistessa*

- 1 red and 1 yellow pepperoncini, chopped
- 1 clove of garlic, chopped
- Olive oil
- Juice from 1 lemon
- Spaghetti pasta

*Boil water, and add salt and lemon zest. In a pan, briefly sauté the chopped clove of garlic and the chopped peppers in about a*

*tablespoon of olive oil. Sauté for about five to eight minutes.*

*Add the can of tuna and a squeeze of one lemon.*

*Cook the spaghetti pasta al dente and drain. Add about 1/4 cup of the pasta water to the cooked pasta. Return the cooked pasta to the pan along with the tuna, peppers and garlic.*

*The dish is now ready to go. Drizzle a little olive oil onto the plated pasta. Serve with a chilled white wine.*

*Buon appetito!*

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## Building Capital Improvement Fund

In March, the Building Capital Improvement Fund was used to make roof, tent and air conditioning repairs, for a total of \$4,089.

In April, we paid for plumbing and other repairs for \$682.78. In May, we paid \$800 to have the grease lines cleared, and in June, we paid \$1,013 to replace all leaky faucets in the kitchen.

As noted last month in the advisory and finance committee report, the Building Capital Improvement

Fund had a balance of \$48,869 as of June 13. However, the new, nearly completed fire alarm system will cost approximately \$30,000, and a new air conditioning unit has been installed on the roof to cool the back office, staff area and restrooms, at a cost of about \$13,000.

We also have purchased 200 folding chairs to be used outdoors for weddings, at a cost of \$4,800.

Money for the fund comes from donations and from the Dante Club's restaurant account.

## Please patronize our paesanos



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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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In the past six months, seven new members have been approved: Jim Dubendorf, Frank Crandall, Mike Manassero, Chris Mascarin, Frank Lienert, Bill Hendricks and Leroy Dal Porto.

Others are on the waiting list, and we look forward to their acceptance.

Please direct questions to anyone on the membership committee: Don Agostinelli, George Procida, Dick Zarzana and Dan Calcagno.

## SIGN OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR SACRAMENTO ITALIANS



City of Sacramento crews have installed signs designating a nine-block area of East Sacramento as the Little Italy Historic District. The installation was the result of a formal proclamation made by Councilman Jeff Harris in October 2021. The district encompasses the area between 48th and 59th streets and Folsom Boulevard and J Street.

## DANTE'S REMINDERS



### Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact George Procida for anything related to buildings and grounds and Joe Porata for anything related to social events. Reach Procida at 916-455-4738 or [gprocida@gplandscape.com](mailto:gprocida@gplandscape.com) and Porata 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

To purchase club shirts and other clothing items, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net) or speak to him at a members meeting. Cash or checks are needed to place orders. Members also can order through the Dante Club website at [danteclub.shopgraphx.com](http://danteclub.shopgraphx.com).

### 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 Tom Mezzanares at 916-467-7483 or [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).