



**Reserve now for
Christmas dinner
in December!**

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Annual holiday meal promises good cheer and a festive spirit

The holiday season is fast approaching, and while Thanksgiving is in our rear-view mirror, Christmas and New Year's Eve are nearly upon us.

The annual Dante Club Christmas dinner on Dec. 18 once again promises to be a festive affair, with multiple courses and four entrees to choose from.

In addition, we'll have musical entertainment, holiday decorations and good cheer for all. The good cheer, of course, will be at half price, as is our policy for all member events.

So enjoy this Christmas celebration with family and friends as we embrace the season, remembering to give thanks for all our blessings and to help those among us who are less fortunate or in need.

It's been an outstanding

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6



Newlyweds prepare to cut the cake at their November wedding reception.

Turkey meals keep center bustling

November was filled with lots to be thankful for, including almost 15 Thanksgiving-styled luncheons and dinners held at the Dante Event Center, with much turkey all around.

General manager Jennifer Peretti said the center hosted 25 events — weddings, engagement parties, meetings, dinners and a concert by

See TURKEY, Page 8

Christmas, Italian style

Beloved holiday blends tradition and fellowship

By Susan Pricco

Christmas is a holiday tradition around the world in virtually every country, in some shape or form.

Some celebrations are religious, some cultural, some traditional and some a combination of several different influences.

Christmas in Italy is a time for enjoying the lighted holiday streets and markets, exchanging

gifts, attending church, singing carols and spending time with family and friends over cards, board games and, of course, a delicious meal.

La Befana (the name is probably a corruption of Epiphany) comes from Urbania and is the equivalent of a witchy Santa Claus who is formally celebrated on Epiphany, Jan. 6.

See CHRISTMAS, Page 8



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance

Thanks to the Dante Club Event Center, which is showing a record year-to-date profit, we have been able to make many necessary improvements and equipment replacement purchases, including a monitored fire alarm system, a new air conditioning unit, a new ice maker and several other items.

Profit and loss vs. available cash, however, are two different things. Although the event center is at a record year-to-date profit, our cash is low because of the many needed repairs and updates. We also have additional needs coming up, including repair of an old walk-in refrigerator and replacement and repair of interior doors and entry doors to the building.

Any donations that members can make to help us complete our goals will be greatly appreciated. Please send donations to club treasurer Tom Mezzanares at the Dante Club, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95630. Make checks payable to Dante Club of Sacramento. Donations also can be made online at <https://danteclub.com/product/donation/>.

Many thanks to Mario Balbiani for his \$100 donation to the building fund and to Steve Lavezzo for his \$150 donation to the scholarship fund.

Club apparel

The Dante Club works with Julie Brown at Premier Graph-x to brand clothing with our club logo, including hats, T-shirts, jackets and aprons in a wide array of colors. Members can order items online at danteclub.shopgraphx.com or contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or peddc@surewest.net. For special orders, contact Julie Brown at 916-787-0603 or julie@premieregraphx.net. It isn't too late to order Dante Club apparel as a Christmas gift.

Annual dues

Membership dues for 2023 are \$100 and due by Dec. 31. Members can pay online at <https://danteclub.com/2023-membership-dues/> or they can mail a check, payable to the Dante Club of Sacramento, to: Dante Club of Sacramento, attn. Tom Mezzanares, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95825.

In memoriam

Longtime Dante Club member Albert "Babe" Lovotti died Oct. 29 at the age of 95. He was married to the late Bette Jeanne Milani for 47 years and is survived by his children, Linda, Steven and Nancy, as well as nine grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

Lovotti and his older brother, Aldo, also a Dante Club member, started Lovotti Brothers Distributing Co. in 1957 at the request of



UPCOMING EVENTS
Call 916-925-8230 or reserve and pay online at:
danteclub.com/members-event-calendar/

December 11

Dante Christmas Jazz, with Aaron Gayden

Times: 6 p.m. doors open, 7 p.m. show

Menu: Charcuterie board, cheeses, fruits, dessert, chocolate delicacy, wine

Cost: \$35 for show; sips and bites separate

Purchase tickets online and at door.

Order sips and bites online by Dec. 6.

December 12

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: Cranberry mixed green salad, prime rib with horseradish, garlic mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, rolls with butter, dessert

Cost: \$25 per person

Reserve by Dec. 4.

December 18

Dante Club Christmas Party

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: Tomato and arugula salad, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, tiramisu, plus choice of one entree: filet mignon and mashed potatoes, chicken and fettuccine, halibut and rice, and butternut squash ravioli

Cost: \$38 adults, \$20 children 12 and younger

Reserve by midnight Dec. 6.

December 19

Dante Members Dinner

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

Menu: Caesar salad, meat ravioli with Bolognese sauce and Parmesan, zucchini and squash, roll and butter, dessert

Cost: \$22 per person

Reserve by Dec. 10.



Italian Americans find themselves in political limbo

Editor's note: This article is reprinted with permission from the Italian Cultural Society, Sacramento.

As American society continues to divide along racial and ethnic lines, a new category — the ethnic white male — is appearing or reappearing.

In recent decades, white ethnics have been lumped into the category of “just white” to deny them any benefit from affirmative action racial policies. Now that affirmative action is in disarray, the new ethnic white male category seems an attempt at the political level of dividing white males according to “shades of white.”

The term “ethnic white male” was used in a political editorial in *The Sacramento Bee*, a newspaper aligned with the Democratic Party, to describe Leon Panetta, the Italian American chief of staff for President Clinton. Panetta was described as an acceptable candidate for governor of California on the Democratic side because of his ethnic credentials.

In appearance, Panetta is darker and his features more ethnic-looking than the usual Italian American politician. Perhaps that is why the term ethnic white male seems more fitting than it would be for lighter and less identifiably Italian-looking Italian American males.

Italian Americans have not generally identified themselves as “just white.” They have always recognized their distinctiveness as a people in American life. They are more likely than most other ethnic groups in the United States to

identify as ethnics, to be racially sensitive to ethnicity and to report intense ethnic experiences. They are even perceived as culturally distinct by other ancestry groups.

Yet this distinctiveness was ignored by the American establishment when it suited their purposes — namely, with regard to national racial policy. Italian Americans would not be allowed to benefit from policies designed by those aligned with other racial and ethnic groups. Yet for much of their history, Italian Americans were not really treated as a desirable race of people by the more established ancestry groups.

“Today, those who identify themselves as Italian American occupy an eerie limbo, not oppressed explicitly enough to enjoy protected legal status, yet not so firmly entrenched as to constitute part of the power elite,” says noted Italian American philosopher Raymond Belliotti in his book *Seeking Identity*.

According to Belliotti, “Italian Americans have been submerged in the cruel, over-broad category of ‘white Europeans,’ a category which eviscerates their particularity and renders their special grievances invisible. Italian Americans are given the shroud but not the substance of privilege.”

Now, in the post-affirmative action era, it seems Italian Americans are arriving at a new status that may be helpful to the political class — that of “ethnic white.”

But isn't that what Italian Americans have always been —

ethnic Americans? Not quite dark enough, yet not quite white enough. Not the “right” shade of white.

Whatever the case, it now seems that they are about to be recognized as a distinct ethnic and political force to be courted.

During the 1996 Presidential elections, the Democratic National Committee targeted white ethnic voters, especially in the mid-Atlantic states. A look at the election results indicates it may have worked. In the case of the Italian American vote, an Italian American Democratic Leadership Council was established by the party to attract votes from this ethnic group.

Italian Americans are concentrated along the Atlantic seaboard where they make up a large percentage of the population of such states as Rhode Island (20%), Connecticut (19%), New York (16%), Massachusetts (14%), Pennsylvania (12%) and Delaware (10%).

Recently, the governor of California, in conjunction with the state Legislature, recognized the large and distinctive Italian population of the state — over two million — and appointed a California Italian American Task Force to work with the state's institutions on issues of concern to Italian Americans.

White ethnic Americans from Eastern and Southern Europe, heavily Catholic, have never been fully accepted in American life. Just as they were excluded before the 1970s by monoculturalism (no



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

Member: 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: John Caselli, Matt Longo, Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Dick Zarzana

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

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- Dick Zarzana: razarzana@comcast.net, 916-683-4812



Italian Christmas carols on the bill for December

Happy December! At last month's dinner, we held our annual Ladies Auxiliary-wide meeting. We discussed old business, approved updates to the bylaws and elected new board members.

Our 2023 board-elect members are: Debra Cattuzzo, president; Alyse DeFazio, vice-president; Susan Kasimatis, secretary; and Tina Luchini Bowers, treasurer. The board will be sworn in at our January dinner meeting.

In the November raffle, these attendees won: Barbara Ferro, red and gold leaves bowl with four matching appetizer plates; Wendy Earle, free auxiliary dinner for December; Virginia Griffin, 2022 Swarovski crystal Christmas ornament; Harriet Lamanna, Madeira lace tablecloth and \$20 cash; Linda Franzioia-Feil, serving dish in wicker basket; Adele Solander, table-top fountain; and Emily Rossi, Bogle Chardonnay and triple relish dish.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

Thank you to Nina Ciani for bringing in a big bag of pull tabs for our Ronald McDonald drive.

The meal at the December meeting will be prime rib. The auxiliary voted to allow the board to pay the difference between the \$22 that our members pay and the \$25 that Dante will charge per meal. Guests, and I expect quite a few, will pay the full cost at \$25.

Attendees are in for a treat this year as we will again hear Italian Christmas carols sung by the Italian Club of St. Francis High School.

Denise Franzioia was recently told that auxiliary member Lee Cortopassi died a couple of years ago. Lee had been living in a senior residence and was one of the first people to die from COVID-19. She had been an active member of the

auxiliary since 1973 — almost 50 years! We send our deepest sympathies to the Cortopassi family.

I sent out an auxiliary-wide email warning that an email account had been hacked. It appears the board were the only members who received the fake email.

When I send out an auxiliary-wide email, I always blind copy the email addresses so they can't be read. Apparently, the hacker's email asked board members to help pay a vendor \$1,800 or more, because the treasurer was ill.

I was able to anonymously text with the hacker and obtain information on names, emails and bank accounts. I then made reports to the FBI, FTC, Chase Bank, Google, Zelle and the investigative division of the Sacramento District Attorney's office.

Treasurer Debra Duccini Hansen, a retired 40-year employee of Wells Fargo, used her contacts at

See AUXILIARY, Page 7

2022 LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
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President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

year for the Dante Club, with more than \$85,000 reinvested in the Dante Event Center facility and grounds as we work to finish renovations that began more than two years ago.

This investment in our future is paying off handsomely. The event center has hosted a record number of events. For example, we invested nearly \$30,000 in our event tent and concrete pad near the bocce courts, and general manager Jennifer Peretti reports that in less than two years, the tent facility has generated more \$66,000 in net profits. This has contributed significantly to our financial health.

Dante members benefit from this success, as the increased revenue allows for improvements, such as the forthcoming installation of lights on the bocce courts. This will soon allow evening bocce events for the many Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members who regularly play.

A reminder: We have a small number of vacant board positions that need to be filled for the remaining term of approximately one year. A committee composed of Rich Battistessa, Jim Dimino and Pat Orelli seeks members willing to finish out the terms.

We all need to step up occasionally for the good of the club. Anyone with even a small interest in contributing their time may contact Rich, Jim or Pat.

Finally, we all need to remember to thank Jennifer Peretti and her hard-working staff who have worked throughout the year to make the Dante Club such a success. And I want to personally wish all of you a very Merry Christmas!

Grazie, and be well.

CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON



Bocce champions for 2022, above from left, are Tom Mezzanares, Colin Orelli, Jim Brennan and Pat Orelli (Ben Racoma not pictured). Their Sons of Beocces team took first place overall. Second place winners are, at right, Riolo Rollers team members Jim Riolo, Larry Otten and Gene Bartucco. The Super Seniors team of, bottom right, Dick Zarzana, Steve Lavezzo and John Razzario took third place. Bocce ballers will be icing their arms in December and January with the hope that Santa will provide them with new-found strength in the coming year. A Grazie millie goes to bocce committee members Frank Bartucco, Jim Dimino and John Rizzardo. Among their plans for the coming year are new teams, more days for general play and installation of lights in our two bocce courts. Lights will allow for more playing time and will help players on hot summer nights. Dante Club members are welcome to join the bocce league and experience a great Italian sport. Look every month for information on clinics and play times in the Dante's Inferno newsletter.



What's So Special About Being an Italian?

One of the great early Italian immigrants to the United States was Phillip (Flippo) Mazzei, who with his neighbor, Thomas Jefferson, planted the first vineyard in the newly formed nation. Mazzei was born near Florence, becoming a doctor before moving to London. There, he met Ben Franklin, who in 1773 encouraged him to move to the British colonies. A strong supporter of the American Revolution, he returned to Italy in 1779 to secretly purchase and transport arms and munitions to George Washington in support of the War of Independence. A strong believer in human rights, he also participated in the French Revolution, finally dying in Pisa in 1816. He was a great Italian who left his mark on America and Europe in fighting for human freedom.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

vintner Ernest Gallo. Over 48 years, it became the largest family-owned wine and liquor distributorship in California.

In addition to the Dante Club, Lovotti was a member of the Italian Catholic Federation No. 45 and the Knights of Columbus No. 953. He also was an active member of Piedmonte Reale and Del Paso Country Club.

We offer the Lovotti family our sincere condolences.

Membership committee

The Dante Club has welcomed a new Lifetime Member: Richard Merri.

Merri was inducted into the club in April 1972, just over 50 years ago. He was always a member in good standing and brought three sons and a few others into our membership.

Congratulations, Richard, as our most recent Lifetime Member.

We also welcome new inductees Andy Cavagnaro, sponsored by Don Agostinelli, and Joe Bonanno, sponsored by the membership committee. Cavagnaro and Bonanno were interviewed and presented to the general membership for acceptance. They will be inducted in December or January.

We have several more applicants on the waiting list and hope to interview them in the next month or two.

A reminder for existing members: 2023 membership dues are \$100 and are due on or before Dec. 31. They can be paid through the members area of the club website or by check payable to the Dante Club and mailed to: Dante Club, attn. Tom Mezzanares, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95825.

Members who know of prospective applicants can find our new-member

application form on the website. They also can contact any membership committee member: Don Agostinelli, George Procida, Dick Zarzana or Dan Calcagno.

We look forward to expanding our active membership throughout 2023.

Save pull tabs

Since member Ron Cristoni challenged club and auxiliary members to collect aluminum can pull tabs to benefit the Ronald McDonald House, the response has been overwhelming.

To date, we have collected close to 1,500 pounds of pull tabs. We expect this number to rise after the holidays.

Proceeds from this venture help parents who can't afford lodging costs while their children are hospitalized at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento.

The \$1,500 raised has helped pay for more than 60 nights of lodging.

Club and auxiliary members can bring their pull-tab donations to their respective meetings.

Learn more about the Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program online at www.rmhcnc.org.

Newsletter advertising

Newsletter coordinator John Caselli, along with the entire Dante Club board, wish to thank our nine advertisers. Their support helps defray the costs of publishing the club's monthly *Dante's Inferno*.

"We're always looking to expand the ranks," Caselli said.

Anyone interested in advertising in the newsletter in 2023 can email Caselli at jac6652@aol.com.

Auxiliary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

the bank to lock the hacker's bank accounts. Hopefully, it will make an impact on those scammers. Never mess with Italian women!

Remember, I will never ask members to give me money. If you ever get an email that does not sound like me, do not answer it. Always text or call me if you have questions.

Lastly, one item we discussed at the November meeting was to look for ways for our members to meet each other. We know that people like to sit with their friends at dinner, but we would like to encourage everyone to have conversations with other members they do not know. We are, after all, a social club!

Email me your ideas, and we can discuss them. Several members have already donated socks and toiletries for children removed from their homes by Sacramento County Child Protective Services. The socks and toiletries are given out to children from infants to age 18.

When our own children have so much, it's hard to believe the difference it makes to a child to have a warm new pair of socks or their own soap, shampoo and lotion. If you choose to donate, please bring items to the December dinner.

I hope everyone has a wonderful holiday month. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! See you Dec. 12!

**Turkey**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

popular area jazz singer Vivian Lee.

"December is booked to the gills, with 36 confirmed events and many holiday parties on the horizon," Peretti said. "We are booking solidly for 2023 and can't wait to see where the new year takes us."

Dante Club members are reminded to make their reservations by Dec. 6 for the annual club Christmas party on Dec. 18. And everyone should mark their calendars for the annual crab feed, scheduled for Feb. 4. Reservations will open in December.

The event center is booking events into 2024, so Dante Club members interested in hosting a personal event at the center this year should inquire now.

To host an event, a member must first schedule a meeting with Peretti or center 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 for the member 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.

For booking inquiries, email info@danteclub.com or call 916-925-8230.

Christmas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

As the story goes, many centuries ago, La Befana, depicted as an old woman or witch dressed in rags, was keeping house when the Magi visited her on their way to greet the Christ child. She declined to join them because she had too much housekeeping to do.

When she realized that this was no ordinary baby's birth, she hurriedly flew on her broom to catch up with the Magi. But she had no directions, so she delivered treats to children—and she still does.

Many Italian households leave a glass of wine or milk for her, and maybe a little piece of coal—a symbol of fertility and a gift she had intended to bring to Baby Jesus.

Santa Claus isn't a stranger to Italy. Known as Babbo Natale, he mirrors the American Santa. He has a sled and eight reindeer: Cometa, Ballerina, Fulmine, Donnola, Freccia, Saltarello, Donato and Cupido.

In 280 A.D., St. Nicholas was a bishop who lived in Myra, a Roman town in Asia Minor, now Turkey. He was known to anonymously leave gifts during the night.

Legend has it that he helped a villager who was so poor that he was being forced to sell his daughters into slavery. In the night St. Nicholas dropped coins into the family's chimney, which landed in their stockings drying by the fire.

Sound familiar? St. Nicholas was persecuted for his faith,

spending years imprisoned. His bones are interred in a basilica in Bari, Italy.

Christmas Eve, or Vigilio, is a meatless occasion. In some areas, Italians celebrate the Feast of the Seven Fishes, sometimes eaten after midnight Mass. The meal almost always includes calamari, eel and baccalà, or cod.

Christmas Day features yet another traditional meal with regional delights: tortellini en brodo in Bologna, roast goat in Calabria, spit-roasted pig in Sardinia, capon in Tuscany and cotechino and zampino sausage everywhere.

And, of course, festive desserts abound.

Most popular are panettone, Lombardia's cake with fruit, not to be confused with fruitcake; panforte, a Tuscan cake often confused with fruitcake; pandoro, a Veronese yellow cake with powdered sugar and torrone, or nougat, candy.

Honey doughnuts called Struffoli are a must in Naples, and savory doughnuts, such as pettole and zeppole, are eaten in the southern areas of Italy, along with cannoli.

How many of these traditions are kept in your house? If none, there's no time like the present to add one to your holiday celebrations.

Buon Natale a tutti.

Susan Pricco is the former president of Piemontesi Nel Mondo of Northern California and a new member of the Dante Club's Ladies Auxiliary.



Antipasto, chestnuts roasting — ah, Italian delights!

Who loves antipasto? Who can't wait to roast those wonderful chestnuts? Just in time for your holiday planning, here are a couple of recipes to add to your to-do list. Have fun with these, and have a great holiday. Boun appetito!

ANTIPASTO

Ingredients:

- 2 cups of small white onions
- 4 medium carrots
- 1 celery
- 1 head of cauliflower
- 1 can tuna
- 1 can sardines
- 1 can anchovies
- 1 jar stuffed olives

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

- 1 cup olive oil
- 1 cup white vinegar
- 2 cans tomato sauce

Directions:

Cook each vegetable separately and drain. Combine tuna, sardines, anchovies, olives, olive oil, vinegar and tomato sauce. Mix well; put into small jars. Seal cold-pack; pressure 40 minutes. Makes 8 pints. Simple but so good!

ROASTED CHESNUTS

Ingredients:

- 1 pound fresh chestnuts

- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup dark rum

Directions:

Make an X cut in the nuts with a knife. Roast on a cookie sheet in the oven at 350 F. for 20 minutes.

Cool the nuts, and remove the shells. Put nuts in a casserole dish. Add sugar and mix.

Just before serving, warm rum in a small pan over low heat. Pour over the nuts.

Flame the nuts, and while the rum is burning, stir the mixture so the sugar is flamed. When the flame burns out, serve quickly over ice cream. Serves 4.

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IT'S A WRAP

Tom Mezzanares, George Procida, Joe Porata and Shawn Peretti wash down the Dante Club's outdoor tent that they helped disassemble Nov. 15 in anticipation of the winter season. The group lowered the tent, scrubbed both sides of the vinyl fabric with soap and water and hand-dried the surfaces. The tent pieces were then neatly folded and stored. A good workout was had by all! Special thanks goes to the members who showed up to do this tough job: Don Agostinelli, Jim Brennan, Dan Calcagno, Tom Mezzanares, Ron Pane, Joe Porata and George Procida.

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**Limbo**

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hyphenated Americans need apply), they are now excluded by an exclusive multiculturalism (not all ethnic groups need apply).

The increasing recognition of white ethnic political power is occurring at the same time that white ethnics, especially Italian Americans, are organizing along ethnic lines to compete with the better organized and established power of other ethnic groups aligned with the established order.

In his landmark book *The Rise of the Unmeltable Ethnics*, author Michal Novak describes the new

ethnicity among white Americans as “not a call to separatism but to self-consciousness. It does not seek division but rather accurate, mutual appreciation.”

According to philosopher Belliotti, “The Italian American vision of ethnicity promotes group pride and solidarity but not prejudice; a vision in which our past is honored but not necessarily determinative of our future; a vision in which we can celebrate our common legacy without forsaking our allegiance to our adopted land.”

Novak describes white ethnics as progressive, politically

independent and alienated from both the corporate power of the right and the media and institutional power of the left. Both represent the establishment and do not speak for them.

According to Novak, white ethnics — almost a third of the population of the United States — are the most potent swing vote in American national politics.

By historical accident, they are concentrated in the 10 largest states in the electoral college, and they vote in higher proportion than any other group.

For now, no party has a firm grip on the white ethnic vote.

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 and Porata at 530-887-1583 or jporata@sbcglobal.net.

Donations

Donate to our scholarship or building funds in memory of a loved one or a friend to keep their legacy going. And buy raffle tickets! Donations can be made online at <https://danteclub.com/donations/>.

Dante Club apparel

To purchase club shirts and other clothing items, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or 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.

Newsletter photos and news

Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at jac6652@aol.com. Items must be received by the 20th of each month to be considered for the following month's newsletter. Publication depends on available space and is not guaranteed. Members also can post news and photos on the Dante Club's Facebook page.

Contact information

Recently changed an address or phone number? Please alert Tom Mezzanares at 916-467-7483 or tjmezzan@gmail.com.