



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Hard-working volunteers vital to building Dante Club

It has been said that workers often toil in the vineyards of anonymity, and that includes many Dante Club members who labor hard for the benefit of the club yet are seldom recognized. I say this because I am constantly amazed at the effort members—volunteers all—put forth to make Dante the outstanding organization it is. The long history of the Dante Club is replete with stories of members who contributed their efforts to build the club we know today, including the fathers and grandfathers of many current members. And today's members are adding to this legacy.

A great example of our members' effort is the recent renovation of the decades-old refrigeration unit in the kitchen area. George Procida, Don Agostinelli and Ron Pane completely renovated the

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FISHY BUSINESS



The Dante Club is gearing up for two favorite annual feasts, the crab feed and the cioppino dinner. On Feb. 4, the crab feed will feature all-you-can-eat crab with cocktail sauce, butter and lemons, plus Caesar salad, rigatoni, vegetables, rolls and dessert. On March 18, the 12th annual cioppino dinner will offer antipasto, salad, garlic bread, risotto and dessert along with its centerpiece dish. Guests can enjoy dancing after the meal. During the 2022 return of the cioppino event (after a pandemic break), Rich Battistessa, above, stirs a pot of the steaming fish stew, with sideline assistance from his kitchen crew—from left, Larry Otten, Steve Lavezzo, Michael Micciche, Michael Talani, Steve Deross, Nick Canepa, Tom Novi, Ernie Tomassilli and Alex Sarti. In 2021, Janice Asher and Patrice Prest, photo right, were among the 149 guests who attended that year's February crab feed.





NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance, building fund

We would like to remind members who haven't paid their 2023 annual dues of \$100 that they should do so as soon as possible.

The Dante Club bylaws state: "A member who is in arrears in his dues one month (Jan. 31) will be considered delinquent, will be assessed a \$25 late fee and will be subject to the following restrictions: He will be ineligible for nomination and election to any office. He may not participate in the nomination or election of officers, nor vote on the question that requires a majority, nor the amending of bylaws ... A member who is in arrears three months or 90 days (March 31) will be dropped from the rolls and lose all rights of a member."

Dues can be paid online at <https://danteclub.com/2023-membership-dues/> or members can mail a check for \$100, payable to the Dante Club, to: Dante Club, attn: Tom Mezzanares, 2330 Fair Oaks Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95630.

As noted in January, we made our first payment to the newly created facility reserve fund to set aside funding to replace equipment and other needed items over the next 15 years. The cost over the 15-year period is estimated at more than \$600,000.

We will continue to maintain a separate building improvement and maintenance fund to be used for buildings and grounds improvements and maintenance. A formula is in place for funding this account.

Funding both accounts to a comfortable level will take time, but the advisory and finance committee and the board of directors consider this a great start to keep the club running for many years.

December was an outstanding month, providing the restaurant with record profits for the month and the year. Specifics were provided to members at the general membership meeting in January.

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

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

February 4

Dante Club Crab Feed

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

Menu: All-you-can-eat crab buffet with cocktail sauce, clarified butter and lemons; Caesar salad; rigatoni with marinara; seasonal vegetables; rolls with butter; chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$75 per person; tables of 10

Reserve by Jan. 27.

February 12

Super Bowl Sunday Family Dinner

Times: 2:30 p.m. cocktails, 4 p.m. to-go meal pickup, 5 p.m. indoor dinner service

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

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reserve by Feb. 4. Super Bowl game viewing on large screen in Venetian Room.

February 13

Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: House salad, veal piccata, rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reserve by Feb. 3.

February 20

Dante Members Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: House salad, veal piccata, butter-herbed buccatini, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight Feb. 11.

March 5

Sunday Family Dinner

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

Menu: Caesar salad, lasagna, seasonal vegetables, dinner rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reserve by midnight Feb. 25.

SAVE THE DATE: Our 12th annual cioppino dinner on March 18 will be a fun evening of great food, drink and dancing. Watch your emails for more information!

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

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.

It isn't too late to order special Dante Club-themed apparel for Valentine's Day.

In memoriam

Member John Bertoni's son passed away on Oct. 24, 2022.

We ask club members to please keep the Bertoni family in their thoughts and prayers.

Annual dues

Membership dues for 2023 are \$100 and were due Dec. 31.

Members who have not paid by Jan. 31 will be charged a \$25 late fee, and members who have not paid by March 31 will be dropped. Dues can be paid online or by sending a check to the Dante Club.

Buildings and grounds

January was a slow month for buildings and grounds committee projects.

We had a small issue with one of the roof-top heating, ventilation and air conditioning units. We contacted Bullseye Mechanical, which quickly made the repair.

We are in the middle of winter, facing heavy rain and winds. Spring is coming soon, however, and with it comes the need to put up the outdoor tent.

This task requires eight to 10 volunteers. Weather permitting, we expect to schedule the project for the last week of March.

The volunteer commitment is four to five hours.

Members able to help with the tent should email George Procida at gprocida@gplandscape.com.

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 coordinated with the Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program. We have donated more than 1,500 pounds of pull tabs to help offset the cost of overnight stays for parents with hospital-bound kids. Cristoni reports he recently delivered 53 pounds of pull tabs to the program.

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 are asked to bring their pull tab donations to their respective 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*.

"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.

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.

Scholarship applications

High school seniors who will graduate this year and are interested in applying for a Dante Club scholarship must submit their applications no later than March 31.

Application forms are available at the Dante Event Center main office or on the club website.

Anyone with questions about applying may call Rich Battistessa, scholarship committee chairman, at 916-961-4854 or may email him at drbattistessa@comcast.net.

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2023 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: 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
- 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 mourns loss of several friends, spouses

During a small break in the January storms, 120 auxiliary members ventured out to attend our January meeting. The chef once again prepared an incredible meal of chicken cordon bleu, with caramel cheesecake for dessert.

We mourn the loss of longtime member Pat DeRobertis. Those who did not know Pat may remember her as the sweet woman in the wheelchair who attended most meetings. She had been a member of the Ladies Auxiliary for almost 20 years.

Pat leaves behind her husband, Ron; her daughters, Angela and Renee; and her son, Gino. The auxiliary has donated \$100 to the scholarship fund in her memory. Rest in peace, Pat.

We also mourn the loss of a former member and close friend of the board, Patty Suine O'Ran. Some may remember her sitting

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

with the board at meetings a few years ago. Patty was the sister of members Tina Suine Cates and Gina Suine Haskell. She had Alzheimer's disease for the past eight years.

Patty was a warm, loving and positive person who always smiled and laughed.

We send our love and sympathy to her husband, Dave Alameda; her son, Sean; her stepson, Jared; and the entire Suine family.

Our sympathies also go to members Rochelle Cohen and Phyllis Roehrs, who recently lost their husbands after both suffered long illnesses.

Losing family around the holidays is especially difficult, so our hearts are with them both.

We introduced four new members to the auxiliary: Janet Sellars, Jerri Curradi, Debbie Moreno and Gayle Maita, sister of member Jodie Maita. We welcome them to the auxiliary.

As always, many members won wonderful raffle prizes at the last meeting. Winners were Sharon Taylor, three Dansk vases; Wendy Earle, wool fingerless gloves; Barbara Ferro, \$20 cash; Jan Mathews, set of rustic cheese knives; Nancy Mazzier, free dinner; Laura Scarrone, Italian cookbook with tea towel; Marilyn Ricci, Arthur Court shell wine stopper; Phyllis Christopher, Bogle sauvignon blanc donated by Mia Franzoia; and Linda Raridan, Bonjour Espresso pot.

Every January meeting includes the installation of our new board. We welcomed Alyse DeFazio as our new vice president

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2023 LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| • Debra Cattuzzo, president:
cattuzzod@gmail.com | • Karol Buccola, past president:
karolrb55@gmail.com | • Roseann Jamison, trustee/caller:
rosieado@yahoo.com |
| • Alyse DeFazio, vice president:
alysedefazio@aol.com | • Sandy Calcagno, trustee/caller:
fsca@comcast.net | • Phyllis Keilholz, trustee/caller:
swedgewood@aol.com |
| • Tina Luchini Bowers, treasurer:
tebowers55@gmail.com | • Adrienne DeFazio, trustee/
caller: adefazio73@gmail.com | • Susan Quiarte, trustee/caller:
susan.caldiero@yahoo.com |
| • Susan Kasimati, secretary:
sjk955@gmail.com | • Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller:
ncdoyle59@gmail.com | • Barbara Realì, trustee/caller:
barbara.realì46@gmail.com |
| • Anna Tenderella, hospitality:
annatenderella@sbcglobal.net | • Kathy Holberton, trustee/caller:
crystalgal@yahoo.com | • Ann Zacharias, trustee/caller:
anncecelia02@yahoo.com |



Board officers ready to lead the Dante Ladies Auxiliary in 2023 are, from left, Alyse DeFazio, vice president; Debra Cattuzzo, president; Susan Kasimatis, secretary; and Tina Bowers, treasurer. Cattuzzo and Bowers are returnees to the leadership roster.

Auxiliary

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and Susan Kasimati as secretary. Tina Luchini Bowers returns as treasurer, and Debra Cattuzzo returns as president. Karol Buccola returns as past president, and Anna Tenderella will remain our hospitality coordinator.

We have added two new people, Kathy Holberton and Susan Quiarte, to our current

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President's Corner

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refrigerator, including doing extensive repair of dry rot found behind the unit. To outsource this work would have cost an estimated \$10,000.

Rich Battistessa, Joe Porata, Frank Buccola, Tom Mathews and Roy Jones have been key members in organizing the annual Vic Martinelli/Frank Calcagno Golf Tournament that raises thousands of dollars for college scholarships.

Ralph Di Libero continues to provide interesting and entertaining programs on Italian culture and history at our members dinners. Tom Mezzanares has served as our treasurer for three decades, working tirelessly to keep our financials straight, and Ron Fiorica has for years served as our secretary.

Dan Calcagno and his membership committee of George Procida, Don Agostinelli and Dick Zarzana are constantly interviewing and vetting applicants for membership.

The bocce group, led by Jim Dimino and Rich Battistessa, had a great season last year and is now planning for the 2023 season. With nearly 50 Dante members playing, the effort is really appreciated.

Players could not take the field, however, without the behind-the-scenes help of Frank Bartucco. Frank's expert raking and cleaning skills guarantee a

groomed set of courts that the professionals would appreciate.

Mark Pedroncelli flies under the radar in making sure we have high-quality, reasonably priced Dante-themed apparel. And let's not forget the annual cioppino feed in March. It's a labor of love for Rich Battistessa and his crew of merry cooks—members who pitch in every year to make this a great event.

Finally, we have nearly a dozen member-owned businesses who cumulatively contribute thousands of dollars each year by placing a business card-size ad in the *Dante's Inferno* newsletter. John Caselli reports all of this in the *Inferno*, a great monthly publication that he has put together for years.

The list goes on and on. I don't have the space to mention everyone who contributes, but the list is long. Members work hard in many different ways to make the Dante Club the success it is today.

So when it seems that things happen by magic, remember it is the magic of hard-working members committed to making our club all it can be for everyone. For our vintage members who remember the "Uncle Sam Wants You!" recruiting posters, the Dante Club also wants you. Don't be afraid to step up and offer to help. I see more and more members doing just that, and it is really impressive!

Thank you for all you do, and stay well.



Superstitions commonly accepted throughout Italy

By Susan L. Pricco

Recently, my friend Luciana returned from a family visit in Italy. It was an oppressively hot summer, and the family home, like most in the area, lacked air conditioning. A fan offered a small measure of relief, but Luciana's family chastised her for being near a draft. They steadfastly insisted she

cover her neck lest she contract the dreaded "*cervicale*."

It's a common misconception in Italy that a person can catch an illness through the back of the neck. Luciana's attempts to convince her family that the ailment is not real went unheeded.

Italians can be very superstitious. Some superstitions stem from

legend, old wives' tales, pagan ritual or ancient habits, and some are simply a mystery.

In Italy, the number 13 isn't the one to fear—it's the number 17.

In Roman numerals, the number 17 was believed to be an anagram of the Latin phrase "I have lived" and, therefore, it can be a harbinger of death.

Friday the 17th is considered *un giorno nero*—a black day.

No one is surprised to hear that it's bad luck to walk under a ladder or for a black cat to cross your path (in Italy, it's at any time), unless the black cat sneezes, which brings good luck.

If a rival throws the *malocchio* (evil eye) in

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Auxiliary

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trustee/caller team. Other members are Phyllis Keilholtz, Sandy Calcagno, Nancy Doyle, Ann Zacharias, Roseann Jamison, Barbara Reali and Adrienne DeFazio.

We say goodbye to four board members who have served since 2018: co-presidents Heidi Pesce Veneman and Helen Manfredi Pierson, treasurer Debra Duccini Hansen and secretary Judy Farina. Heidi was the only member present that evening, but we thank them all for the many years they've dedicated to the auxiliary.

We have made changes to improve our club and have increased our membership. I don't think those board members are completely off the hook. I will probably continue to seek their advice on certain suggestions.

Thank you to Carole Pesetti and Susie Franzioa Rowzewski for

bringing in large ziplock bags full of pull tabs. Also, thanks to Mia Franzioa and others who brought in 14 baskets and containers for our upcoming raffle at the cioppino feed. Now I only have to go to a few thrift shops to look for more, not scour the whole town.

I also want to acknowledge other members who brought in gifts for the raffle baskets. All donations for our baskets are appreciated. We make a wide variety of baskets, so anything is welcome.

Of course, we do traditional Italian food baskets, but also baskets themed around movie nights, toys, Easter, kitchen, gardening, sports, babies, pets, pizza and bath and body. We can make a basket around anything. Members also can make their own baskets.

Members can drop off basket items at the Dante Club (call first

to make sure someone is there) or bring them to the February meeting. Or they can call me, and I will come pick up the items. Thanks to everyone who contributes.

I hope to see many members at the crab feed on Feb. 4. And don't forget to save the date of March 18 for the cioppino feed, the Dante Club's largest fundraiser.

I will soon ask for volunteers to assemble baskets and prizes for the raffle and to work at the event.

Auxiliary member Norma Petta would like to start an Italian conversation group so members can get together, maybe over coffee, and enjoy speaking Italian.

The place and time will be determined according to what works best for everyone. Very casual!

Interested members may email Norma at normapetta@gmail.com.
Ciao!



Dante Event Center off to a busy start in 2023

The Dante Event Center ended 2022 with a bang, including a wedding on New Year's Eve.

The center hosted 329 events during the year. General manager Jennifer Peretti and her staff hope to see similar numbers in 2023.

"We already started 2023 off right with 30 events in January alone," Peretti said. "We are very excited about crab feed season,

with six events on our books between February and March, including the Dante Club's annual crab feed on Feb. 4."

Peretti said reservations will be up shortly for the club's 12th annual cioppino feed scheduled for Saturday, March 18.

The popular meal will feature the signature fish stew, as well as

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“
*We already started
2023 off right with
30 events in
January alone.*
”

Jennifer Peretti
general manager

News, Notes and Otherwise

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Membership committee

We started 2023 with 246 members and 22 Lifetime members. We are already increasing those numbers.

Daniel Penserini joined the Dante Club in 1988. He resigned his membership because health issues made him unable to attend events, but instead of accepting his resignation, the membership committee presented his name to the board and the general membership.

All present at the January meeting agreed that he should continue his club status as a Lifetime member. Penserini is the Dante Club's 22nd Lifetime member.

In January we inducted three applicants: Joe Bonanno, sponsored by the membership committee; Andy Cavagnaro, sponsored by Don Agostinelli; and Chris Costamagna, sponsored by John Waldron.

Members are encouraged to introduce themselves to these new members at the next event.

We also interviewed two others. Colby Relles has returned, and Jim Luttig, sponsored by Dick Zarzana, is active in Piemonte Reale and East Portal bocce but wants one more Italian dinner a month.

Both were recommended and accepted for membership. They will likely join us in February.

As always, we encourage applicants for membership. Forms can be found on the website or from the committee.

To shine a light on our long-standing members, each month we will identify those who have reached a milestone of 25 years or longer.

We will publish in the *Inferno* the names of those who have reached a five-year anniversary and probably a couple of others.

Here are our January and February honorees:

Lifetime members

- George Hoopes and Mario Urbani, 62 years each
- Tom Mezzanares, 49 years
- Romano Luchini, 46 years
- Ron Fiorica, 44 years
- George Procida, 35 years
- Richard Merri, 31 years

General members

- Arthur Rinetti, 64 years
- Sam D'Alessandro and Bob Denigris, 62 years each
- Dennis Micheletti, 59 years
- Joseph Puglisi, 53 years
- Michael Bazzaroni, 47 years
- Martin Garozzo and Michael Lippi, 46 years each
- Ralph Isola, 44 years
- Sam Peri, 42 years
- Ricci Romagnesi, 37 years
- Stephen Martinelli, Gary Ricci and Jim Riolo, 35 years each
- Dennis Cemo, 25 years Please notify the committee of any errors in this information.



Venetian-style scallops simple to make

Now is a great time to cook fresh seafood, because it will get you thinking about our annual cioppino dinner coming up on March 18.

The Italian way with seafood is remarkable for its simplicity.

VENETIAN-STYLE SCALLOPS

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds scallops
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves chopped
- 2 tablespoons chopped parsley
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Juice of two lemons

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

Directions:

Wash the scallops under cold running water. Pat dry with paper towels. Heat oil in a medium skillet. Add scallops, garlic and parsley, and season with salt and pepper. Cook over medium-low heat five to six minutes or until the scallops are golden. Stir several times during cooking. Add lemon juice and mix well. Place on a warm platter and serve immediately. Makes four to six servings.

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT BEING AN ITALIAN?

The Italian fashion brand Benetton is often thought of as a purveyor of colorful Italian sweaters (United Colors of Benetton), but the story goes much deeper.

In the mid-1950s, an Italian family of three brothers and a sister started a home business selling bright, colorful sweaters, then denims and other trendy clothes. As children of a bicycle shop owner, they learned by doing as they bought into a number of companies that ran Italian highways, restaurants and supermarkets.

The siblings' business holdings then expanded to include Italian airports, hotels, a car-racing team and other sports holdings.

Now with a worldwide footprint, the privately held Benetton empire is overseen by Luciano Benetton, one of the founding siblings. It is valued at more than \$10 billion—just think, from such humble beginnings.

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Superstitions

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your direction, you might want to seek protection with the *cornetto* (horn) that's worn as a charm or with a hand sign—index and pinky fingers extended and hand tilted down.

And don't spill salt or oil! Since the time of the Roman Empire, salt and oil were precious commodities, thereby bringing back luck for wastefulness.

Some say "knock on wood" when making a prediction, but in Italy it's *tocca ferro* (touch iron). This loosely refers to horseshoes (see the connection?).

Priests performing last rites historically would put their hat on the bed so they could then don their vestments. Now, if you place a hat on a bed, it is said to bring misfortune.

Single women are wary of brooms, especially when they are

sweeping. If a broom touches your foot, you will never marry. It suggests you are bad at housework and, therefore, a poor choice as a wife (don't tell my husband).

Everyone enjoys a toast to good health and happiness, but in Italy you must never offer a toast using water. So raise a glass and say *saluti* or *cin cin*, but be sure your glass is filled with wine.

Susan Pricco is a member of the Dante Ladies Auxiliary.

Please patronize our paesanos



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**Center**

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antipasto, salad, garlic bread, risotto and dessert. Guests will be treated to dancing after the meal.

"We can't wait to see where 2023 takes us," Peretti said.

"December was booked to the gills, and we're booking solidly for 2023 and into 2024."

Dante Club members interested in hosting a personal event at the center this year should inquire about date availability as early as possible.

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, timing, 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," she said, "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."

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

Members who have questions about the rental discount can call club president Tom Novi at 916-961-6197.

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

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.