



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

New year offers opportunity for continued progress

As I write this, we have celebrated Christmas and are approaching the new year. I hope you and your loved ones are safe and healthy.

At our December members dinner, the Dante Club wrapped up the final round of board nominations, followed by elections for 2022/23. The new board then selected its officers, deciding that I would serve as president, Pat Orelli as first vice president and Joe Porata as second vice president.

I am humbled by the board's trust in me. I pledge to do my best over the next two years to honor that trust by continuing the progress Ron Pane made during his term as president. The Dante Club should be forever grateful to Ron for his leadership during a very

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6



Newly elected officers for the 2022-2023 Dante Club term are, from left, Ron Fiorica, secretary; Joe Porata, second vice president; Pat Orelli, first vice president; Tom Novi, president; and Tom Mezzanares, treasurer.

Board elected for upcoming term

New directors and officers commit to serve Dante Club for two years

A new Dante Club board of directors is ready to take the reins for 2022-2023.

At the December members meeting, nominations for all board positions concluded, and members present completed their ballots to elect these club leaders for the upcoming two-year term: George Procida, Don Agnostinelli, Dick Zarzanna, Pat Orelli, Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Frank Calcagno, Matt Longo, Tom Novi, Bob

Guidera, John Caselli, Joe Porata, Dan Calcagno, Michael Micciche and Mark Pedroncelli.

In addition, Ron Fiorica was elected secretary, and Tom Mezzanares was re-elected to serve as treasurer.

After the results were announced, the newly elected board members chose officers.

For 2022-2023, Novi will serve as president, having served last term as first vice president.

See BOARD, Page 4



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance update

At its final 2021 meeting on Dec. 13, the advisory and finance committee received reports from event center general manager Jennifer Peretti and club treasurer Tom Mezzanares.

Peretti reported an outstanding December for the center and said 2022 is shaping up to be a good year, with many events already booked. At least one wedding has been booked for 2023.

Customer feedback remains positive, and profitability is good. Mezzanares said center and club financials are positive, with December shaping up as the strongest month of the year.

The committee approved a request from the bocce group for \$2,000 to purchase and install lights on the bocce courts.

Nearly 50 members now play the game regularly, and more have shown interest in playing in the spring.

The approved \$2,000 will be budgeted from the Legacy Building Fund.

Membership committee

The Dante Club welcomed 14 new members in 2021, and a 15th should be inducted during the January meeting. Only two people remain on the waiting list.

The membership committee thanks all the sponsors who introduced these newcomers, who will surely help us continue the success of the Dante Club.

The new members are Todd Bonanno, sponsored by Rich Battistessa; Joe Bonacci and Rick Padillo, sponsored by Frank Calcagno; Daniel Dalfonso, sponsored by Anthony Catanese; Carl DeNigris and Bill Zellars, sponsored by Bob DeNigris; Jim Di Pinto, sponsored by Ralph DiLibero; Brooks and Jason Novi, sponsored by Tom Novi; Alex Orelli, sponsored by Pat Orelli; Louie Lodi, sponsored by Ron Pane; Aaron Patella, sponsored by John Patella; Geno Bartucco, sponsored by George Procida; and Tom Comalli, sponsored by John Rizzardo.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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

January 10

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Times: 5 to 9 p.m.

Menu: House salad, seasonal vegetables, chicken parmesan with penne pasta and Alfredo sauce, rolls and butter, vanilla ice cream and biscotti

Cost: \$20 per auxiliary member

Reservations deadline is now past.

January 17

Members Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Caesar salad, roasted peppers and squash, spaghetti and meatballs with marinara sauce, rolls and butter, vanilla ice cream and biscotti

Cost: \$18 per member

Reserve by midnight Monday, Jan. 10.

January 22

Annual Crab Feed

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

Menu: All-you-can-eat crab with cocktail sauce, clarified butter and lemons; Caesar salad; seasonal vegetables; rigatoni with marinara sauce; rolls and butter; ice cream station

Cost: \$75

Reserve by midnight Sunday, Jan. 9. Open to the public.

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

Reserve by midnight Sunday, Jan. 30.

February 14

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Times: 5 to 9 p.m.

Menu: House salad, salmon piccata, squash risotto, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, red velvet cupcakes

Cost: \$20 per auxiliary 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.



ONE FOR THE BOOKS

Event center
enjoys solid
bookings
through 2021



A November wedding in the Dante Event Center's outdoor gazebo was among many bookings during the past year.

Last year was a year for the books at the Dante Event Center, according to a final wrap-up by general manager Jennifer Peretti.

Although special event bookings at the beginning of 2021 were somewhat scarce, Peretti said, the picture brightened.

"We were able to turn things around in March and bring the Dante Event Center into the limelight," Peretti said. "We became a household name in the Sacramento area, not only for the Dante Club of Sacramento but also for the amazing events we hosted."

The center booked 260 events in 2021, including 42 weddings, as well as crab feeds, awards galas, conferences, memorials, celebrations of life and various parties.

"We are finally getting back on track with fundraising events for the club, as well as bringing our annual functions back, such as the summer barbecues and the golf tournament," she said. "We also were able to host the Christmas dinner indoors this year."

Peretti said the center will start 2022 with a bang.

"We're hosting a few weddings, annual

conferences and, of course, bringing back the Dante Club's annual crab feed on Jan. 22. Be sure to reserve now!"

More than 20 weddings are booked for 2022, along with a Blues Brothers-style concert, a cioppino night and multiple birthday parties.

"I want to thank all the members who have brought their families to the club or celebrated a special event with us," Peretti said. "We look forward to hosting more events as we go along. I hope everyone had a memorable Christmas and a fun New Year's Eve."



Ladies Auxiliary members enjoy their Christmas dinner indoors at the Dante Club.



Mark Speckman, assistant head football coach for the University of California, Davis, addresses the Dante Club as guest speaker at the Dec. 20 members meeting. Speckman spoke about his 13 years at Willamette University before coming to Davis. He also recalled learning to play the trombone as a child with limited physical abilities. Born without hands, Speckman has carved out a successful 40-year career as a high school and college coach. He's also well-known as a motivational speaker.

Board

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Orelli, who served as second vice president in the previous term, will move into the position of first vice president.

Porata, a board member in the 2021 term, will assume the role of second vice president.

In the coming weeks, the new board of directors will assign members to the club's various special committees and activities.

The names of those assigned will be published in the February edition of *Dante's Inferno*.

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

BOARD MEMBERS

- 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: jkdilmino@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



Members make merry, donate generously during December

I hope all our Ladies Auxiliary members had a wonderful Christmas!

The auxiliary enjoyed an incredible prime rib dinner at our monthly meeting in December.

The accompanying mashed potatoes, roasted Brussels sprouts and salad were perfection. Even the napkins were folded into little

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

Christmas trees. This added to the beautiful table and banquet room decorations provided by Diana Dionosio and Linda Raridan, who made the room very merry.

We missed Anna Tenderella, who is out after having surgery. We send her our good luck wishes for a speedy recovery.

Special thanks to teacher RoseMarie Bertini and her students in the St. Francis High School Italian Club, who entertained us with Christmas carols in Italian.

See AUXILIARY, Page 8



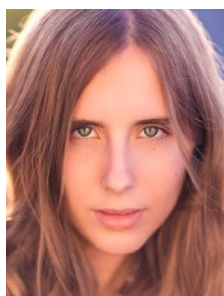
The St. Francis High School Italian Club entertain during the Ladies Auxiliary's December dinner meeting. The girls sang Christmas carols in Italian, inviting the audience to join in.

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
- Debbie Duccini Hansen, co-treasurer:
dducc56@gmail.com
- Judy Farina, secretary:
jfarina56@yahoo.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



Center welcomes new coordinator to keep calendar full



Annah Rose

Dante's Inferno occasionally spotlights staff members who work tirelessly behind the scenes to help make the Dante Event Center a successful operation.

One such person is Annah Rose. General manager Jennifer Peretti recently hired Annah to serve as an event coordinator, tasked with

filling up the Dante calendar with myriad events throughout 2022 and beyond.

Annah brings a diverse background in marketing, management, runway modeling and event hosting and coordinating.

"I chose this job simply because it is my dream job," Annah said. "It will also help me better organize and develop my own company."

Annah's company, United Creators, helps train, brand and showcase artists and entertainers. She said her business will complement her work at the Dante Event Center.

"I want to give artists a chance to shine and be who they want to be," she said of her business. "One of my favorite quotes comes from Albert Einstein: 'Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.'"

The event center is pleased to welcome Annah.

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

difficult time and his hard work to rehabilitate and upgrade our property.

Working side by side with Ron was George Procida, who contributed plantings and labor for our new landscaping. When I say working, I mean Ron and George personally pounded nails, painted buildings and planted trees and shrubs.

Many other members too numerous to mention also contributed, but Ron and George stand head and shoulders above all. Please extend your appreciation to Ron and George when you see them.

As we move toward the Dante Club's 100-year anniversary in 2026, I am mindful of the founding members' statement of purpose: "It shall be the aims and purposes of the Dante Club to be a social club, to encourage friendship, to provide activities for club members and families, to sustain

the Italian heritage and to be good citizens in the community."

In that spirit, we continue to offer social activities for members and their families, as well as other member activities, such as bocce. We publish historical and travel articles in our *Dante's Inferno* newsletter to remind us of our Italian heritage.

Good citizenship is reflected in many ways but perhaps none is more important than the scholarships we provide to the children and grandchildren of Dante Club members.

But we can do more. We can build up our Legacy Fund to help ensure ongoing maintenance and improvement of the Dante Event Center property. We can recruit more new members. We can emphasize our Italian heritage in new and different ways, perhaps by sharing our Italian family recipes in the newsletter or writing about our experiences while traveling in Italy. We can continue to make social events even more attractive to members.

The Ladies Auxiliary has been our partner every step of the way, helping us with many of our activities. I look forward to their continued involvement.

I would be remiss if I failed to applaud our general manager, Jennifer Peretti, and her staff. The event center is the Dante Club's business arm, presenting events and generating revenue that allows the club to enjoy an amazing property in the heart of one of Sacramento's finest business and residential areas.

Modestly priced food and beverages for members is the result of the center's financial success. As members, we need to support the event center whenever possible.

If you have questions or suggestions, I would like to hear from you. My email address is tomnovi@aol.com. I will try to include at least one question or comment in my column each month. Please remember, the board and I are here for you. Buona salute!

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Member application forms are available on the website, in the event center office or from any member of the membership committee.

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.

Members can order items online. Go to the club website or click here: 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 wrap-up

A group of paisani experienced the great Italian pastime of bocce during 2021, with more than 40 rollers, eight teams and a competitive season.

Congratulations to the D Rollers, who won the spring and summer leagues, and to the Sons of Beocce, who took fall honors and won the fall tournament.

The 2022 season will kick off in March. Members are encouraged to assemble a few more teams.

League play has been on Saturday mornings. The installation of lights could allow us to extend play into the evening hours. More information to come soon.

Outreach committee

The outreach committee, led by chairman Matt Longo, is still looking for help to improve member communication about activities and events.

Members can call or text Longo at 916-397-5869 with their names, email addresses and areas of interest and expertise, such as carpentry or cleanup. He will use the information to create email and text notifications.

Members also can email 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.

Annual dues

Membership dues for 2022 are \$100. They are due by Jan. 31. For details and a payment option, go online at <http://danteclub.com/2022-membership-dues/>.

Scholarships

The beginning of a new year is a good time for graduating high school seniors to think about their future. Members should start encouraging area seniors to consider applying to our scholarship program.

The Dante Club is preparing to offer several scholarships to qualified applicants. Applications can be found online or at the Dante Event Center office.

The deadline for applications is March 31, without exception. Reminders will be published in *Dante's Inferno* for the next three months.

Questions may be directed to Rich Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net or 916-961-4854.

Save pull tabs

Since Ron Cristoni challenged club 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 University of California, Davis, Medical Center in Sacramento.

The \$1,300 raised by the Dante Club has paid for more than 60 nights of lodging.

Members can give their collections to Cristoni. They also can learn more about the pull-tab program online at www.rmhcnc.org. Click Get Involved and scroll to Pop Tab Program.



Goody bags full of socks, toiletries and other personal items gathered by auxiliary members await donation to Child Protective Services for children in need.

Auxiliary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

The girls even passed out sheet music so our members could sing along if they wanted to.

Auxiliary members and their guests generously donated many wonderful socks and toiletries for children in contact with Child Protective Services. A special shout-out goes to Linda Ducray, who made and donated four beautiful quilts.

Such items give comfort to these children, who face emotional upheaval when removed from their homes. Thank you to all who donated.

A shout-out also goes to Tina Lucchin Bowers, Susie Rowski, Cathy Bertolani, Ann Zacharias and Elaine Shaedler, who brought in pull tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House. Our huge collection vase is overflowing. Donations will be presented to the men's club.

December brought two more members—my cousin, Dorine Sussanetto Wiese, and my sister, Laurie Cattuzzo Wagner. Welcome to our auxiliary!

During the December meeting, members were delighted to vie for our many raffle prizes. Winners were Rosemary Micciche, oval Christmas gnome platter; Susan Kasimatis, Santa cup with one pound of coffee; guest Patricia Fontana, Christmas crystal oval plate and Italian Tuscan soaps; Janet Mathews, Christmas tree-shaped platter; Carole Orelli, \$10; Marie Leonatd, holly bowl and tray; guest Linda Banks, basil and garlic dipping oils; Barbara Ferro, wooden joy plaque and ornament candle; Maggie Ward, January dinner; and guest Lisa Bandaccarri, iLeoni's salad bowl, tongs and tea towel.

The past two years have been difficult for many people. Here's to a much better 2022!

Legacy Building Fund

Many thanks to these members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary for their generous contributions to the Legacy Fund during 2021, for a final year's total of \$4,065.90:

- Richard and Dianna Battistessa, \$200
- Lee Bennett, in memory of Shirley Pasquini Bennett, \$500
- John Bertoni, \$100
- Dan Calcagno, \$200
- John Caselli, \$100
- Bob DeNigris, in memory of William "Bill" Pierson, \$150
- 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, food costs for board dinner, \$218.70
- Ron Pane, partial payment of new desk for front office, \$569.41
- Ron Pane, office supplies from Office Depot, \$25.96
- Patrick Piacentini, \$200
- John and Kelly Procida, \$100
- James Riolo, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, tools from Emigh Hardware, \$1.83
- Rena Zellars and Jovanne DeNigris, \$300

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.



Favorite Northern Italian snacking treat an easy-to-make tradition

January marks the beginning of a new year, a new term, a new set of officers and board directors and this new editorial feature in *Dante's Inferno*: Just Like Mom Used to Make.

Each month a member of the club will volunteer to provide a recipe for a favorite dish from the Old Country.

Our first Italian gastronomic delight comes from Dante Club past president, current board member and resident foodie Richard Battistessa.

This recipe is one he calls "La Bagna Cauda"—which literally translates as "hot bath" or "hot dip"—a Northern Italian treat from the Piedmont region.

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE *Richard Battistessa*

If you like a little anchovy, garlic, olive oil and butter, this dish—devoured along with a few glasses of Italian red wine and some generous helpings of fresh crusty bread—is delightful, Battistessa promises.

Ingredients

3 ounces anchovy, cut in pieces
3 ounces garlic, finely sliced
3 ounces olive oil
3 ounces butter
Your choice of vegetables for dipping

To begin your Piedmont adventure, heat the butter and the oil. Add the anchovies and the garlic. Simmer for 10 minutes.

Keep the sauce warm. For your vegetables, consider using cardoons, celery, raw cabbage, mushrooms and peppers to dip in the sauce. Be as creative as you want with the veggies.

Anytime of the day or evening is a good time to indulge in this dish. It's always tasty, no matter the occasion.

During the holidays, though, it's especially appealing and can become a great tradition. Garlic lovers especially appreciate it. Buon appetito! Auguri per il nuovo anno!

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DANTE'S REMINDERS



Member volunteers

To volunteer, contact Tom Novi for buildings and grounds and Joe Porata for social events. Reach Tom at 916-961-6197 or tomnovi@aol.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

To purchase club clothing, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or peddc@surewest.net or speak to him at a meeting. Cash or checks are 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 is not guaranteed.

Contact information

Recently changed an address or phone number? Please alert Dan Calcagno at 916-481-8368 or dmcacagno@aol.com.

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