



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

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Tom Novi

Business not quite as usual, thanks to Kings game

The April members meeting fell on a special night — the Kings playing the Warriors in Game 2 of the NBA playoffs.

For the first time in recent memory, numerous members asked to defer business items to the May and June meeting so that they could watch the game — a game that the Kings ultimately won!

So after a motion and a vote, most business items were moved to the May and June meetings. We did, however, induct two new members, Joe Williams and Joe Pasquinelli, who were sponsored by Ralph DiLibero. As I understand it, they are part of his East Coast Italian connection. Welcome, gentlemen.

The May meeting will feature our 2023 scholarship winners and their families —

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6



Kids delight in searching for Easter eggs in the Dante Club's annual April hunt, which also featured a bounce house.

April full of weddings, awards, quinceaneras and egg hunting

April brought many different activities to the Dante Event Center, including the return of the Dante Easter Egg Hunt, featuring a giant bounce house. Thank you to all who came and joined in the fun.

The center also hosted four proms, two of which were returning from last year.

"We hosted weddings, the California Fly Fishers Awards fundraiser, graduation ceremonies, quinceaneras and so much more,"

said general manager Jennifer Peretti. "We are moving right through spring and are preparing for a jam-packed summer."

Members are encouraged to place their reservations for the upcoming Sunday Family Dinner, the Dante Club Sausage Festa and the Jazz Nights.

"We look forward to what the rest of 2023 has in store for us as we continue to book events for 2023, 2024 and now into 2025," Peretti said.



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

Advisory and finance, building fund

Members of the advisory and finance committee spent a considerable amount of time recently discussing the issue of member participation and volunteering. The Dante Club has 235 dues-paying members and 13 life members, but rarely do even 100 members attend the monthly meetings, and never more than a handful attend Sunday Family Night dinners.

Members' participation in Jazz at Dante, which has had fabulous presentations, is practically nil. The one thing that does improve member attendance is the offer of a free dinner.

Few members offer to volunteer when a request for help goes out. In June, the club will do a sausage feed. Help is needed to make the event a success.

More information on that can be found elsewhere in the *Inferno*.

Bocce has attracted at least 45 members on a regular basis. So, members, two questions: Why do you belong to the Dante Club and what can the board do to get you to participate in an active manner? Please discuss your thoughts on this subject with any board member or by emailing one of us.

New sausage event

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

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

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

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

Buildings and grounds

On April 6, 10 members showed up to erect the club's outdoor tent in record time. It took about 2½

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 3



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

May 7

Sunday Family Dinner

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

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

Cost: \$15 adults, \$8 children

Reservations now closed.

May 8

Ladies Auxiliary Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Fennel and orange salad, creamy cheddar polenta, chicken marsala, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$22

Reservations now closed.

May 15

Dante Club Members Dinner and Meeting

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

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

Cost: \$22

Reserve by midnight Saturday, May 6.

June 5

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 public.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Dante Club Ladies Auxiliary dinner and meeting, June 12
- Dante Club Members Dinner and meeting, June 19

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2



George Procida and his crew erect the outdoor tent in record time.

hours, our fastest time yet. Many thanks to these members for their time and effort: Don Agostinelli, Steve Lavezzo, Bill Maffei, Tom Mezzanares, Paul Pane, Frank Perri, Pete Pesetti, Joe Porata, George Procida and Ernie Tomassilli.

A second major item completed in April was the replacement of a compressor for the heating and air conditioning unit that services the Sicilian Room and bar area. We hope the unit will provide years of trouble-free service.

Thirdly, Matt Longo has replaced all the emergency exit signs throughout the building. The old signs needed new batteries and were dated in their appearance. The new signs are more modern-looking and LED, which will help reduce electrical use.

Lastly, the damaged front entry gate was finally replaced. Our entry now looks as good as new.

Club apparel

The Dante Club works with Julie Brown at Premier Graph-x to brand clothing with our club logo, including hats, T-shirts, jackets and aprons in a wide array of colors.

Members can order items at danteclub.shopgraphx.com or contact Mark Pedroncelli at peddc@surewest.net or 916-812-6729. For special orders, contact Julie

Brown at 916-787-0603 or julie@premieregraphx.net.

Save pull tabs

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

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

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

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, wish to thank our nine advertisers. Their support helps defray the costs of publishing the club's monthly *Dante's Inferno*.

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

Annual dinner payments

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, recently relocated and has found it difficult to manage events from outside the market.

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

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

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

Membership committee

Despite competition from the Sacramento Kings game on the big screen, we were able to welcome

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
- 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



Women return to bocce in April; new time slot added

At our April 10 meeting, we enjoyed the costumes and stylish moves of the Italian Balliamo Dancers. The troupe of six entertained us with traditional



Dancers enliven the April meeting.

dances, then coaxed most of our members to get up and dance with them for a couple of numbers.

Everyone really enjoyed it.

Two of the dancers are auxiliary members Virginia Griffin and Ann Zacharias.

We are saddened by the news of the February passing of member Connie Diloreto, a longtime member of the Ladies Auxiliary. She even served as president for two years.

LADIES AUXILIARY NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

Connie is survived by her children, Peter, Paul and Mari Anne. Services were held at the Holy Spirit Church on May 1, with a reception afterward at the church.

We also learned that we recently lost another member, Marilyn Nagel. Marilyn enjoyed the auxiliary, especially playing bocce, and she was a big fan of the San Francisco 49ers.

Marilyn is survived by her daughter, Julie Burkett, and grandchildren J. Burkett and Macie Burkett. She was so looking forward to the birth of her first great grandchild in August.

The family is having a Marilyn Nagel Party instead of a celebration of life because that is

what Marilyn would have wanted. It will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. May 17 at the Dante Event Center. The family has invited Marilyn's friends from the auxiliary to attend.

We recently added four new members to the auxiliary: Vicki Bezzone, Kathy Paterson, Dolly and Mariann Isola. Vickie and Kathy were at the April dinner to introduce themselves. We hope that Dolly and Mariann will be able to attend the May dinner.

Bocce is back! The women were back playing bocce on Tuesday, April 11.

We just started an additional time slot for bocce. We still have the morning session at 11 a.m. Tuesdays (contact Debra Duccini-Hansen at dducc56@gmail.com), and now we also meet at 6 p.m. Wednesdays (contact Nancy Doyle at ncdoyle59@gmail.com).

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

No need to commit to a team or a time slot. You can just show up or email the coordinators for more information.

The auxiliary decided to donate our raffle proceeds to various charities. In April, we saved the donations from several months to make a total donation of \$500 to the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Our next charity donation will be to the Sacramento Children's Home. Founded in 1867, the home provides crisis support for families with infants and toddlers, as well as short-term residential care for foster youth who have suffered trauma. The home focuses on child abuse prevention, intervention and

mental health treatment. Every year Children's Home provides service to 7,000 children and 4,300 families.

Our donation got a bit of a head start when one of my guests, Kathie Harris of Harris Industrial Gas, stood up with a \$50 bill and challenged the auxiliary to match her donation for the Children's Home. I'm not sure everyone heard it, and we have never done that before, but we raised \$320. So thank you, Kathie! That gives us a great beginning.

Of course, we had wonderful prizes once again during the meeting, and the winners were: Susan Pricco, See's candy gift card; Patrice Prest, lemon cake; Barbara Relles, Bogle wine; Jerri Curradi, petunia plant; Emily

Rossi, Vegan Patch gift card; Cheryl DiCristofaro, Italian lemon bowl; Karol Buccola, \$20 cash; and Debra Cattuzzo, teak cutting board and carving set.

A shout-out of thanks goes to Cathy Bertolani, Ann Zacharias and Fidalmia Solander for bringing in aluminum pull tabs for donation to the Ronald McDonald House. I am so proud of how everyone has stepped up to collect these.

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.

You can tell the difference in an easy way: If you can pick up the tab with a magnet, it is steel, not

See AUXILIARY, Page 11

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

always a special night for the club. Plan to attend and cheer on our best, brightest, outstanding students and future leaders.

A key item moved to the June meeting is consideration of several proposed bylaws changes that are detailed in this month's *Inferno* newsletter.

Although not a requirement, the Dante board reviewed each proposal and provided their recommendations.

Ultimately, however, it is the responsibility of each member to decide how to vote.

Please review the proposals, and be prepared to discuss and vote on them at the June meeting.

Coming Friday, June 9, is the Sausage Festa, the latest iteration of the sausage feed that the club has sponsored for years.

This year's event will be under the outdoor tent, with open-play bocce and a dinner of Italian sausage, grilled peppers and pasta.

Live music, dancing and adult beverages will round out the night. It will be a very nice evening event for members, their wives and guests.

As was done with the cioppino dinner, Dante members will cook and serve the meals. Ron Pane and Joe Porata, the event chairmen, could use a few more hands to set up and take down the tables and chairs. Interested members should give

them a call and volunteer for a couple of hours. All profits will go to the club's facility maintenance fund to help ensure the buildings and grounds are maintained in pristine condition.

On a final note, we will soon see lights on the bocce courts. This will allow evening bocce events for club members and Dante Event Center bookings — a very nice upgrade.

Speaking of bocce, Rich Battistessa has begun open play before the monthly member dinners, with more than 25 members enjoying bocce before the April dinner. Come early and roll a few balls. I promise you will enjoy it.

As always, thank you for all you do, and stay well.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

two new members into the club at our April meeting. Joe Williams and Joe Pasquinelli, both sponsored by Ralph DiLibero, said a few words about themselves when presented to attendees. Nick White, sponsored by Ron Pane, had a last-minute obligation so he will come to the club next month.

Two remain on the waiting list. Tom Strobel, sponsored by Paul Jacobs and married to Susan Kasimatis of the Ladies Auxiliary, is not available for an interview until June, so we will chat with him then. Dan Michelotti, sponsored by Jim Di Pinto, has submitted an application, and we'll slot him in for a chat before the May members dinner.

As always, we encourage all to consider bringing any family or friend join us. Application forms may be found on the website or from the committee.

Here are the May anniversary lifetime members and general members with at least 25 years in the Dante Club:

Lifetime members

- Eno Urbani, 63 years
- Angelo Pennisi, 55 years
- Dominic Campanelli, 48 years
- Stephen Morandi, 44 years

General members

- Alvin Ricci Jr. and Thomas Ceccarelli, both 46 years
- Michael Ferrigno, 39 years
- Peter Ghelfi Jr., 34 years
- Daniel Piacentini, 33 years
- John Procida Jr., 31 years
- Mark Frizzi and Patrick

Piacentini, both 26 years

- Carl Perricone, Ciro Immordino and John Pennisi, all 25 years

Scholarship update

Eleven high school seniors have submitted applications for the Dante Club's special annual scholarship awards. The scholarship committee is reviewing the candidates.

The club will present the awards at the May members meeting. Each qualified graduating senior will benefit from a \$1,500 award to help with college expenses.

Bocce underway

Eight teams kicked off the April



Jim Dimino, left, readies for play as fellow players Bob Brown, Don Agostinelli and Bill Boruff look on.

15 bocce opener with gusto.

The upset of the morning was our Italian Stallion squad defeating Sons di Beocce, two games to

zero. Eight teams represented more than 35 members. We're looking for more ballers to add to our group.

The bocce courts are open for general play on a regular basis. Members may call the club to contact a committee member. Also, on the nights of our general meetings, the courts are available starting at 4 p.m. See more bocce photos on Page 12.

Golf tournament

The annual Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Annual Golf

Tournament is just around the corner. This year's event will be held July 15 at the Alister Mackenzie Course at Haggin Oaks.

The tournament will be a four-person scramble with a 7:30 a.m. shotgun start.

The event raises money for the Dante Club's scholarship fund.

Last year the tournament attracted 144 golfers, so early signups are recommended. Tee times will go quickly.

A flier and online entry form will be available to members and friends of the Dante Club. A banquet and raffle will be held after the tournament at the Dante Club.

Bylaws changes

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

In the meantime, the board has offered its recommendations to endorse or not endorse, as follows:

- Change the description of the Dante Club to "social-fraternal" club: **endorsed**
- 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**
- Allow associate members to be elected to the board of directors and offices: **not endorsed**
- Change membership of the board from 15 to 10: **not endorsed**

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 11



Pinocchio tale has its roots in Italian political satire

By Susan Pricco

We all know the delightful children's tale about Pinocchio, the marionette whose nose grew whenever he told a lie. Most of us are familiar with the Disney movie and book version of the story, but few may be aware of the original version of the tale.

Carlo Collodi — the pseudonym of Carlo Lorenzini of Florence, who lived from 1826 to 1890 — wrote the tale. The author was a young seminarian when he began to write political satire as a supporter of the Risorgimento, a movement for unification of Italy. In 1861, with the successful advent of the Kingdom of Italy, he turned his talents to writing for children.

The Story of a Puppet (*La Storia di un Burattino*), first published in the children's newspaper *Giornale Per I Bambini*, is a significantly creepier series of tales than the familiar Pinocchio. Set in a Tuscan village, the story tells of a carpenter who gives his friend, an impoverished old woodcarver named Geppetto, a piece of wood that can talk. Geppetto sets about to create a spectacular puppet he can sell for food.

The impish chunk of wood, however, soon instigates a violent fight between the two



friends. The sentient puppet does tell lies but was much more of an unruly enfant terrible, getting himself and others into dangerous situations, including assaults, arrests, getting eaten by a shark, hanging, thievery and a host of perilous activities.

His adventures or, more accurately, misadventures were symbolic of the political climate and the conditions of poverty and crime in Italy at that time and reflective of the area around Collodi, the town in which the author lived and the inspiration for his pen name.

Today, images of the familiar sweet character with a pointy nose and conical hat, remain a popular memento of Italy. The tourist shops of Tuscany are stocked with Pinocchio-themed souvenirs of varying sizes, quality and function. *La Storia di un Burattino* in its original serial form is still available.

The Adventures of Pinocchio translated in English can be found in libraries and bookstores, as well as online.

Immigrants make their mark across Northern 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 their names are emblazoned on historic buildings, or a walk through the Catholic Cemetery at Jackson in Calaveras County attests to the sojourn of these 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 60 percent of California's Italian population is of northern Italian extraction.

The largest settlement arose by San Francisco Bay where Italians settled in San Francisco's North Beach District. As the stream of immigration continued, the district became an Italian colony. Italians built a successful cultural and economic community that spread throughout the Bay Area. Many Italian families in California can trace their American roots to the North Beach Colony.

By 1859 the state'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. The statewide weekly newspaper, *L'Italo-Americano*, is still published in California.

The arrival of Italians in California coincided with the state's early settlement. As a result, Italians played a vital role in shaping the destiny of California and its

See ITALIANS, Page 9



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.

Italians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

economy. It wasn't 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 waters were dominated by Italian fishermen and their graceful sailing feluccas.

By 1900, the fishing industry of California had become the second leading fishery in the nation, and by 1910, 80 percent of the state's fishing business was managed by Italians.

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 on farmland and played a prominent role in developing today's fruit, vegetable and dairy industries in places such as Marin and Sonoma counties and the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys. By the 1880s, Italians dominated the fruit and vegetable industry.

Italian immigrant Marco Fontana arrived in the United States in 1859, and along with another Ligurian, Antonio Cerruti, 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 to the gold mines selling chocolate and hard candies. He 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 Italians.

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. He established the nation's first statewide system of

See ITALIANS, Page 10



Make flavorful meals with spring fixings

Spring is a time for creative expression. It inspires all those great farm-to-fork combinations.

Here are ideas on how to get creative with the simple delights of the season. Dandelion greens, for example. Thanks to mio amico, Ron Pane, who provided me with some dandelion greens the other day, I was able to make a great pesto with arugula and basil.

SPRING DELIGHTS

Ingredients for primavera sauce:

- Zucchini, tomatoes and red, yellow and green peppers, all diced
- Yellow sweet onions
- Parsley and a bunch of basil
- Butter and olive oil

Ingredients for pesto:

- Basil
- Pine nuts

JUST LIKE MOM USED TO MAKE

Richard Battistessa

- Garlic
- Olive oil

Directions:

Dice the zucchini, tomatoes and red, yellow and green peppers, and add yellow sweet onions, parsley and a bunch of basil. Sauté with a little butter and olive oil to create a great sauce for a pasta primavera. For pesto, combine pine nuts, basil, garlic and olive oil — or use what's at hand, such as dandelion greens. Cook linguine in salted water for a good second course. Experiment! Be unconventional! And don't forget the Parmesan. A little white wine and lemon also add flavor. Buon appetito!

Italians

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

branch banks by opening branches in Italian enclaves across California. Italians provided most of his work force. In 1930 he changed the name to Bank of America.

Giannini's bank soon grew to become the largest bank in the world.

Italians played a prominent role in the creation of California. Their story is our story, their experience ours.

— Reprinted by permission from the Italian Cultural Society

Please patronize our paesanos



EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE, STYLE & PEACE OF MIND



CARF-ACCREDITED
INDEPENDENT & ASSISTED LIVING
AND MEMORY CARE RESIDENCES

601 Feature Drive, Sacramento
916.229.9463
RiversEdgeSacramento.com



RCFE# 342700579



2400 J St.
916-441-1478
sales@rellesflorist.com
www.rellesflorist.com
Making memories for 7 years.



Gina Zarzana-Stiriti
"I'm never too busy for your referrals"
REALTOR® | Lic #02156244

Direct: (916) 214-1569
Email: gstiriti@golygon.com
www.gstiriti.golygon.com



Bill Zellars
Owner
Zellars Concrete, LLC
P.O. Box 60141
Sacramento, CA 95860
www.zellarsconcrete.com
bill@zellarsconcrete.com



**Auxiliary**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

aluminum. Thank you for helping us make a difference.

In May we will welcome Norma Petta to speak about the new Italian Conversational Group, a group of auxiliary women who gather occasionally just to speak Italian. Contact Norma at normapetta@gmail.com if you wish to be included.

In June, we will have the pleasure of learning how the Dante

Club and the Ladies Auxiliary were founded.

Member Fran Kocheski will speak about how her grandparents, Donald and Paolina Panattoni, founded the Dante Club in 1926.

I cannot wait to hear Fran's story. You will be amazed by how many current Ladies Auxiliary members are descendants of Donald and Paolina.

Here's hoping everyone has a Happy Mother's Day!

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

- Change president's term from two years to one year: **not endorsed**
- Change term of first vice president from two years to one year: **not endorsed**
- Change the term of the second vice president from two years to one year: **not endorsed**
- 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**

Please patronize our paesanos



**FAST
FAIR
FRIENDLY**

since 1927
McClatchy Insurance Agency

Tom Mathews
2410 Fair Oaks Blvd., Ste. 140
Sacramento, CA. 95825
14670 Cantova Way, Ste. 212
Rancho Murieta
(916) 354.1411
DOI #0287985 tom@mcclatchyins.com



**SACRAMENTO
TREE
FOUNDATION**

Trees make our communities livable & lovable. Find out how you can receive free trees, get involved, or support our work.

(916) 924-8733
www.sactree.com



SOLD

PATRICK VOGELI

...And I Sell Houses!
916.207.4515

Broker Associate | Certified Probate & Trust Specialist
CalBRE #01229115

 **COLDWELL BANKER REALTY**

MIXED BAG
GIFTS FOR EVERY REASON

Linda Novi
Store Owner
www.mixedbagsac.com

2405 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
916-447-6123

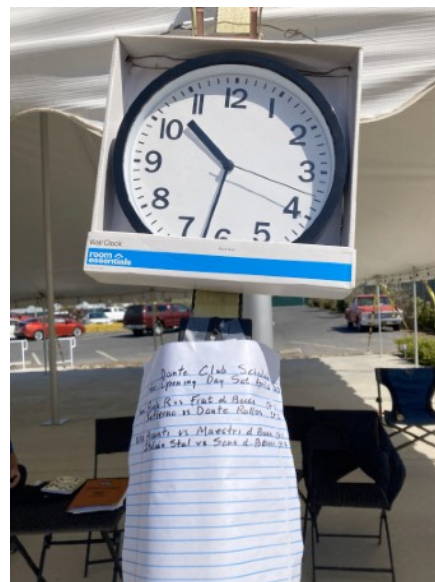
10% discount for Dante Club and auxiliary members

Business Listing

Fondazione Properties, LLC
"Lifting Properties, Elevating Standards"
www.fondazioneproperties.com



Courtside confab and other bocce business



As eight teams kick off the Dante Club's April 15 bocce opener, John Rizzardo, left, Kevin Calcagno, Tom Mezzanares and Colin Orelli discuss their game day strategy. Keeping rollers on track and in order, above, are a clock and a new timing system with a handwritten scoreboard. See News, Notes and Otherwise on Page 7 for more details of the club's thriving 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.