



**Reserve early for
upcoming member
events and meals**

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Club's purpose worth remembering

Periodically, we need to be reminded of the Dante Club's purpose as envisioned by its founders nearly a hundred years ago: a social club that encourages friendship, provides activities for members, sustains its Italian heritage and encourages good citizenship.

May's member dinner emphasis was on citizenship with the awarding of 11 \$1,500 scholarships to deserving children and grandchildren of Dante Club members, all outstanding students and citizens. It was a really nice celebration for the students and their families.

The Sausage Festa on June 9 will reflect the social element with a wonderful evening of food, song and dance for members and their friends and families under the stars (actually the event center tent).

Our Italian culture is often

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6



Club members and guests cluster around banquet tables for the May Family Dinner at the Dante Event Center.

Dante Event Center bustles with activity in May

May put another pin in the amazing year we've experienced here at the Dante Event Center, general manager Jennifer Peretti reports.

During the month, the center hosted proms, birthday celebrations, weddings and monthly meetings of many local organizations.

The Dante Club also awarded annual scholarships to 11 graduating high school students at the May members dinner.



A banquet room is dressed in elegance in anticipation of a wedding reception at the Dante Event Center in May.

"In June, we look forward to the return of the Dante Club Sausage Festa on June 9," Peretti said. "Also please mark your calendars for the July and August barbecues as well as the Vic Martinelli/Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament on July 15."

The Dante Event Center continues to book events and fill in the gaps on the 2023 calendar, as well as book events into 2024 and 2025.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance, building fund

Two fun activities, the Sunday night family dinner and the new Dante Sausage Festa, are coming up this month. Hopefully, members will attend one or both.

Sadly, the Dante Club's wonderful periodic jazz performances are not well attended by club members. The French Jazz on Sunday, April 30, is one example. Our own Annah worked hard to create a charming French bistro in the Venetian Room, including private tables dressed with white linen, LED candles and red roses.

The Rendezvous band entertained with a mixture of beloved oldies and new arrangements. Vocalist Michelle Le Grand treated attendees to popular songs in French, English and sometimes a mixture of both. She sang a particularly touching rendition of Edith Piaf's *La Vie En Rose*.

Unfortunately, only two club members attended, while the rest of the audience were obviously jazz enthusiasts.

These high-quality jazz performances should not be missed when they return in the fall.

Sausage event

The Dante Club will host 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 featured, as well as dancing to live music by the Cheryl Tiburzi Trio.

The menu will consist of Italian sausages 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 at 6:30 p.m.

Buildings and grounds

In the works for June will be the replacement of a few parking lot lights that need upgrading to slim-style LED fixtures. Work is planned on the bocce courts to install overhead lighting for late-night matches.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 3



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

June 4

Sunday Family Dinner

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

Menu: Spinach mandarin salad, baked ziti with meat sauce, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reserve by midnight Saturday, May 27.

June 9

Dante Sausage Festa

Times: 5 to 9 p.m.

Menu: Mixed green salad, Italian sausages, meza rigatoni, seasonal vegetables, ice cream

Cost: \$30 adults, \$15 children ages 12 and younger

Reserve by midnight Thursday, June 1. Open to the public.

June 12

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Italian chopped salad, mushroom ravioli with Alfredo sauce, seasonal vegetables, focaccia bread, spumoni with biscotti

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight Saturday, June 3.

June 19

Dante Club Members Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Italian chopped salad, assorted ravioli with Bolognese, seasonal vegetables, rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight Saturday, June 10.

PLEASE NOTE:

- NO Sunday Family Dinner in July
- NO Ladies Auxiliary meeting in July
- We're still determining the small details of the July barbecue. More information will come sometime soon this month.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Scholarship winners

The Dante Club presented scholarships to 11 students at the May 15 members dinner.

Each student shared information about the colleges they will attend and their courses of study. Club members wished them all the best in reaching their goals.

These students received the awards: Ava Calcagno, Ryan Calcagno, Simone Kirkland, Kevin McGuire, Jack Monson, Kate Patella, Alyssa Rizzardo, Bianca Rizzardo, Madison Ullensvang, Logan Vu and Jake Zan. (See Page 13 for a photo of the winners.)

The students and their families were treated to an Italian dinner prepared by Dante Club staff.

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 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 1,615 pounds, valued at more than \$1,600.

Members are asked to collect pull tabs from their canned pet foods, sodas and, of course, beer.

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

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."

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 the substitution is not confirmed by noon, it can't be honored.

Dante Jazz Society

Carolyn Swayze, longtime host of the Sacramento Jazz Co-op, has relocated and passed the baton to the Dante Event Center to revamp the jazz nights of the Dante Jazz Society and make them part of our events calendar.

We offer different styles of jazz every month to keep the musical genre alive. Members and friends who want a relaxing evening out are encouraged to come join us.

Tickets can be purchased at the door or 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

May was a very light month for membership committee actions, although we will gladly take a step back and applaud the 11 recipients of Dante Club scholarships.

No one was interviewed or inducted during the May meeting. We do plan to chat with Tom Strobel and Dan Micholetti with

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7



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
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- 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



Ladies Auxiliary establishes presence on Facebook

At our May meeting we celebrated Mother's Day with 133 members and guests. Thanks go to Anna Tenderella and her team for the colorful flower arrangements at each table and the favors for each attendee that had yummy limoncello chocolate almonds in them.

Dinner was highlighted with a fennel orange salad featuring oranges and sliced raw fennel, which added a subtle licorice essence. This was tossed over greens with pistachios and topped with a zingy homemade citrus vinaigrette. Wow! Fennel and orange are a famous pairing in Italian cuisine, and thanks to Adrienne DeFazio for the suggestion. I think all will agree that the salad was a hit.

We now have a Dante Club Ladies Auxiliary page on Facebook, thanks to Susan Kasimatis. We are using this as a

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Alyse DeFazio

method to get information out and share ideas in a more efficient way. We encourage everyone to access our page. Those who have already joined our Facebook group have seen how we document our activities with pictures and share upcoming events. And if you want the recipe for the wonderful fennel orange salad, you can find it there.

If you're a Facebook user, search there for Dante Club Women's Auxiliary and tap "join." If you're not a Facebook user, type this link into your web browser: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1591958474631996>.

Anna, a representative of the Dante Club, spoke to us about the Dante Craft Fair and Festival scheduled for 5 p.m. Oct. 22.

Crafts and food vendors are needed, so please encourage anyone who may be interested to contact the Dante Club at (916) 925-8230 or email danteclubevents1@gmail.com. It promises to be an amazing event with games and crafts for children as well.

Bocce is off to a great start. Debra Duccini-Hansen, Nancy Doyle and Susan Kasimatis gave an update at the May meeting. We have the morning session at 11 a.m. Tuesdays at the club. Contact Debra Duccini-Hansen at dducc56@gmail.com. We also meet at 6 p.m. Wednesdays. Contact Nancy Doyle at ncdoyle59@gmail.com.

No need to commit to a team or a time slot. You can just show up or email the coordinators for more information. I can attest that we have a great time out there, so

See LADIES AUXILIARY, Page 6

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 |

**Ladies Auxiliary**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

come and join the fun!

Last year we lost a very special member of the Dante family, Andrea Parker, who was the longest-serving employee at the club, with a tenure of more than eight years. We received a thoughtful thank you note from her two daughters for the \$2,200 our members donated to help support them in their time of need.

As always, we had several amazing raffle prizes. May winners were Jerri Curradi, auxiliary dinner; Judy Kaminski, \$20 cash; Linda Norce, coffee maker gift set; Antonetta Pozzuto, port wine gift set; Lisa Parinella, Leatherby's gift card; Diana Dionisio, patio/porch lantern; Vera Vacarro, wine gift set; Peggy

Alexander, bundt cake and stand; Marisa Barone, Arthur Court pie set and cookbook; and Carol Orelli, Sicilian hand soap set.

For pictures of our raffle items, check out our Facebook page. We thank Sue Pricco, i leoni, Mia Franzoia and Roseann Jamison for their donations.

Thanks also go to Donna Dighero O'Neil for staging prizes and Anna Tenderella for getting donations. We're always looking for donations for our raffle, so please feel free to gather donations if you are so inclined. Gift cards are a favorite!

We culminated the evening with a lively group playing bingo, facilitated by Linda Franzoia Feil and Susie Franzoia Rozewski. The goal was to achieve T, picture frame and blackout bingo-card

configurations. Surprisingly, we got there quickly. Rose Ann Piacentini won both the picture frame and the blackout.

A big thank you goes to Carol Orelli, Kathy Ring and Susie Franzoia Rozewski for bringing in pull tabs.

Remember, sodas, bubbly waters, cat food cans, and, of course, beer cans all have aluminum pull tabs. Cans of soup, vegetables and dog food are usually packaged in steel cans.

If you can pick up the tab with a magnet, it's steel, not aluminum. Thanks to our members for helping us make a difference for Ronald McDonald House.

In June, we will learn how the Dante and auxiliary clubs were founded. Member Fran Kocheski

See AUXILIARY, Page 9

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

reflected in articles in the *Inferno* and at our monthly meetings, with Ralph DiLibero presenting interesting and enjoyable subjects.

In June, Jerry Reynolds, former coach of the Sacramento Kings, will attend the members dinner to talk about the Kings' recent success and what to look forward to this year. He promises to be a great guest speaker, so members should plan to attend and enjoy.

Finally, friendship reigns at the monthly dinners and Saturday bocce games, with the thrills of victory and the agonies of defeat wrapped around good sportsmanship and camaraderie. Nearly 50 members now participate in our bocce games, with even more expressing interest.

To be of Italian heritage is fortuitous, and to be a member of our Dante Club is special. But none of the Dante Club's accomplishments occur magically. They flow from member participation, commitment and hard work, values that result in a successful club as well as success in life.

So I encourage each member to participate and contribute as they can. For example, most members know that scholarships for deserving high school graduates flow from the annual Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Golf Tournament, to be held this year at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex on July 15.

Members can participate as players or corporate or hole sponsors or they can provide a raffle prize. However members participate, their support is critical to the tournament's success. They can sign up to play or contact Rich Battistessa to volunteer to help.

I would be remiss if I failed to recognize Ottavio Luchini, a Dante Club life member, who turned 98 in May. He is one of our longest serving members — 71 years — and a regular at the monthly members dinners. I recently asked Ottavio what is the secret of his longevity. He said his love of wine and an occasional cigarette — filtered, of course. This may not be everyone's formula, but it seems to work for Ottavio. Again, congratulations!

As always, thanks to our members for all they do. Stay well.



Members to vote on proposed bylaws changes

At the June meeting, Dante Club members will be asked to vote on proposed bylaws changes. Members should familiarize themselves with the proposals in advance. A discussion of the proposals and subsequent voting will be done by a show of hands, with the results announced immediately.

This document, whether received by email or hard copy, will be considered the second reading of the proposed changes. The changes were distributed at the April meeting and were published in the May newsletter. They will also be published in the June newsletter and distributed at the June member meeting.

The text of these proposals, submitted by Don Agostinelli and the bylaws subcommittee, is provided below, along with the reasons for the proposals to help everyone understand. A proposal submitted by Ron Cristoni has been withdrawn.

The board of directors' recommendations for each proposed change are provided at the end of the documents provided by the proposers.

PROPOSED BY DON AGOSTINELLI:

Preface: As we approach the end of the first quarter of the 21st century, I believe we should

See BYLAWS, Page 8

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

the intent to recommend them to the general membership for acceptance.

We also hope to introduce Nick White, who was voted into the club in April.

Tom is sponsored by Paul Jacobs, and his spouse, Susan Kasimatis, is a member of the Ladies Auxiliary. Dan is sponsored by Jim Di Pinto.

These are the last two on our waiting list. We ask members to please submit applications for the next wave of candidates.

We will not interview in July or August because we pause our members meetings and replace them with barbecues.

Application forms can be found on the website or from the committee.

The June anniversary lifetime members and general members with at least 25 years of

membership are:

Lifetime members

- Ronald Squaglia, 19 years

General members

- Brian Frizzi, 40 years
- John Waldron, 37 years
- John Marsalla, 31 years
- Vincent Cracchiolo, 27 years

Golf tournament

The annual Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Annual Golf Tournament will be held July 15 at the Alister MacKenzie Course at Haggin Oaks Golf Complex.

The event is a fundraiser for the scholarships we award annually to graduating high school seniors.

Members are encouraged to sign up their foursomes and come out and play to support the kids.

An 8 a.m. shotgun start will get the tournament rolling. Organizers promise a few new wrinkles to ensure a great day of fun.

Lunch at the club will follow the tournament.

Bocce update

The Dante Club's spring season of bocce league play is going into

the sixth week of competition.

Leading the league with a 9-1 record are the Italian Stallions consisting of captain John Rizzardo and players Tom Comalli, Dan Calcagno, Gene Rizzardo and Kevin Calcagno.

The bocce courts are in great shape after a wet winter, thanks to

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 13



Bocce rollers demonstrate that weather is no deterrent to play. Suited up for a rainy day on the court are Jim Brannon, Gino Basso, Jim Riello, Doug Troughton and Steve Lavezzo.

**Bylaws**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

consider making several changes to the bylaws in regard to the drop in actual membership and membership participation. I am concerned with having continued qualified office holders in the important positions of treasurer, chairman of building and grounds, editor of the *Inferno* and secretary. As a 20-year member, I have witnessed membership drop from the full 380 — with a several years' wait or until a member passed away to make a vacancy — to the current 260. The attendance at our monthly meetings averages 85 members per night. I am, therefore, proposing several changes to the bylaws.

Here are my suggestions for membership bylaws amendments:

1. Current bylaw 2-7-2023, Article II, aims and purposes: It shall be the aims and purpose of the Dante Club to be a social club, to encourage friendship, to provide activities for club members and families, to sustain the Italian heritage and to be good citizens in the community.

Proposed amendment: Change the word “social” to “fraternal,” an organization especially for men. This will ensure that it will stay a men's club, especially as we have several times voted down changing our membership for men and women. This does not affect the Ladies Auxiliary.

2. Current bylaw Article II, Section 2, associate members: Associate members will not exceed 15% of the total membership of the Dante Club. They may enjoy all rights and privileges of membership,

except they cannot be nominated or elected to office.

Proposed amendment: Strike the word “except” and add “and.” Strike the word “cannot,” and add “can.” This will enhance our elected offices and bring members that want to work on the board. Currently, we have had vacancies and a difficult time filling board positions.

3. Current bylaw Article XI, Section 2, Dante Club facility: Members may bring a guest, who may use the facilities, subject to the following conditions:

Proposed amendment: Add a line that any guest accompanied by a member is to pay the actual cost set forth by the board. Guest does not pay the member cost. This is a fair compensation for current members.

4. Current bylaw Article IV, Section 1, organization (a): The affairs and business of the Dante Club will be managed by the board of directors consisting of 15 men.

Proposed amendment: Change the number 15 to 10. This will hopefully create a more efficient and participatory board. Lastly, I would like members to consider these two issues: 1) Committees should include board and non-board members. This will improve members' participation at the event center. 2) We should consider for membership those of Italian descent from the diaspora of Southern France, Switzerland and the former Yugoslavia.

PROPOSED BY BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE:

Preface: In 2020, president Ron Pane tasked the bylaws committee to review the bylaws and modernize them. With some guidance, the

committee did this. The members were presented with those changes, leading to the current set of bylaws. This year president Novi tasked a subcommittee of the bylaws committee to again look at the bylaws, obtain input from members and present proposed changes. The modernization included some of the practices of the time. For instance, officers were elected to multiple terms in the same office. Most of the time, the people were good, and the club prospered, but sometimes the club struggled. Having officers with a two-year term may work as long as the club prospers, but when problems arise or the officers are not up to par, they should be replaced as soon as possible for the good of the club. Two-year terms prolong any agony that may present itself. A one-year term could help alleviate that problem. For the club's good, I am presenting this as a way to remove someone from office, as there is no official way currently to do so.

Article IV, Organization, Section 1

Board of directors, Section 1, officers, president: The president must be nominated and elected from the membership of the board of directors. He will serve for two consecutive years (current). His term will be for one year (proposed change). He will continue in office until his successor is nominated, elected and installed.

Board of directors, Section 1, officers, first vice president: He must be nominated and elected from the membership of the board on the same night as the general election and assume the responsibilities of his office the same night. His term

See BYLAWS, Page 9 (bottom)



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.

Bylaws

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

will be no more than two consecutive years (current). His term will be for one year (proposed change). He will continue in office until his successor is nominated, elected and installed. He must be installed at the next regular meeting.

Board of directors, Section 1, officers, second vice president: He must be nominated and elected from the membership of the board on the same night as the general election and assume the responsibilities of his office the same night. His term will be no more than two consecutive years (current). His term will be for one year (proposed change). He will continue in office until his successor is nominated, elected and installed. He must be installed at the next regular meeting.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Change the description of the Dante Club to "social-fraternal" club: **Endorsed by the board of directors**

- Change associate membership to allow a non-Italian man married to an Italian woman to join, with no requirement that the woman be a Ladies Auxiliary member: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

- Allow associate members to be elected to the board of directors and offices: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

- Change membership of the board from 15 to 10: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

- Change term of president from two years to one year: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

- Change term of first vice president from two years to one year: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

- Change term of the second vice president from two years to one year: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

- For special events, require a member's guest to pay the actual cost set by the board and not the member's cost: **Not endorsed by the board of directors**

Auxiliary

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

will speak about how her grandparents, Victor and Paolina Panattoni, founded the Dante Club in 1926. Many current auxiliary members are descendants of Victor and Paolina.

In June during cocktail hour, we will serve Pub Mix in the bar. We also will have a featured cocktail, thanks to Adrienne DeFazio's suggestion. This month's cocktail will be an Aperol Spritz at the fantastic price of \$5. So come early and enjoy a cocktail or a glass of wine at great prices.

Remember, our callers will need members' RSVPs for the June dinner meeting by Friday, June 2.

Also, we don't have meetings in July and August, but bocce will continue through the summer.

Auxiliary columnist Alyse DeFazio is filling in for Debra Cattuzzo this month.



ENHANCING OUR ITALIAN CULTURE

Life in Italy flows leisurely around mealtimes, stroll times and respite times

By Susan Pricco

Italians embrace their days at a slower pace than many expect, something that visitors quickly discover.

Days usually begin with a light *prima colazione* of espresso accompanied by a pastry or maybe a *tosti*, a toasted ham and cheese finger sandwich.

Lunchtime is the most substantial meal of the day, generally consisting of *antipasti*, *primo*, *secondo*, *contorni*, a *dolce* and wine, consumed at a leisurely pace.

The midday *riposa* or siesta is a time-honored custom across Italy. Some call it *la pausa*, and some areas refer to it as *pisolino*. It is an afternoon respite from the daily routine when businesses may close and people can take naps or simply rest after their hearty noon meal.

In small villages, it seems as though everything closes for a couple of hours in the

afternoon — business offices, grocery stores, barbershops, car rental places, accountants, restaurants, law offices and even churches.

In the larger cities, many factory workers get two-hour lunch breaks, allowing them time to digest and recharge.

Businesses may start opening again around 3 p.m., give or take, for the rest of the day, except maybe for a short break later until closing. Some store hours can be more of a suggestion rather than a set schedule.

These days, the new *super mercato* is open all day and into the evening, a modern change from tradition, but it is the exception and not the norm.

Dinner is usually more toward 7 p.m. or even later. It features soup and a dish of pasta or pizza.

In many areas of Italy, people take a *passagiata*, a

comfortable stroll around a town square.

Women walk with linked arms, and men go into cafes and bars to see and be seen as the sun sets and the evening lights come up.

Another important cultural practice can't be overlooked. Although not as widespread or as common as in generations past, a holiday vacation of time

off for "the cure" or to visit "the waters" is still a tradition dating back to the days of the Roman Empire.

Basically, it provides an annual vacation to luxuriate in a thermal spa, perhaps drinking medicinal waters or cleansing the body with mud and emollients in an effort to cure what ails, replenish energy and renew body and soul.



Italians chill out around midday, after consuming the day's heartiest meal: lunch.



Mussels, wine and tomato sauce make marvelous repast

Here's a recipe that's sure to please seafood and Italian food lovers.

STEAMED MUSSELS IN WHITE WINE AND TOMATO SAUCE

Ingredients for sauce:

- 3 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 1 medium onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- 1 can whole tomatoes in juice (28- to 32-ounce can)
- 1 teaspoon salt or to taste
- 1 teaspoon sugar or to taste

Ingredients for mussels:

- 1½ tablespoons extra virgin olive oil
- 2 garlic cloves, minced

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

- ¼ teaspoon dried hot red pepper flakes
- ½ cup dry white wine
- 2 cups tomato sauce
- 2 pounds of mussels, scrubbed

Directions:

For the tomato sauce: Preheat oven to 325 degrees. In a large saucepan, heat oil on medium low. Add onions and garlic, cooking and stirring until softened, for about 5 minutes. Add tomatoes, including juice and salt. Cover and put pan in oven for 1½ to 2 hours. Stir and mash the tomatoes with a fork occasionally, until sauce is

thickened and reduced to about 3 cups. If sauce tastes too acidic, add sugar and cook 5 minutes more.

For the mussels: In a large heavy pot, heat oil over medium low heat. Add garlic and red pepper flakes, cooking and stirring for 2 minutes. Increase heat to medium high. Add wine and bring to a boil. Add tomato sauce and mussels and cook over moderately high heat, stirring occasionally until mussels just open wide, about 6 to 8 minutes. Discard any mussels that are unopened after 8 minutes. Serve immediately.

I love Port Edwards mussels. Vermicelli, linguini or angel hair pasta make a nice accompaniment. Buon appetito!

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CLAIMING OUR HERITAGE

Movies reflect all things Italy, from the sublime to the ridiculous

By Tom Novi

Italy has long been a favorite subject of television and of Hollywood, but the recent exploration of Italy has been significant.

Beginning a couple of years ago with Stanley Tucci's culinary tour of various regions of Italy to

the current spate of television shows and movies set in Italy, the attention seems extraordinary.

The final season of television's *Succession* series features a wedding scene in Tuscany, and the latest iteration of *White Lotus* is set in Sicily.

The cheesy film *Mafia Mama* and the fun travels of four women in *The Book Club: The Next Edition* often seem like an Italian travelog.

So wrap your arms around the media's latest infatuation with Italy, and enjoy.





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10% discount for Dante Club and auxiliary members



Graduating high school students celebrate receiving Dante Club scholarships. Sporting giant checks are, from left, Kate Patella, Jack Monson, Simone Kirkland, Bianca Rizzardo, Madison Ullensvang, Ava Calcagno, Logan Vu, Ryan Calcagno, Jake Zan and Kevin McGuire. Bianca also holds a picture of her sister, Alyssa, who won as well but couldn't attend.

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

the work of courts supervisor Frank Bartucco.

Games are played from 9 a.m. to noon Saturdays. Lights will be installed for evening and fall play.

Here are the bocce league standings as of May 20, after five weeks of play:

1. Italian Stallions: 9 wins, 1 loss
2. Infierno: 8 wins, 2 losses
3. Riolo Rollers: 7 wins, 3 losses
4. Avanti: 5 wins, 5 losses
5. Fratelli d' Bocce: 4 wins, 6 losses
6. Maestri d' Bocce: 3 wins, 7 losses
- Dante Rollers: 3 wins, 7 losses
7. Sons d' Boecce: 1 win, 9 losses

Two weeks remain in the spring bocce league.

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.