



**Don't miss our
summer barbecues
and golf tourney**

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Dog days of summer bring golf and barbecues

As we move into July and August, often known as the dog days of summer, our Dante Club is moving into high gear. The Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament is rounding into shape for July 15.

Many of you have contributed hole sponsorships and raffle prizes, as well as purchased tickets for the ball drop. Thank you! But we need more golfers, so get your group signed up as soon as possible.

Remember, this is our annual event to raise scholarship money for deserving high school students — your children and grandchildren.

In May we awarded \$16,500 in scholarships to 11 graduating seniors. With your help, we will do even better next year.

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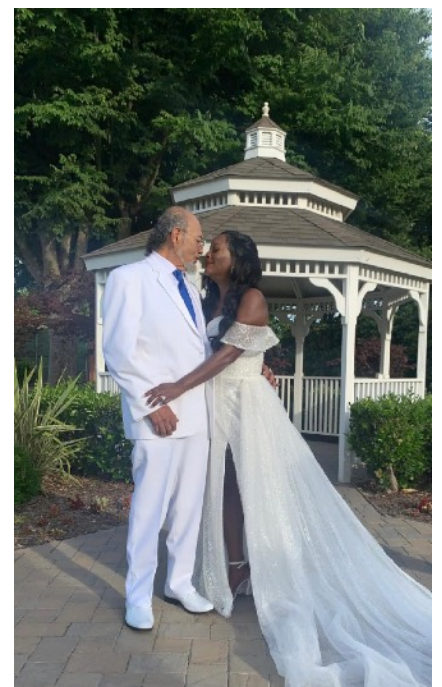
The Cheryl Tiburzi Trio provides musical atmosphere for the Sausage Festa, held outdoors in the Dante Club tent in June.

June bustin' out all over with special events

June marked the beginning of summer as the Dante Event Center jumped right into the busy wedding season.

Besides weddings, the center hosted an assortment of other events during the month, including graduation parties, anniversary celebrations and various organizations' monthly meetings.

"We are very excited about where



Brenda and Jack Jimenez renew their wedding vows.

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance, building fund

We have seen considerable growth in attendance at many events and bookings at the Dante Event Center. Sunday Family Dinners in the past couple of months have drawn more than 200 attendees. The event center also has received a booking for a plated meal for 300 people. Our chef prepares excellent meals, but food must be hot when it reaches the table if the event center is to continue to attract such bookings. Toward that end, the Dante Club board approved an expenditure of up to \$6,500 to acquire a 125-plate hot box for the kitchen.

We have had a few medical emergencies in the past year. The most recent required that our manager administer CPR, as no one else among the 200 people was properly trained. In an effort to make the event center more medically prepared, the advisory and finance committee authorized the expenditure of \$1,300 to train eight senior staff members in CPR and other first aid procedures. Another \$1,564 was authorized to acquire an automatic external defibrillator, which will be available if help is needed.

Buildings and grounds

During June, the buildings and grounds committee took care of a few small repairs but nothing major. It appears that many of our immediate needs have been handled, and we can settle into a more normal cycle of maintenance and repair at the Dante Event Center.

Save pull tabs

The Dante Club has always prided itself on providing ways for members to 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 our total donations to date are 1,625 pounds, valued at more than \$1,625.

Members are asked to collect pull tabs from their canned pet foods, sodas and, of course, beer. Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members can bring their donations to their meetings.

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

July 15

Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament and Lunch

Time: 8 a.m. golf, 12:30 p.m. lunch (after tournament) at Dante Event Center

Menu: Italian sausages, hoagie rolls, grilled peppers and onions, rigatoni with meat marinara, spumoni ice cream

Cost: \$30 per person

Reserve by midnight Saturday, July 1.

July 17

Members and Guests Barbecue

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. steaks handed out for grilling

Menu: Potato salad; house salad; Italian herb-roasted carrots, cauliflower and broccoli; corn on the cob; ribeye steaks with toppings (garlic and oil, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions, steak seasoning); rolls with butter; ice cream bars with hot fudge, caramel and toppings

Cost: \$30 per person

Reserve by midnight Saturday, June 8.

July 21

Dante Jazz Society: A Tribute to Al Jarreau

Times: 6 to 9 p.m.

Menu: Various snacks and wine available for purchase

Cost: \$35 at door and online

Place food and drink orders by midnight July 14.

August 6

Sunday Family Dinner

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

Menu: Caesar salad, meatloaf with brown gravy and mashed potatoes, seasonal vegetables, rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

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

Reserve by midnight Saturday, July 29.

August 21

Members and Guests Barbecue

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. steaks handed out for grilling

Menu: Italian chopped salad, Italian fennel salad, grilled zucchini, grilled peppers and onions, rigatoni with marinara, ribeye steaks with toppings (garlic and oil, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions, steak seasoning); rolls with butter; spumoni

Cost: \$30 per person

PLEASE NOTE: NO Sunday Family Dinner or Ladies Auxiliary meeting in July

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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For more information, contact Ron Cristoni. Members also can review the Ronald McDonald House Center of Northern California at www.rmhcnc.org. Go to "Getting Involved" and scroll to box 5, "Pull Tab Program."

Bylaws results

Of the seven bylaws change proposals voted on by members on June 19, one proposal passed and the other six failed.

Here's a summary of the results:

1. Change the purpose of the club to add fraternal club: PASSED
2. Allow associate members to be elected to the board of directors and offices: FAILED
3. Change membership of the board of directors from 15 to 10. The figure was amended to 11 by member vote: FAILED
4. Change president's term from two years to one year: FAILED
5. Change first vice president's term from two years to one year: FAILED
6. Change second vice president's term from two years to one year: FAILED
7. Make members' guests pay the actual cost of dinners set by the board and not the member cost: FAILED

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.

Newsletter advertising

Newsletter coordinator John Caselli, along with the entire Dante Club board, wishes to thank our advertisers.

Their support helps defray the costs of publishing the club's monthly *Dante's Inferno*.

Prospective newsletter advertisers should email Caselli at jac6652@aol.com.

Annual dinner payments

Members can now pay monthly or annually for monthly meeting night dinners.

When paying in advance, members 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 a substitution isn't confirmed by noon, it can't be honored.

Bocce update

The recently closed spring bocce league is certainly one for the record books.

The new champion and holder of the memorial trophy is the Inferno team, with a record 12 wins and 2 losses.

Led by captain Joe Porata, members Brian Noble, Dennis Noble, Pete Pesetti and Jeff Herzog beat the remaining seven teams, hands down. Congratulations to Joe and his team.

Members should get their teams together and give Joe and his team some competition.

A post-spring season mix-and-match tournament and social are planned sometime in the immediate future. Details will follow. In the meantime, the summer bocce league started July 1.

Here are the spring league final standings:

1. Inferno: 12 wins, 2 losses
2. Italian Stallions: 11 wins, 3 losses
3. Riolo Rollers: 8 wins, 6 losses
4. Maestri d' Bocce: 6 wins, 8 losses
Avanti: 6 wins, 8 losses
5. Fratelli d' Bocce: 5 wins, 9 losses
6. Sons d' Boecce: 4 wins, 10 losses
Dante Rollers: 4 wins, 10 losses

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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, 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: peddc@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



Dante founders remembered at June dinner meeting

In June, 155 members and guests turned out for our Ladies Auxiliary dinner — the biggest attendance ever! The special attraction was member Fran Koscheski's presentation on her grandparents, Vittorio and Paolina Panattoni.

Vittorio founded the Dante Club in 1924, and Paolina founded the Ladies Auxiliary in 1926. That means we can look forward to 100-year celebrations in the next few years.

Fran's presentation included photographs of her grandparents and of the town in Italy they originated from, Viareggio. I have been to Viareggio, and it's a beautiful seaside town with a boardwalk and plenty of beach clubs where you can reserve beach chairs and umbrellas. Some even have swimming pools if you don't like the ocean but want to cool off. And the restaurants! Wow!

Fran also included a photo of one of the floats made for the town's

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo



An album shows a photo of the first Dante Club at 15th and P streets in downtown Sacramento.

annual celebration of the Domenico de Carnevale. These floats are hundreds of feet tall.

One highlight of the evening was the table of 14 women, including Fran, who are descendants of Vittorio and Paolina. They came to Sacramento from Arizona, Santa Barbara and other areas to attend our dinner meeting and honor the Panattonis. It was a very special moment, not only for them but also for us. Fran, thank you for sharing your history with us.

Also during the meeting, we introduced two new auxiliary members, Dolly and Mariann Isola.



Vittorio and Paolina Panattoni are Dante founders and the grandparents of auxiliary member Fran Koscheski.

Winners in our raffle were: Dorine Wiese, free Dante dinner; Elaine Schaedler, olive platters, wine and olives; Phyllis Roehrs, rooster tray with snacks; Wendy O'Neal,

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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:
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| • Anna Tenderella, hospitality:
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crystalgal@yahoo.com | • Ann Zacharias, trustee/caller:
anncecelia02@yahoo.com |

**Ladies Auxiliary**

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colorful knives and cutting board; Nancy Doyle, patriotic gnome; Emily Rossi, \$20 cash; Adrienne DeFazio, \$45 Pavilion car wash; Liane Leavitt, ice cream maker with cookies and scoop; and Judy Skillicorn, taco serving set with margarita glasses and mix.

Thanks to those who brought in pull tabs for Ronald McDonald house: Ann Zacharias, Sharon Helton, Sandy Calcagno and Linda Raridan, who brought in a huge jar of tabs.

We were finally able to honor Gloria Tomei in person. Gloria has been fighting some health issues and has not attended our dinners for awhile. She has done so much for the auxiliary over the years.

Not only has she been our Bingo Lady (including telling dirty jokes!) for over 15 years, she also has been in charge of organizing many trips for auxiliary members — trips to San Francisco for plays and to Golden Gate Park for concerts, gambling trips to

Jackson Rancheria and annual trips to Reno for the Italian Festival. One year she even took 25 members to Italy.

We presented Gloria with a beautiful hydrangea plant and a \$200 gift card to Corti Brothers. Thank you for all you have done, Gloria.

We said goodbye to member Cathy Callaghan. Cathy was a delightful person who loved rock 'n' roll and dancing. She used a long shepherd's cane, and I used to tease her, calling her Lion King because the cane reminded me of the wise elder monkey in the movie. Cathy had a long career as a hairstylist in Santa Cruz and was a cousin of members Debra Duccini-Hansen and Barbara Reali. Cathy leaves behind a son, Tyler. The auxiliary made a donation in her name to the Dante Club scholarship fund.

Another longtime member, Betty Garozzo, died in March at age 94. Betty was not a current member, but her son, Marty Garozzo, sent \$100 for the auxiliary to donate to the scholarship in her name.

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President's Corner

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In July and August, we also will feature our classic summertime steak barbecues. No meetings for two months, just great dinners. And we cook the steaks ourselves!

The dinners are always well attended as we come together to cook, eat, have a glass of vino and enjoy each others' company—wonderful evenings for all. And please give thanks to Jennifer Peretti and the Dante Event Center staff who always go out of their way to help make these events special.

The June members dinner deserves a special mention. It was well attended and featured a great guest speaker, former Sacramento Kings coach, general manager

and broadcaster Jerry Reynolds. He shared his humor, insights and special French Lick, Indiana, sensibility. If you were not able to attend, you missed one of the great ones. A special thanks goes to Al Manfredi, who arranged for Reynolds to come.

If anyone has access to a speaker that other members would enjoy, please let our speakers committee, Jim Dimino and Rich Battistessa, know.

Also in June, we had our first club event under the big top—our event center tent. The Sausage Festa was nicely organized by Joe Porata and Ron Pane. Johnny Waldron, Johnny Waldron Jr., John Velo and Paul Pane cooked for members, guests and more than a handful of children. The event featured music and dancing along with sausages, and the only

members who told me they were unhappy were those who couldn't attend because of schedule conflicts.

Next year we will have the Sausage Festa on Friday, June 14, so put it on your calendars now. Because members handled all the preparation, cooking and cleanup, we were able to raise \$3,000 for the building maintenance funds, our way of ensuring the future of the Dante Club.

Finally, we have installed the bocce court light poles, and the lights will turn on soon. It's the first step toward providing opportunities to play bocce under the stars—a nice addition for the event center and the club.

As always, thanks to our members, including the Ladies Auxiliary, and staff for all they do. Stay well.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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Golf tournament

To date, 72 golfers have signed up to play in the Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament on July 15 at Alister MacKenzie Golf Course at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex.

Last year's tournament drew 144 golfers, so more people are encouraged to sign up. Anyone with a foursome can go to the Dante Club website and register to reserve a spot.

Even people who don't play golf can participate by sponsoring a hole to promote a business or to honor a loved one. The Dante Club will print and display signs for hole sponsors. Corporate sponsors can go online and make a contribution.

The tournament will begin at 8 a.m. Afterward, lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. at the Dante Event Center. A raffle and a silent auction also will be featured.

The event is an annual fundraiser for the Dante Club's scholarship fund, which provides scholarships to graduating high school seniors.

Membership update

June saw one more addition to the growing list of active members. Tom Strobel, spouse of Ladies Auxiliary member Susan Kasimatis and sponsored by Paul Jacobs, was interviewed and voted into the club by the members gathered. Tom has spent many years as a middle school science teacher.

With Tom's connection to existing family and friend members of Dante, we expect him

to be involved in our activities. Please introduce yourselves at an event or a bocce game (he wants to join the league).

The membership committee will be on hiatus in July and August, as barbecue dinners replace the monthly meetings.

When we restart in September, the two names on the waiting list — Dan Michelotti, sponsored by Jim DiPinto, and Richard Marconi, sponsored by Joseph Bonanno — will be first up for interviews.

Members shouldn't hesitate to submit applications and, more importantly, to bring people who may be interested in joining to an event so they can experience what the Dante Club is all about.

The summer barbecues are perfect opportunities, as are the Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament in July and the Sunday Family Dinner in August.

New-member application forms are available on the Dante Club website.

Dante Jazz Society

A tribute to jazz musician Al Jarreau is up next for the Dante Jazz Society's monthly jazz nights.

Joe Gillman, with Aaron Hayden on mic, will perform Jarreau's greatest hits from 6 to 9 p.m. July 21 at the Dante Event Center.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at the door or on the Dante Club website under public events. Those who want to enjoy snacks need to order online before midnight July 14.

The Dante Jazz Society offers different styles of jazz every month. Members and friends who want a relaxing evening out are encouraged to attend.

Speaker recap

Member Al Manfredi was responsible for securing Jerry Reynolds as our guest speaker at the June members meeting.

Here is Al's remembrance of how he and Reynolds got to know each other:

"I met Jerry Reynolds in 1985 when he and his family moved into the attendance area of Rio Americano High School, where I taught and coached basketball.

One afternoon my wife answered our home phone — the old kind that you couldn't tell who was calling — and a man asked about his son coming to play ball at Rio. Something about the caller's question seemed comical to my wife, so she went along thinking it was someone with a good sense of humor.

'How tall is he?' she asked. 'About 5 feet, 6 inches,' he answered. Then she asked, 'How fast is he?' 'He's about average speed and not a great player, but he's a good kid and he won't be a problem,' the man answered.

Later, she learned she was talking to a member of the Sacramento Kings organization. Jerry and his wife enrolled their son, Jay, who played a reserve role on the 1986 and '87 teams for Rio. Jerry came to the games when he could and was very supportive of his son and our team. And he was right

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**A TREASURED FAMILY LEGACY***Dante Club and auxiliary
owe their beginnings to
forward-thinking immigrants*

By Frances Corsiglia Koscheski

My grandparents, Vittorio Panattoni and Paolina Pardini, were born in Viareggio in the Toscana region of Italy. They married in 1903 and had two children, Carlo and Teresa. In 1907, when Teresa, my mother, was 18 months old, Vittorio left Italy where he had worked as a teacher and a printer. He traveled to California with Paolina's brother, a fisherman who had made the trip many times before.

Shortly after arriving in Sacramento, Vittorio purchased a small print shop, the Capital Press. He began writing and publishing the first Italian newspaper in the area, *La Capitale*, which was published for over 40 years.

After waiting five years in Italy for Vittorio to send steamship tickets, Paolina and the children left Viareggio to join him in Sacramento. When they arrived in New York, her traveling companions got sick, so Paolina and the children traveled by train across the country. She didn't speak

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Fourteen women who are descendants of Vittorio and Paolina Panattoni traveled to Sacramento from Arizona, Santa Barbara and other areas to honor them at the June meeting. Auxiliary member Fran Koscheski, far right, organized a presentation about the Panattonis.



Among treasures shared by Fran Koscheski were a photo, above, of Paolina Panattoni and a 1982 copy of the *Inferno* newsletter, left.

June

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this year has taken us and we look forward to the upcoming months," said general manager Jennifer Peretti. "Please mark your calendars for the July and August Dante Club barbecues as well as the Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament on July 15."

Peretti said the event center continues to book events and fill in the gaps on the 2023 calendar. She said the center even has bookings as far off as 2024 and 2025.

Ladies Auxiliary

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Betty worked in the counseling departments of both Hiram Johnson High School and Sacramento City College. She was married to the late Joseph Garozzo and had two sons, Martin and Michael.

Betty knitted more than a hundred lap blankets for

veterans in wheelchairs at the West Sacramento Veterans of Foreign Wars post. The whole Garozzo family has been involved in the Dante Club since 1977.

In the bar, members might have noticed we had a signature drink, the Aperol Spritz, and an antipasto platter. Members seemed to enjoy it. Thanks go

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Influence of Italian pioneers strong across north state

The story of Italians in Northern California is a story of individual and collective accomplishment. They came early, lured by the discovery of gold. Then, attracted by the region's climate and resemblance to their native homeland, they stayed.

The descendants of these people still live in the foothill towns of the Mother Lode. A visit to Sutter Creek in Amador County, where their names are emblazoned on historic buildings, or a walk through the Catholic Cemetery at Jackson in Calaveras County attest to the sojourn of these Italian pioneers.

They arrived in great numbers during the mass migration at the turn of the century. The early immigrants came primarily from the northern regions of Italy. It's estimated that sixty percent of California's Italian population is of northern Italian extraction.

The largest settlement arose by San Francisco Bay where the early Italians settled in San Francisco's North Beach District. As the stream of Italian immigration continued, the district became an Italian colony. Italians built a successful cultural and economic community that

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Immigrants

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a word of English.

After an exhausting trip, they finally joined Vittorio in Sacramento in 1912. Six years later, a third child, Adone, was born.

In 1924, Vittorio was appointed the Italian consular agent for Northern California.

Two years later he decided that the Italian men of Sacramento needed a gathering place to socialize, share ideas, play sports and assist other Italian immigrants in adjusting to the American way of life.

So he founded the Dante Club of Sacramento and became its first president.

Paolina thought that the Italian women of Sacramento also needed a gathering place, so in 1926 she founded the Dante Club Ladies Auxiliary, along with a committee of Italian women. She assisted a family member to become the first president.

The ladies enjoyed socializing, sharing recipes and helping raise funds for charitable causes.

For nearly a decade, Paolina held Italian language classes for children in borrowed classrooms. She served as the first president of the Regina Margherita Lodge for Italian women and volunteered for the Red Cross during World War II.

Vittorio and Paolina were very active in St. Mary's Church, the Italian church of Sacramento. Paolina was a wonderful cook and excelled at needlework. She often hosted the Italian priests from St. Mary's Church for dinner, and she crocheted altar cloths for the church.

When friends came to visit, they were not able to leave without buying a raffle ticket that she sold for both the church and the Dante Club. Family parties and social events were held at the original Dante Club location on 15th Street.

In 1936, the title of Knight of the Crown of Italy (Cavaliere) was

conferred upon Vittorio by King Victor Emanuel. The honor was bestowed for his work on behalf of the Italian people of Northern California and for faithful service as royal consular agent of Italy for the previous 12 years.

Growing up next door to my Nonno and Nonna Panattoni was a cultural experience of food, music and language. My siblings and I were fortunate to have learned to speak Italian from them.

Vittorio and Paolina made several return trips to Viareggio to visit their relatives, but they also embraced their new country, became United States citizens and, in later years, used the names Victor and Pauline.

The Panattonis continued to be active in the Italian community and the Dante Club for the remainder of their lives. Their descendants have also carried on the tradition of Dante Club membership, with some serving as president.

**Influence**

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spread throughout the Bay Area. Many Italian families in California can trace their American roots to the North Beach Colony.

By 1859 the first Italian language newspaper in California, *L'ecco Della Patria*, was published semiweekly in San Francisco. By 1931, Italian newspapers operated in Sacramento, Stockton, Martinez and Weed.

Today, the statewide weekly Italian newspaper, *L'Italo-Americano*, is still published in California.

The arrival of the Italians in California coincided with its early settlement by Americans. As a result, the Italians played a vital role in shaping the destiny of California and its economy.

It wasn't very long before Italian fisherman established themselves in fishing villages from Eureka to Benicia, Martinez, Pittsburg, San Francisco, Monterey and Santa Cruz.

By the 1880s, California's waterways were dominated by Italian fishermen and their graceful sailing feluccas.

By 1900, the fishing industry of California had become the second leading fishing enterprise in the United States. By 1910, Italians managed 80 percent of the state's fishing business.

During World War II, Italian fishermen were prevented from using their fishing boats by wartime

restrictions on Italian immigrants living along the coast.

Across the state, Italians also settled farmland and played a prominent role in developing today's fruit, vegetable and dairy industries in places including Marin and Sonoma counties, and the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

By the 1880s, Italians dominated the fruit and vegetable industry in Northern California.

Italian immigrant Marco Fontana arrived in the United States in 1859. Along with another Ligurian, Antonio Cerruti, he founded the California Packing Company in 1889.

Under the popular Del Monte label, their canneries soon became the largest food-processing corporation in the world. Most of their workers were Italian.

One enterprising Italian who left his mark on California was Domenico Ghirardelli, who traveled through the gold mines selling chocolate and hard candies.

Ghirardelli settled in San Francisco after the Gold Rush and founded the Ghirardelli Chocolate empire, with Italian immigrant labor, at the site of the present Ghirardelli Square.

The California wine industry also owes much to the Italian founders of the industry.

In 1881, the Italian Swiss Colony was founded at Asti in Sonoma County by Andrea Sbarbaro as a cooperative of Italian

immigrants from the wine-growing regions of Italy.

The colony soon became one of the largest producers of wine and dominated the U.S. wine market during its heyday.

The founding of the Italian Swiss Colony promoted the widespread participation of Italians in the grape and wine industry and their success in the vineyards of the Napa, Sonoma and Central Valleys.

Perhaps the most inspiring of California's Italians was Amadeo Pietro Giannini, known as the "Giant of the West."

Born in San Jose in 1870 of immigrant Italian parents, Giannini organized the Bank of Italy in North Beach, San Francisco, in 1904 to aid his fellow Italians.

Breaking new ground, he established the nation's first statewide system of branch banks by opening branches in the Italian neighborhoods across California. Italians dominated his workforce.

In 1930 Giannini changed the name to Bank of America. Giannini's bank soon became the largest bank in the world.

Italians played a prominent role in the creation of California. Their story is our story, their experience ours. The lasting contributions of Italians are sometimes overlooked, but the enterprise and success of these Italian pioneers is a unique legacy, one shared by all of us.

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Linguini dish bursts with tomato and garlic flavors

This is a great summer pasta dish that takes only about 15 minutes to make.

The delightful dish features sweet cherry tomatoes that burst in olive oil and garlic galore, creating the most delicious, slightly sweet and bright pasta.

CHERRY TOMATO PASTA WITH GARLIC AND LOTS OF BASIL

Ingredients:

- 1 pound linguini, cooked
- Kosher salt
- ¼ cup olive oil and a little

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

- more at the end
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 2 pints of cherry tomatoes
- ¼ cup grated Parmesan and a little more
- 1 cup fresh basil with leaves torn
- Flaky sea salt
- Red pepper flakes

Directions:

Saute the garlic, add the cherry tomatoes, and cook until

the tomatoes burst. You can help them along a little by using a spoon to squish them.

Add the cooked pasta to the tomatoes and toss. Stir in Parmesan.

If the sauce is too dry, add a little pasta water and another drizzle of olive oil.

Toss everything together and top with the fresh basil, red pepper flakes and sea salt — plus a little more Parmesan. Well, why not?

Now you're ready to enjoy.
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**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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about his son. He was a good kid and never a problem.

Jerry and I have remained friends throughout the years. Occasionally, we get together for lunch. The last time, I asked him if he'd do us the honor of speaking at our June meeting.

For his long and storied dedication to the Kings, Jerry Reynolds has his picture on an honoree wall at the Golden One Center. It's a well-deserved

recognition of his 38 years with the Sacramento Kings, coaching and providing color commentary on the Kings TV network."

Sausage Festa

The Dante Club's member-sponsored Sausage Festa on June 9 was a huge success this year. The 120 attendees gathered under the tent in the Dante gardens.

June 14, 2024, is the date set for next year's event.

The Dante Club would like to thank the volunteers who made

this year's event a success. These included club members Al Larocca, Joe Alamedia, Ernie Tomassilli, Pete Pesetti, Frank Bartucco, Steve Lavezzo, Don Agostinelli, Dick Zarzana, John Caselli and Joe Porata, who orchestrated setup and teardown.

Members Ron Pane, John Waldron and Paul Pane and nonmembers John Waldron Jr. and John Velo were the kitchen crew who planned the food and cooked the sausage and pasta meal.





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10% discount for Dante Club and auxiliary members

**Ladies Auxiliary**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

to Adrienne DeFazio and Susan Kasimatis for the idea.

Also, thanks go to chef Jonathan Diaz and Dante Event Center manager Jennifer Peretti for donating the antipasto platter.

I think we may try this for a few meetings, and then we will need to discuss the cost at the November board meeting.

The drink and platter

did draw people into the bar, which encouraged more socializing among members.

It was also helpful for the decorating committee so they could decorate without people milling about in the big room.

We now will take a break from our meetings for the next two months.

So as that famous song says, "See you in September!"



Fran Koscheski leads a presentation about her grandparents, founders of Dante.

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.