



**Check calendar for
upcoming member
events and meals**

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Cioppino dinner a sellout success

I wrote last month that the winter chill was starting to fade, with spring just around the corner. Well, the gods of winter just laughed. As I pound this out, we are in our 38th straight day of rain, wind and assorted misery with no relief in sight. The animals are lining up, and we haven't even started to build a boat!

We should all yearn for the good old days when we got all the water we needed from Costco. Please join me in lighting a candle and saying a prayer, and if, when you read this, it is sunny and warm, you will know that the weather gods listened.

Very nice night on March 18 at our annual cioppino dinner. More than 30 club members joined chefs Michael Talani and Rich Battistessa to prepare, cook

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6



Preparing crab for the Dante Club's February feast are, from left, George Zarzana, Leroy Dal Porto, Peter Pesetti and Doug Troughton. Above, chef Michael Talani and club member Rich Battistessa discuss how much salt to add to the risotto for the March cioppino dinner. Setup helpers for the dinner are, from left, Ladies Auxiliary members Susan Kasimatis, Anna Tenderella, Judy Kaminski, Donna O'Neil, Roseanne Jamison, Tina Bowers, Heidi Veneman and Debra Cattuzzo.

SPECTACULAR SEAFOOD

Fish feasts rule in February, March

As February and March come to a close, we say goodbye to crab season. The Dante Event Center hosted six crab feeds and the Dante Club's annual cioppino dinner, which were all successful.

"We ordered more than 5,600 pounds of delicious crab," reported general manager Jennifer Peretti.

Cioppino took center stage at the event center in March. With

members of the men's club and the Ladies Auxiliary working together, a spectacular dinner was served to 220 guests. The festive evening featured dancing and a raffle.

Chef Michael Talani was in rare form with his risotto and fish stew recipe. Three days and 40 volunteers made for another outstanding evening at the Dante Event Center.

See FISH, Page 10



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance, building fund

The advisory and finance committee has been developing long-range projections for replacing major items. A 15-year budget has seen substantial progress, thanks to the efforts of Ron Pane and George Procida.

Estimates have been made for tasks such as re-roofing the buildings; repaving the parking lot; replacing the heating and air systems and the kitchen and refrigeration equipment; repainting the building's exterior and interior; and upgrading flooring. Items will continue to be added. One of the heating and air systems will need replacement before summer.

The committee is obtaining current costs of items and estimating future costs based on anticipated inflation. Money is added to the Facility Reserve Fund that appears on the club's financial summary.

New sausage event

The Dante Club will host a new event this year, the Sausage Festa, from 5 to 9 p.m. June 9. The event will be held outside in the club's garden grounds and under the tent.

A bar will be offered, as well as dancing to live music provided by the Cheryl Tiburzi Trio.

The menu will consist of Italian sausage with peppers and onions, meza rigatoni with a meat ragu, Caesar salad and rolls. Ron Pane and his crew will serve the meal. Free bocce play will be available before and after dinner.

Tickets are \$30. Reservations are limited to 200 members and guests. Social hour will begin at 5 p.m., followed by dinner 6:30 p.m.

Buildings and grounds

The buildings and grounds committee completed several tasks in March, including the repair of toilets in the women's main bathroom and electrical work in the annex building that Magpie Preschool occupies.

We also started upgrading emergency-exit signs throughout the building.

Members visiting the club in recent months may have noticed that the front gate was accidentally damaged. The gate was scheduled to be reinstalled at

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 3



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

April 2

Sunday Family Dinner

Times: 4 p.m. cocktails and to-go meals, 5 p.m. dinner

Menu: Caesar salad, spaghetti with meatballs and marinara sauce, seasonal vegetables, garlic bread, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reservations now closed. The annual Easter Egg Hunt also will be held April 2, at 2 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be available.

April 10

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner, followed by meeting

Menu: Caesar salad, chicken pot pie, roasted potatoes and vegetables, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight March 31.

April 17

Dante Club Members Dinner and Meeting

Times: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, followed by meeting

Menu: Caesar salad, Italian sausage with peppers and onions, rigatoni with marinara, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight April 8.

May 7

Sunday Family Dinner

Times: 4 p.m. cocktails, 5 p.m. dinner

Menu: Caesar salad, fettuccine with Alfredo sauce, chicken cordon bleu, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reserve by midnight April 29.

May 8

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner, followed by meeting

Menu: Italian lentil soup, creamy cheddar polenta, chicken marsala, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight April 28.

SAVE THE DATES:

Dante Club members dinner and meeting, May 15; spring Sausage Festa, June 9

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

the end of March.

Replacement of an air conditioning compressor for the Sicilian room and bar area is planned for early April. The compressor failed in the fall but wasn't needed through the winter. With warmer weather approaching, repairs have now been scheduled.

The big job of erecting the outdoor tent, requiring a dozen helpers, is scheduled for April 6. Photos of the process will follow in the May *Inferno*.

Mother tongue

With the hope of making all club members fluent in Italian by year's end, Dick Zarzana suggested we visit posta@dailyitalianwords.com on a daily basis.

A new word and phrase are posted Monday through Saturday. Members can follow on YouTube and listen to audio on Spotify, learning everything from how to order in Italian at their favorite restaurants to how to curse opponents on the bocce court. Buona navigazione (happy browsing)!

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 at danteclub.shopgraphx.com or contact Mark Pedroncelli at peddc@surewest.net or 916-812-6729.

For special orders, contact Julie Brown at 916-787-0603 or julie@premieregraphx.net.

Save pull tabs

The Dante Club has always prided itself on providing myriad ways for members to get involved and give back to our community.

For the past five years, Ron Cristoni has worked with the Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program, which helps offset the cost of overnight stays for parents with a hospitalized child.

Cristoni reports that he delivered 62 pounds of pull tabs in March. Total donations to date stand at 1,615 pounds.

Each member is asked to collect pull tabs from their canned pet foods, sodas and, of course, everyone's favorite—beer.

Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members bring their donations to their meetings.

For more information about the program, contact Ron Cristoni.

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*.

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

Annual dinner payments, reservation substitutions

Members can now pay monthly or annually for monthly meeting night dinners, excluding the July and August barbecues. When members pay in advance, they cannot receive a refund or a credit for any individual dinner they don't

attend. However, they don't need to tell the event center if they will or won't attend, as they have already paid. This annual payment option is offered as a convenience.

For reservation substitutions, members must call 916-925-8230 by noon the day of the event and provide the substitute's name, to avoid confusion. If the substitution is not confirmed by noon, it can't be honored.

Members without a substitute can donate their dinner to any member who walks in and forgot to make a reservation.

Dante Jazz Society

Carolynne Swayze, longtime host of the Sacramento Jazz Co-op, recently relocated and has found it difficult to manage events from outside the market.

Therefore, after years at the helm, she has passed the baton to the Dante Event Center to revamp it and make it part of our calendar of events. Thus, the Dante Jazz Society was born.

We will offer different styles of jazz every month to keep this vibrant musical genre alive. Members and friends who want a relaxing evening out are encouraged to come join us once a month. Tickets are available at the door and on the Dante Club website under public events.

Those who want to enjoy a bite to eat need to order online before the cut-off date.

Membership committee

We have started recognizing our long-standing Dante Club

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 9



2023 Committees and Assignments

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY AND FINANCE

Pat Orelli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman

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

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

George Procida, chairman; Don Agostinelli, vice chairman

Members: Matt Longo, Tom Mezzanares, Joe Porata, Ron Pane, Bill Maffei

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

Member: Mark Pedroncelli

SOCIAL

Joe Porata, chairman; Rich Battistessa, vice chairman

Members: John Caselli, Matt Longo, Pat Orelli, Ron Pane, Mark Pedroncelli, Dick Zarzana

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BOCCE

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Dick Zarzana, John Rizzardo

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Frank Buccola, chairman; Rich Battistessa, vice chairman;

Member: Bill Maffei

DINNER PROGRAM

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Don Agostinelli, Dick Zarzana

ENHANCING OUR ITALIAN CULTURE

Ralph DiLibero, chairman

Member: 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: John Rizzardo

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
- John Caselli: jac6652@aol.com, 916-456-1253
- Jim Dimino: jkdimino@sbcglobal.net, 916-956-6691
- Matt Longo: longomb@sbcglobal.net, 916-397-5869
- Bill Maffei: mrmaffei@sbcglobal.net, 916-488-6837
- Ron Pane: repane@icloud.com, 916-798-0111
- Mark Pedroncelli: pddc@surewest.net, 916-812-6729
- George Procida: gprocida@gplandscape.com, 916-455-4738
- John Rizzardo: sjrizzardo@gmail.com, 916-331-4391
- Dick Zarzana: razarzana@comcast.net, 916-683-4812



Auxiliary member delights with her holiday transformations

We had a very enjoyable March dinner meeting. The tall, fully dressed leprechaun (member



Laura Scarrone

Laura Scarrone) outdid herself again. She gave everyone a darling bag of colored M&Ms-labeled rainbow seeds.

And the board members were each given a large green four-leaf clover Rice Krispies treat.

Laura does something like this every month. She was a turkey at Thanksgiving, an elf at Christmas and Elsa from *Frozen* in January.

We never know what she will decide to dress up as each month, but she always makes themed treats for every person who is at the meeting.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

Laura taught special education for grades kindergarten to adults for 40 years. She also coached the St. Ignatius girls in 8th grade through high school in volleyball, softball and basketball.

We had a guest at our last auxiliary dinner who recognized the leprechaun as her basketball coach from the 8th grade. Needless to say, Laura has made an impression on her students, as well as the auxiliary.

Our secretary, Susan Kasimatis, changed the way we present the raffle, and people were very happy.

Members were able to drop their ticket into a container in front of the prize they wished to win.

And the winners were: Mia Franzoia, 2010-2020 Trivial Pursuit Game; Laura Scarrone,

\$20; Marisa Barrone, ceramic coffee pour-over; Joan Chargin (guest), \$25 See's candy gift card; and Antoinette Bonnanno, free

dinner. Member Nordine Buckely won multiple prizes: a beautiful platter with



March raffle prizes

grapes, a glass frame, a silver bracelet and two Murano glass paperweights. Proceeds from the raffle will be donated to the Sacramento SPCA.

Thanks to Elaine Schaedler, Ann Zacharias and Cathy Bertolani, who brought in a baggie full of pull tabs that the late Pat DeRobertis had saved.

We extend our sympathy to the

See LADIES AUXILIARY, Page 6

2023 LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, president:

cattuzzod@gmail.com

- Alyse DeFazio, vice president:

alysedefazio@aol.com

- Tina Luchini Bowers, treasurer:

tebowers55@gmail.com

- Susan Kasimati, secretary:

sjk955@gmail.com

- Anna Tenderella, hospitality:

annatenderella@sbcglobal.net

- Karol Buccola, past president:

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- Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller:

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- Adrienne DeFazio, trustee/

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- Susan Quiarte, trustee/caller:

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- Barbara Reali, trustee/caller:

barbara.reali46@gmail.com

- Ann Zacharias, trustee/caller:

anncecelia02@yahoo.com

**Ladies Auxiliary**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

family of member Connie DiLoreto, who passed away in February. Connie had been an auxiliary president for two years. She is survived by her three children, Peter, Paul and Mari Anne, as well as many grand- and great grandchildren. Services will be held April 1 at Holy Spirit Church.

The auxiliary has two new members: Joanne Fankhauser, a friend of

Denise Franzoia, and Robin Maita, who is joining family members Jodie and Gayle.

Thanks to members for their donations to the cioppino raffle baskets. The baskets looked amazing! It was a lot of work, but the raffle was an unbelievable success.

I want to thank these members who got together to compile the baskets: Heidi Veneman, Tina Bowers, Roseann Jamison, Anna Tenderella

and Judy Kaminski. I also want to point out the beautiful bows made by Donna Dighero O'Neil and Susan Kasimatis.

And thank you to the veggie-chopper volunteers who came in Thursday of the cioppino weekend: Carole Pesetti, Anna Tenderella, Susan Jas, Paula Buchignani, Cathy Raineri-Zero and Patty Peter.

They did such a great job that our Friday volunteers didn't even

have to come in.

Lastly, I must thank the members who worked their hearts out the evening of the dinner: Alyse DeFazio, Susan Kasimatis, Tina Bowers, Ann Zacharias, Emily Dee and Anna Tenderella. They sold so many raffle tickets and handed out baskets to our very pleased winners.

Don't forget to join us for the next meeting on April 10. We will enjoy the dance stylings of the Italian Balliamo Dancers.

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and serve a gourmet five-course Italian meal.

The evening included music, dancing and a raffle made possible largely through the help of the Ladies Auxiliary. Thank you, ladies. Reservations were limited, so members making last-minute requests were likely disappointed.

The next big member event is our new Sausage Festa, an evening of food, drink, music and dancing to the Cheryl Tiburzi Trio. It will be held June 9 under the tent and include open play on the bocce courts.

Ron Pane, Joe Porata and their crew of cooks and servers will make this a memorable event.

Priced at \$30 per person, this promises to be a wonderful springtime event. Seating will be limited, so sign up early.

Several bylaws changes were proposed by members and

distributed at the March members dinner. As the bylaws provide, the proposals will then be presented at the April meeting for a final reading and vote.

The proposals would clarify that the Dante Club is a fraternal organization, loosen criteria for associate membership while keeping such membership to a maximum of 15% of the total membership, reduce the number of board members from 15 to 10, and reduce the terms of office of the president and the first and second vice presidents, from two years to one year.

As part of its Dante Event Center oversight responsibilities, the board recently reviewed center policies and practices with general manager Jennifer Peretti.

The result was a much better understanding of center operations, a healthy exercise for both the board and Jennifer.

One problem she continues to wrestle with, for example, is

serving drinks as quickly as possible to members and guests. What seems a simple task is actually quite complex, but she is working on it.

The board left with a much better understanding of the challenges of managing the center and a greater appreciation of the work the manager and her staff do to make each event successful.

I hope members will thank our hard-working manager and her staff for all they do.

Finally, we recently lost our long-term bookkeeper, Diane Langley, who resigned because of the demands of family responsibilities. On a positive note, we were able to recruit Karen Moon to pick up where Langley left off.

We welcome Karen and look forward to her work to manage the Dante Club financials.

Grazie, and stay well.



Sbandieratori del Palio D'Asti show off colorful, highly acrobatic flag-throwing routines during a recent performance attended by Susan Pricco, a Ladies Auxiliary member.

ENHANCING OUR CULTURE

Flag waving a time-honored Italian tradition

By Susan Pricco

Since the Middle Ages, flag waving — or flag throwing — has been a revered tradition across Italy.

Historically, flags were commonly used by the military in battle to identify troops and communicate orders. The flags held the symbols of nobility, origin, groups or neighborhoods.

The Sbandieratori — or flag wavers — were brave, heroic and held in high esteem. The treasured flags were never allowed to touch the ground. In combat, capturing an opponent's flag was considered a coup, removing the opponent's ability to communicate effectively on the battlefield.

In times of peace, the practice of flag waving evolved into ceremonial use, identifying families, cities, schools or regions,

It could be said that Italy has raised the practice to an art form.

each with a coat of arms, crest or symbol.

Although the practice of flag waving is not unique to Italy, it could be said that Italy has raised the practice to an art form.

Ensembles of Sbandieratori in colorful medieval or Renaissance attire still proudly entertain at sporting events, celebrations, tournaments and festivals, including Carnevale and the Palio d'Asti.

Throwers are highly trained and skilled but also athletic, graceful and elegant. Their

routines are exacting and synchronized.

The classic style is performed standing, with performers using one or two flags or banners. The acrobatic style uses multiple flags and gymnastic movements. Drums and trumpets herald every arrival and command the performance of the Sbandieratori. It is a regal display.

Troupes of Sbandieratori continue to perform and preserve their proud tradition and heritage across Italy and worldwide.

Recently, I viewed this time-honored tradition in a performance by the acclaimed Sbandieratori del Palio D'Asti.

I was completely mesmerized but managed to snap a few photos and even a gratuitous selfie.

Susan Pricco is a member of the Dante Club Ladies Auxiliary.



Time to pay tribute to the great Joe DiMaggio

As we enjoy the beginning of the 2023 baseball season, it seems only fitting that Joe DiMaggio, the Yankee Clipper and the greatest Italian American baseball player in history, be remembered.

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw nearly 5 million immigrants come to America from impoverished regions of Italy. Suffering great indignities, ridicule and violence, darker-skinned Italian immigrants were forced to live in poverty and were often ostracized by white Protestant Americans.

But baseball, the most American of all games, became widely adopted by the newly arrived Italians and served to help break down bias and prejudice.

Beginning in the 1920s, when Tony Lazzari became a star playing for the Yankees as a member of Murderers Row, with Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig, the country saw an Italian American as a celebrity worthy of admiration.

But it was Joe DiMaggio, who dazzled America as the greatest Italian American baseball player of all time, who became the first great Italian American celebrity with national respect and admiration.

The son of an Italian immigrant fisherman, "Joltin' Joe" grew from humble beginnings in the San Francisco Bay area to play first for the San Francisco Seals and then for the New York Yankees for 13 years. During that time he won nine World Series championships, was a 13-time All-Star and was Most Valuable

See DIMAGGIO, Page 11

Italian Americans leave their imprint on east Sacramento area

Italian roots run deep in Sacramento. Italians were among the city's earliest pioneers and have settled here since the Gold Rush. Generations of Italian Americans helped shape Sacramento's cultural and economic landscape.

Between 1850 and 1870, Italians were concentrated along the city's Embarcadero. By the early 20th century, they were in Southside, Oak Park, Land Park, midtown and east Sacramento.

In the 1930s and 1940s, almost half of the households in Oak Park had come from Italy, particularly along 39th Street, then called Carmello Boulevard. After World War II, the largest concentration emerged in the east Sacramento area when Italians moved from other city neighborhoods. They were drawn there in 1948 with the construction of the new St Mary's Church at 58th and M streets after a major fundraising campaign by the Italian community.

St. Mary's Church has served as a spiritual, social and ethnic hub for the Italian community since 1906, when it was founded at Eighth and N streets and in 1916 moved to Seventh and T streets. As an Italian parish church, it was staffed by Italian priests and Mass was held in Italian.

By World War II, east Sacramento was home to many Italian truck farms and was already populated by Italians. Some of the stone farmhouses built by Italians still exist around East Portal Park

in the heart of the neighborhood. The five existing stone houses are called the Stone Sisters and were originally inhabited by Italian families named Reali, Guidotti, Carli, Belluoimini and Brida.

In 1946, across the street from the park on Rodeo Way, 20 homes were built on Anthony Zito's produce farm. Italian families with names such as Defazio, Luigi, DaPrato, Pane, Puccinelli, Stefani, Grida, Guidotti, Procida and Reali lived in the homes.

The high concentration of families established the neighborhood with an Italian flavor. Many Italian Americans still live in the area, where visitors can hear Italian spoken.

The Little Italy neighborhood, generally concentrated between 48th and 59th streets and bounded by J Street and Folsom Boulevard, continued to grow and thrive through the 1950s, '60s and '70s and into the present.

Italians established many communal institutions in the neighborhood, including St. Mary's Church, Giovanni Hall, a bocce club in East Portal Park, which today has 65 league teams, a number of Italian American organizations that operate in the area, and Catholic Little Italy in Sacramento.

Generations of Italian American children have attended St. Mary's elementary and St. Francis high schools, which offer classes in Italian. Italian American

See ITALIAN, Page 12



Want to book a personal event? Don't delay

The Dante Event Center is booking events through 2025. Club members looking to host a personal event this year should inquire as early as possible.

To host an event, a member must first schedule a meeting with general manager Jennifer Peretti or Dante event coordinator Annah Rose.

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

The member's desired room and date will be placed on hold for two weeks to allow time to decide if the center is the place for the event, without the date

getting booked in the meantime.

At the end of the two weeks, if a 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.

Members can rent a banquet room at a 50% discount for a personal

event for themselves, family members, which include spouses, parents and children, or a personally owned business.

Members with questions about the discount may contact club president Tom Novi at 916-961-6197. For event inquiries, email info@danteclub.com or call 916-925-8230.

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

members. Each month, we identify those who have joined that month in the past, all Lifetime members and any general member with at least 25 years in the club. Their anniversaries will be noted.

Here are the April honorees:

Lifetime members

Tom Mezzanares, 49 years

General members

Luigi Talini, 53 years

Richard Merri, 51 years

Frank Perri Jr., 46 years

Robert Traversi, 34 years

Robert Belli, 31 years

Darren Procida, 29 years

Jeffery Marsalla Sr., 27 years

Peter Lima III, 25 years

Dante bylaws changes

Eight changes have been proposed for the Dante Club bylaws. Members will decide on them in the next few months. Seven have been submitted by the bylaws subcommittee, Ron Fiorica and Don Agostinelli, and one by a club member, Ron Cristoni.

The formal wording of the proposals was presented at the March members meeting and should be on the ballot. Most will be voted on individually.

Here's a summary of the proposals:

- Change the description of the club to "social fraternal" club.
- Change associate membership to allow any non-Italian man married to an Italian woman to join, deleting the requirement that the woman be a Ladies Auxiliary member. Ron Cristoni submitted this proposal.
- Allow associate members to be elected to the board of directors and offices.
- Change membership of the board of directors from 15 to 10 members.
- Change the term of the president from two years to one year.
- Change the term of the first vice president from two years to one year.
- Change the term of the second vice president from two years to one year.
- For special events, require a member's guest to pay the actual cost set by the board and not the member's cost.



Mad for meatballs? Give this dish a try

Here's a meatball meal that's sure to appeal:

ALL ABOUT MEATBALLS

Ingredients for meatballs:

- ½ pound each of ground beef, veal and pork
- Two large eggs, lightly beaten
- ¼ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 4 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- ¼ cup breadcrumbs
- ¼ cup parsley, finely chopped
- Olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Ingredients for sauce:

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 Spanish onion, chopped
- 4 cloves of garlic, finely chopped
- 1 can plum tomatoes and the juice, pureed
- 1 fresh bay leaf

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

- 1 bunch of parsley
- 1 pinch of red pepper flakes
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 6 fresh basil leaves

Directions:

Combine sauce ingredients. Bring to a boil and simmer. For the meatballs, saute the breadcrumbs, parsley, salt and pepper in olive oil. Add to the rest of the meatball ingredients, and stir until well mixed. Roll the meatball mixture into 1½-inch balls. Brown the meatballs and place them in the sauce. Simmer the sauce and meatballs together for 40 to 45 minutes.

Mangia bene!

WHAT'S BOCCE ALL ABOUT ANYWAY?

Part of what the Dante Club is all about is the preservation of our Italian legacy, and bocce is one way to experience what our grandparents did for entertainment.

The Dante bocce league is great fun, a little exercise and very Italian. Players and watchers get some broken Italian language, some beer and wine, and a few other delicacies to tantalize the Italian appetite, including (sometimes) a bit of grappa.

Paesani, the camaraderie is captivating. For our newest members, playing bocce is the perfect way to get involved in the Dante Club. Come try it – you'll like it. It's Italian!

Please patronize our paesanos



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**Fish**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rolling into spring, the Dante Club has a jam-packed calendar of special events.

These include its annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 2, with the popular Sunday Family Dinner to follow that same day.

The club also will host the Dante Jazz Society's French Café Jazz on April 30.

Peretti said the event center also will continue with its many regular activities.

"We will see the return of our usual community groups and their monthly meetings, as well as the return of prom season," she said. "We have four proms on the books for April alone."

More events are in the works. "We continue to book events for 2023, 2024 and even into 2025," she said.

DiMaggio

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Player three times. In 1941 DiMaggio set what many consider the greatest sports record when he hit in 56 straight games.

On and off the diamond, DiMaggio became a national hero, always a gentleman and a role model. He married Marilyn Monroe in 1954 and was given a nod in the Simon and Garfunkel hit song "Mrs. Robinson." His celebrity was key to erasing unfounded prejudices and biases directed toward Italian Americans. Truly an American icon for all time.

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**Italian**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

organizations include St. Mary's Italian Catholic Federation, Branch No. 45, established in 1936; Dante Club, established in 1923; Marsala Lodge, established in 1911; East Portal Bocce Club, established in 1970; Piemonte Reale, established in 1888; Arberesh of Sacramento, established in 1990; and the Italian Cultural Society, established in 1981.

The Italian presence in the historic Little Italy district continues. Businesses grew up around the neighborhood to serve Italians. Many still dot the area.

Grocery stores with Italian goods are a staple of the area. They include Corti Brothers, owned by the Corti family, at 59th Street and

Folsom Boulevard; Quality Market, owned by the Brida family, at 51st Street and Folsom Boulevard; and Italian Importing Company, owned by the Velo family, at 51st Street and Folsom Boulevard.

Other important businesses catering to Italians were the Square Deal Restaurant, owned by the Stefani family, at 58th Street and Folsom Boulevard; Espanol Italian restaurant, also at 58th and Folsom; Lagormarsino Seed at 51st and Folsom; Pietro Tallini Nursery at 56th and Folsom; Italian Law Office at 49th and Folsom; Pesce Locksmith at 53rd and Folsom; Nicoletti Funeral home at 54th and Folsom; Frank Lettini's Automotive at 52nd Folsom; Bertolani Travel at 57th and J

streets; Mario Duchini's Gas Station at 57th and H streets; Archie Bugatto Hardware at 56th and J; and Affinito's "Italian Corners" shopping complex at 51st and Folsom.

A Bank of America branch that served Italian neighborhoods and was staffed by Italian branch managers, such as Roy Salvetti, operated at 53rd and Folsom, as did an Italian Vice-Consulate office at 54th and Folsom.

The story of east Sacramento's Little Italy neighborhood and the Italian people that made it needs to be told and kept alive to inspire the future of the Italian community.

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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.