



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Rules keep us safe during pandemic

As we roll into the new year, many challenges continue, with the COVID-19 pandemic at the top of the list. Inflation also is becoming a problem, with higher gas and food prices leading the way.

These are problems not only in our personal lives but also at the Dante Event Center. Several events have had to be rescheduled because of concerns about the virus. Inflation and supply-chain problems have affected the event center as well. Not only have commodity prices increased, but the center has faced more difficulty ordering the meats and produce needed for our events.

That's why we enforce strict deadlines for dinner reservations. Our staff must have an accurate count so they can order and obtain the proper amount of food. Thanks

See **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**, Page 6

Bookings remain strong



A Parisian-themed wedding, top, and the recent Dante Club crab feed, above, are among events that have kept the Dante Event Center busy. Enjoying the crab feed are Janice Asher and Patrice Prest, foreground.

With more than 260 special events held, 2021 was a banner year for the Dante Event Center—and January continued that momentum.

“Despite a few cancellations and postponements, we were still able to host 22 events, including two weddings and the return of the Dante Club’s Annual Crab Feed, where we served 149 guests,” said Jennifer Peretti, event center general manager. “We thank all who came out to support the club and look forward to continuing support throughout the year.”

Peretti said the Dante Event Center is booking for the 2022-2023 event years. Any club members who are interested in hosting personal events should inquire about available dates sooner rather than later.

To book an event, the Dante Event Center first

See **BOOKINGS**, Page 3



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

Jennifer Peretti, Dante Event Center general manager, asked the advisory and finance committee to clarify what constitutes a “personal event,” as banquet-room rental fees for such events are not charged to Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members.

Committee members discussed the issue extensively, taking into consideration that revenue is lost when a fee isn't charged. Also, hard costs associated with setting up and taking down a room aren't covered when a full fee is waived.

Room rental fees range from \$500 to \$1,200, depending on the banquet room. The fees cover the cost of setup, take-down, tablecloths, napkins and other accoutrements.

The committee decided that “personal” would apply only to an event hosted and paid for by club or auxiliary members for themselves or their children, parents or grandparents or for an event for a business owned by club or auxiliary members and that a rental fee of 50% would be charged.

A motion to that effect was presented to the entire board and a policy was adopted. From now on, a room-rental fee of 50% will be charged any Dante Club or Ladies Auxiliary member for their personal events. Food and beverage, however, must be purchased through the event center. The half-price drink policy shall not apply. Under the clarified policy, “personal” means events hosted and paid for by members for themselves, their children, parents or grandparents or for events for member-owned businesses.

Membership committee

The membership committee is finally able to take a bit of a break from the activities of 2021. In the past year, we've welcomed 16 new members into the club.

Existing members should make an extra effort to introduce themselves to our newcomers at events and meetings so they can feel a part of us. Our club now has 265 regular and associate members, and an additional 21 lifetime members.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

February 6

Sunday Family Dinner

Times: 4 p.m. cocktails, 5 p.m. dinner; 3 to 4 p.m. meal pickup

Menu: House salad, meatloaf with roasted squash and peppers, garlic mashed potatoes with gravy, rolls and butter, vanilla ice cream with chocolate sauce

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

Reservations closed Jan. 30.

February 14

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Times: 5 to 9 p.m.

Menu: House salad, chicken piccata, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, red velvet cupcakes

Cost: \$20 to go per member

Reserve by midnight Sunday, Feb. 6.

February 21

Members Dinner and Meeting

Times: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner with meeting afterward

Menu: House salad, salmon piccata, squash risotto, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, spumoni ice cream

Cost: \$18 per member

Reserve by midnight Sunday, Feb. 13.

March 6

Sunday Family Dinner

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

Menu: Caesar salad, spinach- and ricotta-stuffed pasta shells with housemade meat marinara, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, lemon bars with Chantilly cream

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

Reserve by midnight Sunday, Feb. 27.

March 14

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Times: 3:30 to 6 p.m. to-go pickup

Menu: Braised corned beef and cabbage with roasted carrots, Brussels sprouts salad, boiled Yukon potatoes, rolls and butter, mint chocolate cupcake

Cost: \$20 per member

Reserve by midnight Sunday, March 6.

March 21

Members Dinner and Meeting

Times: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner with meeting afterward

Menu: Caesar salad, baked ziti, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, vanilla ice cream with biscotti

Cost: \$18 per member

Reserve by midnight Sunday, March 13.



New feature focuses on diversity of Italian culture

By Michael Micciche

President Tom Novi has asked me to head up a new committee called Enhancing Our Italian Culture. Each month Ralph DiLibero or I will write about Italian culture from a variety of perspectives. We'll touch on food, drink, art, architecture, history, regionalism and other topics.

For this first article, I've chosen Sicilia as an example of regionalism and diversity.

Italy is unique in many ways but especially because it's a nation of diverse regions and

traditions. Every Italian region is a mini-country with its own history. In fact, Italy didn't become a unified republic until 1861, after California achieved statehood in 1850.

Sicily is the epitome of a melting pot of influences because of its history of invaders wanting to control such a strategic location. The various ethnic populations occupying Sicily left their imprints in the architecture and the cuisine.

Anyone who hasn't visited Sicily yet will want to go. There

are many reasons to like this island. The cuisine is remarkable, with influences over centuries from Spain, France, Greece and North Africa. The blending of herbs, spices and cooking styles provides for the most distinctive cuisine in all of Italy.

Of course, there are many other reasons to visit. Sicily offers beautiful and historical vistas along its miles and miles of coastline. The climate is the mildest in Italy, mainly thanks to its location near North Africa.

See CULTURE, Page 11



An elegant New Year's Eve wedding, far left, graced the Dante Event Center at the end of 2021. A golf tournament finale dinner helped kick off events in January 2022. Member Dan Calcagno, center left, hosts a table of winners at the Jan. 16 golf dinner.

Bookings

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

schedules an in-person meeting with the client and either Peretti or event coordinator Annah Rose.

"At that point, we will discuss available dates and rooms, event details, potential guest count, type of event, event timing, catering needs and any other pertinent details," Peretti said.

The event center then places the desired date and room on hold

for two weeks. This gives clients time to decide if the Dante Event Center is the best place for their event, without the date getting booked in the meantime.

To confirm an event, a security deposit must be paid, and a contract signed and dated. At the end of the two-week hold period, if a client has not paid a deposit, the event date is released.

Dante Club members have the benefit of booking room rentals at

a 50% discount if they're hosting a personal event—for themselves or immediate family, such as spouse, parents and children, or for a personally owned business.

Anyone with questions about the room-rental member discount can reach out to Tom Novi, Dante Club president.

Those with general event inquiries can email info@danteclub.com or call 916-925-8230.



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

BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Don Agostinelli, vice chairman

Members: Bob Guidera, Dan Calcagno

MEMBERSHIP AND INVESTIGATIONS

Dan Calcagno, chairman; Frank Calcagno, vice chairman

Members: George Procida, Michael Micciche, Don Agostinelli, Dick Zarzana

► Member Involvement Subcommittee: Tom Mezzanares, Ron Fiorica

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman

Member: Michael Micciche

SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Frank Calcagno, 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

Member: Dick Zarzana, Bill Zellers, Don Agostinelli, John Rizzardo, Frank Bartuccio

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Members to be determined

DINNER PROGRAM

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Don Agostinelli, Dick Zarzana, Frank Calcagno

ENHANCING OUR ITALIAN CULTURE

Michael Micciche, chairman

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, Michael Micciche, Matt Longo and new members

• Club apparel: Mark Pedroncelli

• Sergeant-at-arms: Michael Micciche

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: jporata@sbcglobal.net, 530-887-1583
- Ron Fiorica, secretary: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net, 916-687-6406
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer: tjmezzan@gmail.com, 916-467-7483

DIRECTORS

- Don Agostinelli: donjos451@aol.com, 916-451-1155
- Richard Battistessa: drbattistessa@comcast.net, 916-961-4854
- Dan Calcagno: dcalextra@aol.com, 916-481-8368
- Frank Calcagno: fscal@comcast.net, 916-515-1117
- John Caselli: jac6652@aol.com, 916-456-1253
- Jim Dimino: jkdmino@sbcglobal.net, 916-956-6691
- Bob Guidera: robertguidera@att.net, 916-451-1467
- Matt Longo: longomb@sbcglobal.net, 916-397-5869
- Michael Micciche: michael.micciche@gmail.com, 916-550-1122
- Mark Pedroncelli: peddc@surewest.net, 916-812-6729
- George Procida: gprocida@gplandscape.com, 916-455-4738
- Dick Zarzana: razarzana@comcast.net, 916-683-4812



Officers installed, new members welcomed in January

The Ladies Auxiliary installed its 2022 board members at January's dinner meeting.

These previous officers were reinstated: president

Debra Cattuzzo, co-vice presidents Heidi Veneman

and Helen Manfredi Pierson, secretary Judy Farina and co-treasurers Tina Lucchini Bowers and Debra Duccini Hansen.

Returning trustees/callers are Sandy Calcagno, Phyllis Keilholz, Margaret Lynch and Nancy Doyle. New trustees/callers are Susan Kasimatis, Adrienne DeFazio, Barbara Realì, Ann Zacharias and

Roseann Jamison. Also reinstated were Karol Buccola, past president, and Anna Tenderella, hospitality director.

Four auxiliary members retired as trustees/callers: Rosemary Micciche, Mary Ann

Chivaro, Debra Jefcoat and Janet Gatejen. We thank them for their years of service to our group.

We mourned the loss of member Rosemary Scarrone, who loved attending auxiliary dinners with her daughter, member Laura Scarrone.

We send our sympathies to the family.

See AUXILIARY, Page 6

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo



Among members of the 2022 Ladies Auxiliary board installed Jan. 10 are, from left, Tina Lucchini Bowers, Debra Duccini-Hansen, Debra Cattuzzo and Helen Manfredi Pierson. Not pictured are Heidi Pesce Veneman and Judy Farina.

2022 LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, president: cattuzzod@gmail.com
- Heidi Pesce Veneman, co-vice president: hpveneman@yahoo.com
- Helen Manfredi Pierson, co-vice president: helen@medicambulance.net
- Tina Luchini Bowers, co-treasurer: rkb0719@sbcglobal.net
- Debra Duccini Hansen, co-treasurer: dducc56@gmail.com
- Judy Farina, secretary: jfarina56@yahoo.com
- Anna Tenderella, hospitality: annatenderella@sbcglobal.net
- Karol Buccola, past president: karolrb55@gmail.com
- Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller: fscal@comcast.net
- Adrienne DeFazio, trustee/caller: adefazio73@gmail.com
- Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller: ncdoyle59@gmail.com
- Roseann Jamison, trustee/caller: rosieado@yahoo.com
- Susan Kasimatis, trustee/caller: sjk955@gmail.com
- Phyllis Keilholz, trustee/caller: swedgewood@aol.com
- Margaret Lynch, trustee/caller: gmlynch@sbcglobal.net
- Barbara Realì, trustee/caller: barbara.realì46@gmail.com
- Ann Zacharias, trustee/caller: anncecelia02@yahoo.com

**Auxiliary**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

During the January meeting, we welcomed three new members: Laurie Cattuzzo Wagner, my sister, and newcomers Gladys Darling and Phyllis Roehrs, who joined that very evening. All have attended dinners as guests and enjoyed them enough to join our group.

Thank you to Judy Kaminski for donating a beautiful basket of bath products as a raffle prize for the upcoming cioppino feed. That's a reminder that all of us can start bringing in donations for those baskets.

The cioppino feed, the Dante Club's biggest fundraiser, is scheduled for March 19, so let's gather some great prizes. Also, anyone who received gift baskets for Christmas can donate their empty baskets, which we can use to make themed baskets.

Think of clever theme ideas. In the past, we've created baskets themed around wine; movie, pizza, barbecue or Italian pasta nights; kids' toys; and bath and body products. Members can bring baskets already filled or individual items that the board will compile into baskets.

We've all received gifts we never use, but someone else might enjoy them, so please bring them to our

February dinner or drop them by the Dante Club anytime. Thank you!

Winners in our wonderful January raffle were Karol Buccola, a large box of Ferrero Rocher; Sharon Taylor, a gray plaid scarf; Linda Franzioia Feil, a mahogany teakwood candle; Lori Cappello Dangberg, a crystal bowl; Alyse DeFazio, an Italiana face mask; Edythe Deasy, a black and white boa scarf; and Shirley Brousseau, a bamboo cutting board.

Also, thank you to Sandy Calcagno for bringing in two huge Ziplock bags of aluminum can pull tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House program.

I'm so proud of our members for stepping up with this effort. We now have a huge amount of pull tabs to give to the Dante Club for the program.

Even members who don't drink soda can participate in this. Other cans—such as those for cat food—have aluminum pull tabs.

How to determine if a can is made of aluminum? If it doesn't react to a magnet, it's aluminum. If it sticks to a magnet, it's steel.

So keep the pull tabs coming, and remember what a great charity they help support.

We will see you all in February!

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

to everyone for their understanding about this.

It's important to remember that the Dante Club subsidizes food and drinks at member events to keep the prices as low as possible.

Another member benefit is half-price banquet-room rentals for members' personal events, whether for themselves or their immediate family, such as parents, wives, children and grandchildren, or for business events for companies that members personally own.

The partial payment for event center rooms pays the hard

costs of labor and materials related to setting up and taking down tables, chairs and equipment.

Also, it's important that members contact center staff as soon as they know the dates of their planned events to ensure room availability, as booking dates fill up fast.

The Dante Club board is finalizing its business plan for 2022-2023. The plan will provide specific goals and objectives designed to improve member experiences and ensure that our facility is improved and maintained. We'll have more on this in future months.

Finally, members at the January dinner enjoyed a

wonderful menu of Caesar salad, spaghetti and meatballs, and dessert. No one went away hungry, and chef Jonathon Diaz was roundly applauded.

Members also voted to have more social activities at dinners and to minimize dull and boring stuff, so we will try to oblige.

One of the great mysteries is why many members don't attend the dinners, but our new dinner program committee will find out why this happens and take steps to encourage more members' attendance.

Any member who has questions or suggestions can email me at tomnovi@aol.com. I look forward to hearing from them. Stay well, and grazie.



News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

One prospective member who was voted in still awaits induction, and two others need to be interviewed. Otherwise, the committee has removed its backlog of pending applications.

The change of officers for 2022-2023 also brings a change in committee assignments. The membership committee now consists of chairman Dan Calcagno, vice chairman Frank Calcagno and members George Procida, Michael Micciche, Don Agostinelli and Dick Zarzana. The committee must be sought after, as all three of the club's newest directors are on it.

Membership applications can be obtained online through the Dante Club website, in the Dante Event Center office or from any committee member.

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 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.

Bocce update

March 26 is the tentative start date for spring bocce, and team signups will begin in February.

Teams that are ready to go can send their rosters to Rich Battistessa. Members also can sign up during the Feb. 21 members dinner.

Last year featured eight teams, but we're looking to expand the league this year. All members are encouraged to take part. The Dante Club offers excellent bocce courts, and our players are a fun group of friends.

With club membership growing, bocce is a great way to meet fellow members and become involved in this signature Italian sport. A bocce tournament this summer will be held in conjunction with a pasta cook-off event.

Outreach committee

The outreach committee, led by chairman Matt Longo, continues to seek help to improve member communications about activities and events.

"I'm always looking to improve our communications with those willing to help," Longo said. "Many members have skills that are needed here at the Dante Club. Our club needs our members' participation to be at its best."

Longo encourages members to enjoy the gift of giving and participation. They can call or text him at 916-397-5869 with their names, email addresses and areas of interest and expertise, such as carpentry, electrical, plumbing or cleanup. He will compile their information to create email and text notifications for the future. Members also can email any contact updates to Tom Mezzanares at tmezzan@gmail.com.

Newsletter marketing

River's Edge Senior Living Community has joined the ranks of advertisers in *Dante's Inferno*, newsletter coordinator John Caselli reports.

Michael Talani, River's Edge executive director and a Dante Club past president, and Jennifer Scott, director of sales for River's Edge, worked with Caselli on the contract and ad placement.

New advertisers are always welcome. Anyone interested in advertising in the *Inferno* in 2022 can email Caselli at jac6652@aol.com.

Scholarships

Midnight March 31 is the deadline for Sacramento-area high school seniors to submit their applications to the Dante Club's annual scholarship program.

Applications are available online or at the Dante Event Center office. For questions, email Rich Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net.

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 1,300 pounds of pull tabs.

Proceeds help parents who can't afford to stay at the Ronald McDonald lodging place while their children are hospitalized at the University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento. The \$1,300 raised so far has paid for more than 60 nights of lodging.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 8



News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Members can give their collections to Cristoni. They can learn more about the Ronald McDonald House Center of Northern California pull-tab program online at www.rmhcnc.org. Click "Get Involved" and scroll to "Pop Tab Program."

Buildings and grounds

The new buildings and grounds committee hasn't had enough time yet to initiate new projects, but it is following through on a couple of projects already in the works.



One is the new fire alarm system that will help protect our facilities around the clock, detecting smoke and alerting the fire department if needed.

The other is the landscaping around the outdoor tent area. Most of the plants and sod are installed, and the area is starting to look good.

Members are encouraged to stop by and see how our facilities are continually maintained and improved.

Cioppino dinner

After the pandemic put many Dante Club member events on hold for a year, the club's signature annual cioppino dinner will return



Plants have been added to finalize the landscaping and create a break between the lawn and the bocce courts.

this year on March 19.

We're looking forward to a great turnout for this member event. More than 300 members and friends attended the last outing, which always features dancing, food prepared by Michael Talani and his crew, and a raffle.

Hold the date, and watch for more information in the coming weeks.



Master chefs Larry Otten, left, and Michael Talani, right, take a break from their duties to chat with dinner host Rich Battistessa, center, during a special Jan. 16 meal to wrap up activities for the 2021 Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament fundraiser.

Golf fundraiser finale

The business of golf for 2021 is done, topped off with a dinner served Jan. 16 to the Wes Hayward and Dan Calcango winners of our silent auction.

The seven-course meal prepared by Michael Talani and Larry Otten was the perfect ending to our 2021 Vic Martinelli Golf Tournament fundraiser.

The 2022 tournament is set for Aug. 29. Hold the date.

Guest speak series

Our guest speaker series will continue next month with retired educator Jim "Jorgy" Jorgensen scheduled for the March 24 members meeting.

A longtime teacher and administrator with San Juan Unified School District, Jorgensen also is an experienced referee who went on to serve as a commissioner with the Northern Coast Officials Association.

Jorgensen is still active in many organizations, including the Over the Hill Gang, which used to meet at the Dante Club in the Len Frizzi era.

Jorgensen will speak about how the pandemic has interfered with high school and college sports programs.

Members should make their March 24 reservations early, as his talk will likely be a big draw.



Baked rigatoni a comfort-food dish fit for Valentine's or any day

Last month marked the arrival of this new column, and the response has been overwhelming. Members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary were happy to see that we're returning to our gastronomical roots.

For our second installment, we offer a comfort-food dish that would be great for Valentine's Day (the sauce is red) or the long President's Day weekend.

BAKED RIGATONI WITH SAUSAGE

Ingredients:

- 4 or 5 hot or mild Italian sausages cut into small pieces, with casings discarded

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

- Rigatoni pasta cooked al dente
- 3 cups (at least) of a favorite tomato sauce (try Rao's or Lidia brand)
- 1/4 cup vodka
- 1/2 cup heavy cream
- 1 cup grated mozzarella
- 2 cups grated fontina
- Parmesan and chopped parsley for garnish

Brown the sausage pieces and add to the tomato sauce. Cook the sauce and sausage mixture for 15 or 20 minutes, gradually stirring

in the vodka and heavy cream. Add the rigatoni, mozzarella and fontina and stir.

Pour the mixture into a 9x12-inch casserole dish. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes.

Remove from the oven and sprinkle the top of the dish with Parmesan and chopped parsley. Return to the oven for another couple of minutes until the top is toasty and the cheese is melted.

Serve with a nice bottle of Barolo wine.

This dish can be the start of an easy family dinner. It can be assembled ahead of time and refrigerated until the next day.

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ERIC LUCHINI - DANTE CLUB MEMBER

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Legacy Building Fund

Members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary gave more than \$4,000 to our Legacy Fund in 2021. Many thanks to these donors, whose gifts will help us maintain our facility into the future.

In January, we spent \$3,705 to service the kitchen fan blower, replace 60-amp breakers in the kitchen sub-panel, replace a roof air conditioning disconnect with a new 90-amp one and install a 40-amp, 240-volt coffee maker circuit.

We encourage members to consider making the Dante Club part of their estate plans. A donation offered through a will or estate plan can help us maintain our facility as a premier venue for member and public events. It's also a meaningful way members can have a lasting impact on their Italian heritage. Those who would like to make such a gift or inform us if they've already done so may email club treasurer Tom Mezzanares at tjmezzan@gmail.com.

PANDEMIC PROTOCOL

Club members attending dinners and other member events at the Dante Event Center must follow these COVID-19 guidelines:

- Use good judgment in getting vaccinated. Stay home if you don't feel well. Let a board member or the event center staff know if you test positive after attending an event. If possible, alert your tablemates also.
- When you arrive for dinner, please wear a mask and use hand sanitizer. Sanitizer stations are located throughout the building. Take your drink from the bar to your table and socialize there.
- Maintain good social distancing from others in an abundance of caution.

Please note that nearly all event center staff have been vaccinated. They wear masks during all events, as well as gloves if they're serving food.

Thank you for your help in combating COVID-19.

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**Culture**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Sicilian wines have come into their own, and visitors will discover many beautiful wineries throughout the island. Sicily also has many Greek ruins, some of which are in better condition than those in Greece.

The most famous of volcanoes, Mount Etna, just north of Catania near Taormina, is one of the most visited areas of Sicily. Taormina sits high above the Ionian Sea, offering breathtaking views of the coastline.

Among the many fascinating cities worth a visit are Palermo, Catania, Messina, Siracusa and Agrigento. There also are many historical, well-preserved towns, such as Modica, Noto, Taormina, Cefalu and Enna. Many of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in Italy are in Sicily.

Best of all, the people of Sicily are warm and friendly. They love that people love their island.



Club member Michael Micciche and his relatives visit their family hometown of Santa Caterina Villarmosa in the heart of Sicily during a 2012 trip to Italy.

Sicily is just one special region in Italy. I believe that the best way to understand and enjoy the diverse culture of the island and of Italy itself is to embed oneself in it—and live like an Italian.

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 George at 916-455-4738 or gprocida@gplandscape.com and Joe 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

Purchase club shirts and other clothing items by contacting Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or 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. 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.