



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

*Spring brings
prospect of more
special events*

The chill is starting to fade from one of the coldest, wettest winters in memory.

To celebrate impending spring, close to a hundred members turned out for the February members dinner.

The menu featured veal piccata, bucatini pasta and cannoli for dessert. Attendees enjoyed an evening of laughing, arguing, eating and drinking — just being typical Italians, in other words.

As part of our Italian cultural experience, Ralph DiLibero baked a wonderful migliaccio, a rich dessert that he shared with the members while he explained the meaning of Fat Tuesday, the last day to feast before the Lent fast.

Also during the meeting, event center manager Jennifer Peretti reported on the center's

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6

Cibo delizioso degli Italiani



Marirose Jelich, Michael and Leda DeAngelis and Danny Rehm enjoy the Feb. 4 crab feed, which featured all-you-can-eat crab with copious amounts of cocktail sauce, butter and lemons. See Page 10 for more photos of the event.

Italian leather goods

Nothin' could be finer

By Susan L. Pricco

Italy is renowned for fine leather goods, dating back centuries.

With methods invented in the tanneries of Tuscany and perfected over the ages, the leather is a byproduct of the food industry and imitated throughout the world. The fervor and commitment to quality, by old and young workers

alike, produce the finest leather in the world. Experienced craftspeople pass on the ancient techniques and knowledge, combined with modern innovations, to students of the art of leather tanning in a secret process using vegetable ingredients.

Maybe this is not a surprise. Italy is known for its excellent

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NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

General manager's report

General manager Jennifer Peretti reports that January and February were "amazing months" at the Dante Event Center, with four large crab feeds on the books.

And the activities continue.

"Bookings have been coming in like crazy," Peretti said. "They include returning high school proms and reunions, a veterinarian prom from UC Davis, weddings and quinceaneras."

Peretti said she has started getting event inquiries for 2025, with numerous tours on the books.

Coming up on March 18, the Dante Club's always popular cioppino night is sure to be a winner. Members are encouraged to make their reservations early, before sellout. Seating is limited; tables are designed for 10 guests each.

Members also should mark their calendars for the club's annual Easter Egg Hunt scheduled for Sunday, April 2. The Sunday Family Dinner will follow.

Advisory and finance, building fund

Until the latest revision of the Dante Club bylaws, advisory and finance were separate committees. It was decided to combine them as at least half of the committee members were the same persons, and many issues tended to overlap.

The bylaws require that the club president and treasurer and a minimum of four board members comprise the committee.

In its advisory capacity, the committee is the contact between the event center manager and the board and club membership. A meeting with the manager is held twice a month to discuss operations and issues that may arise.

In its finance capacity, the committee approves all significant expenditures before they are presented to the board. The committee may approve a single expenditure of as much as \$5,000 without board approval. The committee regularly reviews the operations and financial statements of the club and event center.

Current committee members are Rich Battistessa, Tom Novi, Tom Mezzanares, Pat Orelli, Ron Pane,

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

March 5

Sunday Family Dinner

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

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

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reservations are now closed.

March 13

Auxiliary Meeting and Dinner

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

Menu: Brussels sprouts salad, braised corned beef and cabbage with roasted carrots, boiled Yukon potatoes, dinner rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22 per person

Reservations due by midnight March 4.

March 18

Dante Cioppino Dinner

Times: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: Antipasto, insalata, garlic bread, risotto, cioppino, dolce

Cost: \$70 per person

Entertainment: Music and dancing

Reservations due by midnight March 5. Reservations limited to 200 guests, seated at tables of 10.

March 20

Dante Members Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Brussels sprouts salad, braised corned beef and cabbage with roasted carrots, boiled Yukon potatoes, dinner rolls with butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22 per person

Reservations due by midnight March 11.

April 2

Sunday Family Dinner

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

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

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reservations due by midnight March 25. The annual Easter Egg Hunt also will be held April 2, at 2 p.m. Snacks and drinks will be available.

SAVE THE DATES:

Auxiliary dinner and meeting, April 10; members dinner and meeting, April 17; spring sausage fest, June 9.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Joe Porata and George Procida.

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 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.

Annual dues

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

Members who didn't pay by Jan. 31 were 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 for \$125 to the Dante Club.

Buildings and grounds

In February, the buildings and grounds committee completed several small tasks, including repairing the swamp cooler that provides air for the kitchen, replacing alarm panel batteries and installing new thermostats for the air conditioning units.

Continued maintenance and upgrades help set the club apart from other facilities.

A reminder about the last week of March: We need a tent assembly crew to put up the outdoor tent. The task requires eight to 10 volunteers and a commitment of four to five hours. As of Feb. 14, only three people had signed up.

Members willing to help can 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 worked with the Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program. We've donated more than 1,500 pounds of pull tabs to help offset the cost of overnight stays for parents with hospitalized kids.

Cristoni reports he recently delivered 53 pounds of pull tabs.

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*.

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

Scholarship applications

One last reminder: Scholarship applications for graduating high school seniors are due March 31. No exceptions.

We have published information since December and have placed the responsibility on the students to follow through.

Applications can be found on the Dante Club website or obtained at the Dante Club. Questions may be directed to Richard Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net.

Annual dinner payments, reservation substitutions

Members can now pay monthly or annually for monthly meeting night dinners, excluding the July and August barbecues. When members pay in advance, they cannot receive a refund or a credit for any individual dinner they don't attend. However, they don't need to tell the event center if they will or won't attend, as they have already paid. This annual payment option is offered as a convenience.

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

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

Dante Jazz Society

Carolyn Swayze, longtime host of the Sacramento Jazz Co-op, relocated after years at the helm. She 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 feature

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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: 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 members' generosity recognized, appreciated

At our February dinner, a banquet table was overloaded with the donations that Ladies Auxiliary members brought in for the cioppino dinner raffle prizes. Some members also gave financial donations. Roslyn Eliaser even donated a set of golf clubs in a beautiful golf bag.

Our members are such a generous group!

Speaking of donations, I read a lovely letter of thanks from a Child Protective Services caseworker. She said many children were so excited and appreciative of the warm socks and toiletry items the auxiliary donated to the agency. It was especially nice that the children received these items for the Christmas holidays.

Members also noticed that we brought tables and chairs back to the bar. Past president Karol Buccola requested these as

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

members have missed being able to sit and socialize with each other during our cocktail hour. We will be doing this now every month, so come early and enjoy those half-priced cocktails.

During the meeting, we added five new auxiliary members to our club: Laura Leonelli, Teri Rossi, Debbie Moreno, Cathy Eister and Vera Vacarro. We welcome you all!

Our raffle winners were Donna O'Neil, crystal Touchstone necklace; Edyth Deasy, free auxiliary dinner; Andrienne DeFazio, Bogle cabernet; Florinda Fantasia, twin serving plates with matching ramekins; Roseann Jamison, red cookies platter; Marilyn Ricci, \$20 cash; and Laurie Wagner, rabbit wine opener set.

Additionally, Cathy Maffei won a vanilla body lotion set, and Donna O'Neil won an Arthur Court trivet. They both turned around and donated the items to the cioppino raffle donations. Thank you, Cathy and Donna.

Also, thanks to Denise Franzoia and Sandy Calcagno for their pull-tab donations.

We are busy gathering donations in preparation for the fundraising raffle at the cioppino feed on March 18.

If members have something to donate, they should drop them off at the Dante Club or email me so I can pick them up. Remember, this is the Dante Club's largest fundraiser of the year.

Join us at the club on March 18. Enjoy the cioppino, buy your raffle tickets, and walk away with one of our special raffle prizes.

2023 LADIES AUXILIARY BOARD

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
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Italians discover Mother Lode of golden opportunity

**Climate and resemblance to their beloved
homeland attract Italians to California**

The story of Italians in Northern California is a story of individual and collective accomplishment.

They came early, lured by the discovery of gold. Attracted by the 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 Italian names are

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Leather

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

livestock industries, which is the source of the raw leather. Italians are very proud of their beef and sheep products and are staunch believers in not wasting a thing. It's a matter of respect to the animal and gratitude to God for the resources that sustain us. That respect leads to quality of care and handling of the herds and the processing of the products created.

On a trip to Italy in my 20s, I was fortunate to visit a leather school in Florence, near the Church of Santa Croce. As in many of the schools and leather purveyors, they offered to personalize your purchase with

your initials or a name. Decades later, I still have the coin purse embossed with the gold leaf letters, and it is just as functional and lovely as the day I bought it.

The leather purveyors' methods reflected historical tanning and sewing methods, adapted to more modern applications, including book covers and other small leathers. Across Italy, with reference to the important Italian fashion industry, fine leathers can be found in exquisite handbags, jackets and shoes.

Is there any better leatherwork to be found? Forgive my bias, but I think not.

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

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

robust business activity. She said 2023 so far has seen a greater volume of bookings than 2022, with at least one event scheduled for every Saturday throughout the year. Members responded with loud applause.

Jim Dimino previewed the upcoming bocce season, encouraging members to contact him if they want to play.

Coming March 18 is the annual cioppino dinner and dance, with attendance limited to 200. The final date for reservations is March 5, so don't delay and miss out on one of the great events of the year. Also, Rich Battistessa needs more raffle prizes. Call him with your contribution.

I was recently asked about the benefits Dante Club and Auxiliary members receive, so I thought it would be worthwhile to remind the members of the value of their membership.

Beyond the fun of eating, drinking and making merry with good friends, including bocce, \$15 Sunday night dinners (\$8 for the kids) are an outstanding opportunity to bring the family together for a very nice meal.

Member dinners are only \$22, a great value, and member events always feature half-price drinks. Members also receive 50% discounts on room rentals for personally hosted events, with room rentals waived for celebrations of life for members who have passed.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt is complimentary, hosted by the club and the event center. Finally, let's not forget a longtime Dante Club tradition: scholarships for our children and grandchildren that these deserving students greatly appreciate.

Congratulations to Colby Relles, son of Jim Relles, and Jim Luttig, a retired state official, sponsored by Dick Zarzana, who were sworn in as our newest members. Ottavio Luchini was recognized for being a member since 1952. He's a true legend at Dante.

Finally, as we move into spring, I want to thank all of you who step forward to help, whether preparing seafood for the March cioppino event or volunteering to serve in a leadership position. Bill Maffei, John Rizzardo and Ron Pane recently did just that by agreeing to fill vacant positions on the board.

Thank you for all you do, and stay well.

**Italians**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

emblazoned on historic buildings, or a walk through the Catholic Cemetery at Jackson in Calaveras County, attests to the sojourn of Italian pioneers. They arrived in great numbers during the mass migration at the turn of the 20th century.

The early immigrants came primarily from the northern regions of Italy. It's estimated that 60 percent of California's Italian population is of northern Italian extraction.

The largest settlement arose by San Francisco Bay, where Italians settled in the North Beach District, which became an Italian enclave called the North Beach Colony.

The Italians' cultural and economic community spread throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

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

By 1859, California's first Italian-language newspaper, *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 Italian immigrants in California coincided with the state's early settlement.

As a result, the Italians played a vital role in shaping the destiny of California and its economy.

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

By the 1880s, Italian fishermen and their graceful sailing feluccas dominated California waters. By 1900, the fishing industry of California had become the second leading fishery in the nation. By 1910, Italians managed 80% of the state's fishing business.

During World War II, wartime restrictions on Italian immigrants living along the coast prevented Italian fishermen from using their fishing boats.

Across the state, Italians also settled in farmland and played a prominent role in

*Italians
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developing today's fruit, vegetable and dairy industries in Marin and Sonoma counties and the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys.

By the 1880s, Italians dominated the fruit and vegetable industry. In 1859, Italian immigrant Marco Fontana arrived. He and another Ligurian, Antonio Cerruti, founded the California Packing Company in 1889. Under the popular Del Monte label, the company's canneries soon became the largest food-processing corporation in the world. Most workers were Italian.

Among the many enterprising Italians who left their mark on California was Domenico Ghirardelli, who traveled through the gold mines selling chocolate and hard candies.

He settled in San Francisco after the Gold Rush and founded the Ghirardelli chocolate empire, with the help of 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, Andrea Sbarbaro founded the Italian Swiss Colony at Asti in Sonoma County 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 widespread participation of Italians in the grape and wine industry and their success in Napa, Sonoma and Central Valley vineyards.

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

Born in San Jose in 1870 of Italian immigrant parents, Giannini founded the Bank of Italy in North

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Want to book a personal event? Don't delay

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

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

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

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

getting booked in the meantime.

At the end of the two weeks, if a security deposit has not been received, the date will be released. To confirm an event, a deposit must be paid and a contract signed and dated.

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

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

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

News, Notes and Otherwise

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jazz every month to keep this vibrant musical genre alive.

Purchase tickets at www.danteclub.com under public events or at the door. Appetizers prepared by the Dante chef require advance ordering online, before the cutoff date.

Membership committee

It's great to see the continuing interest of men wishing to join the Dante Club.

At the February meeting, Colby Relles, sponsored by Jim Relles, and Jim Luttig, sponsored by Dick Zarzana, introduced themselves to members and were inducted. Members are asked to welcome them at future functions.

We have learned of events affecting the Bazzaroni family. First, Jason Bazzaroni died last June. Secondly, Jason's father, Michael, has been in poor health. His wife, Rhonda, has been caring for him. Michael has been a member of the

Dante Club for 47 years, since January 1976. He will likely be unable to attend most club gatherings.

In February, the membership committee presented Michael Bazzaroni's name to the general membership for motion, discussion and vote to include him as our newest Lifetime member. He was approved by all present.

If any member knows of significant events in other members' lives, they can alert the committee or any Dante board member, and we will share the information with all.

As always, we encourage members to consider bringing in a family member or friend to join us. Club application forms can be found on the website or from committee members.

We have started recognizing our long-standing Dante Club members. Each month, we will identify those that have joined that month in the past, all Lifetime members and any general member with at least 25

years of membership. Their anniversary will be noted.

Lifetime members

- Ottavio Luchini, 71 years
- Philip Martinelli, 65 years
- Al Tirapelli, 44 years
- Richard Cristofani, 39 years

General members

Kenneth Cemo, 47 years
Eric Luchini and Ron Pane, 33 years
Burt Bonomi, George Carollo and John Immordino, 25 years each

Dante Bocce League

The Dante Club Bocce League is gearing up for its fourth year of competition under commissioner Rich Battistessa.

The league is divided into three seasons — spring, summer and fall — with a break between each. The spring season will begin April 15, with open practice play scheduled from 9 to 11:30 a.m. March 18, March 25 and April 1.

New players can come on those

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Chicken cacciatora cures cold-weather blues

Here's a tasty Italian chicken recipe for wintertime dining:

POLLO ALLA CACCIATORIA

Ingredients:

- 2 to 3 pounds cut-up chicken
- 1/2 cup vegetable oil
- 2 green peppers cored, seeded and cut in 1/2-inch strips
- 1 medium red bell pepper, prepared as above
- Sliced white mushrooms
- 1 cup diced onion
- 1 cup dry white wine
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 4 cups crushed imported San Marzano plum tomatoes
- Salt and pepper
- Oregano and dried red-pepper flakes

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

Directions:

Cut chicken into small serving pieces. In a deep casserole dish, heat oil on medium high. Cook chicken pieces in batches for about 10 minutes, until well-browned. Add vegetables and sauté for 5 minutes or until soft but not brown. Add wine and sauté for 1 minute. Stir in broth, then tomatoes. Add seasonings to taste, and bring mixture to a boil. Lower heat and simmer uncovered for 30 minutes. Sauce should thicken slightly, and chicken should be tender. Great served with polenta. Buon appetito!

WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT BEING AN ITALIAN?

The history of great Italians is broad and varied, but Leonardo DaVinci is often considered the greatest in history.

As a painter, DaVinci created the world's most famous portrait, the Mona Lisa. But beyond his skills as a painter, his acquired knowledge of natural and physical properties resulted in more modern discoveries and inventions than produced by any one person throughout history.

Born in the village of Vinci near Florence in the 15th century, DaVinci had varied interests. He conceived of motor-powered vehicles, helicopters, armaments such as tanks and machine guns, and even the bicycle, centuries before these now-common things came into existence.

DaVinci's eclectic skills are the basis for the term "Renaissance man" — someone who is not only an exceptional artist and sculptor but also a student and master of architecture, mechanics, mathematics and engineering. A true genius for all time.

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dates and get placed on a team. They also can sign up to play at the March members dinner.

More players can join the league's eight teams. Contact any committee member for details: Rich Battistessa, Jim Dimino, Frank Bartucco, John Rizzardo, Don Agostinelli or Dick Zarzana.

Italians

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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 Italian neighborhoods across the state.

In 1930, Giannini changed the bank's name

to Bank of America, which soon became the largest bank in the world.

The story of Italians who played a prominent role in the creation of California is our story, their experience ours. The success of these pioneers is a legacy we all share.

— *Reprinted with permission from the Italian Cultural Society*

Did you know ...?

According to St. Patrick's autobiography, *Confessio*, he was born of Italian parents living on an English estate. His father, Calphurnius, who was in the Roman military, and his mother, Conchessa Succat, were both Italian. So a little crostini with your green beer might be in order on March 17.

Please patronize our paesanos



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More crab feed pics

A large crowd, below, fills the Dante Event Center's Venetian room Feb. 4 for the Dante Club's annual crab feed. The popular event attracted 189 people this year, after re-emerging from its pandemic shut-down last year. Among guests last month are, far left, Hilary Franzoia, Karol Buccola, Natalie Franzoia and an unidentified diner and, below left, Frank and Karol Buccola, standing, Debra Cattuzzo, and Hilary and Natalie Franzoia. Mounds of fresh crab, left, await the hungry seafood lovers.



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.