



**Make Dante Club
a priority in 2026**



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dan Calcagno

A focus on social activities at heart of Dante Club

So why am I a member of the Dante Club? My brother told me I needed to join, so I did.

That was 20 years ago. I had waited for months to make it to the top of the waiting list and be interviewed. Dinner back then cost \$8. Life was simpler and “gooder.” I was now a member of an Italian social club.

The Dante Club is first and foremost a social club. As a child 70 years ago, I went with my family to events at another longtime Italian social club in Northern California, the Colombo Club in Oakland. It had a crowded dining room that was noisy and fun. I remember summer picnics where I could throw a potato at a hanging salami and “win

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DANTE'S INFERNO



Dante Club president Dan Calcagno, left, introduces newly inducted members Pete Reali and Jon Olivieri at the January meeting.

Membership numbers steadily grow as the new year begins

January saw our Dante Club membership ranks grow by two men, with the inductions of Pete Reali and Jon Olivieri.

A former Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District employee, Pete Reali was born in Sillano Giuncugnano in Italy's Tuscany region.

Jon Olivieri is a retired, but still very busy, building contractor, with many roof projects under his supervision. He is already trying to get into our good graces. He won our 40-20-40 raffle and donated his prize back to the club.

Be sure to greet these two newcomers at our February meeting.

We have interviewed prospective candidate Carl Britton. He reports that his grandmother took him to many Dante Club events in the past, and that his sister held her wedding reception at the club a few years ago.

The general membership accepted the membership committee's recommendation to vote Carl Britton into our ranks. We plan to officially induct him this month.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with condolences to his family that we announce the passing of Robert Lanza on Jan. 14. Among his accomplishments was a long career as the track coach at Sacramento City College. Robert joined the Dante Club in 2008. His full obituary may be read in the Jan. 25 edition of The Sacramento Bee: <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/sacbee/name/robert-lanza-obituary?id=60610989>



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

General manager's report

Last month at the Dante Event Center we had a great start to 2026. We hosted our annual crab feed, with 110 guests attending, and several monthly groups, including the American Public Works Association and SIRS branches 23 and 69.

We also hosted San Juan Unified School District's midyear celebration and planning meeting.

We look forward to the rest of winter and spring. Members are encouraged to support their club by participating in our public events, including a wine dinner on March 24.

Because of increasing costs in labor, food, liquor and overhead fees, the Sunday Family Dinner price increased last month to \$25 for adults and \$15 for children 12 and younger. We appreciate members' continued support of the dinner and hope to see many attendees throughout the year.

We are booking into 2027. See Page 8 for details on how members can book a room at a discounted rate.

Buildings and grounds

In January the buildings and grounds committee once again dealt with door repair at the event center. The doors leading into the Sicilian Room were sagging and needed remounting, with sturdier hinges added. The committee also repaired soda machine lines under the bar that had sprung a leak. The ice machines were serviced and cleaned as well.

Special thanks go to Ron Pane, Matt Longo and George Procida for completing these tasks.

Bocce

We are approaching the Dante Club's spring session of bocce. It will kick off March 21 with a day of socializing and play.

Organization and the league schedule will be on the agenda. The league will officially start March 29.

We plan to field eight teams, with the option of adding a couple more if members are interested in putting a group together.

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

February 1

Sunday Family Dinner

Times: 4 p.m. cocktails, 5 p.m. seating, 5:15 p.m. first course

Menu: Caesar salad, Italian herb marinated steak, penne pasta with marinara sauce, seasonal vegetables, roasted garlic focaccia breadsticks, chocolate cake with strawberry compote

Cost: \$25 adults, \$15 children age 12 and younger

Reservations are now closed.

February 9

Dante Women's Club Dinner

Time: 4:30 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: Fennel and citrus salad; chicken riggies; roasted zucchini, squash and cherry tomatoes; focaccia breadsticks; spumoni with biscotti

Cost: \$25 members, \$30 guests

Reservations are now closed.

February 16

Dante Club Members Dinner and Meeting

Times: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner, 8 p.m. meeting

Menu: Italian chopped salad with balsamic; chicken riggies; roasted zucchini, squash and cherry tomatoes; focaccia breadsticks; spumoni with biscotti

Cost: \$25 per member

Reserve by midnight Friday, Feb. 6.

SAVE THE DATES:

- Sunday Family Dinner, March 1, \$25 for adults, \$15 for children
- Macchia Wine Dinner and Tasting, March 24, \$90 per person



News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

New members who want play should contact Rich Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net.

As the Dante Club embarks on its 100th anniversary year, we will offer several bocce tournaments and social events. Members are encouraged to join in.

Those interested in joining the Tuesday night league should contact Rich or Frank Bartucco.

Legacy fund donations

The Dante Club Legacy Fund was created during the pandemic as a way for members to help the club through a difficult period.

The Dante board of directors has decided to reinvigorate the fund as one of five strategies to pay off the club's remodeling mortgage. Donations to the fund will help retire the mortgage early.

The Legacy Fund has three donation levels: platinum, \$1,000 or more; gold, \$500; and silver, \$250.

Donors will be recognized annually in the newsletter and at a members dinner. They'll also be honored on a plaque in the Dante Event Center.

Donations will be applied to the mortgage principal monthly.

Donors should mail or deliver a check to the Dante Club (attn: treasurer) and explain how the

donor or a person honored by the donor should be recognized—what name should be on the plaque and in the newsletter.

Donors may remain anonymous if they prefer.

Annual dinner payments

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

When paying in advance, members cannot receive a refund or a credit for any dinner they don't attend, but they don't need to tell the event center if they can't attend, as they have already paid.

The annual payment option is a convenience for those who don't want to pay monthly.

For reservation substitutions, members must call 916-925-8230 by noon the day of the event and give the substitute's name.

Any substitution not confirmed by noon on event day can't be honored.

Newsletter advertising

Dante's Inferno coordinator Tom Mezzanares and the Dante Club board thank our advertisers, whose support helps defray the costs of publishing the newsletter.

Anyone interested in advertising in the *Inferno* in 2026 can email Tom at tjmezzan@gmail.com.

Club apparel

The Dante Club works with Premier Graph-x to brand clothing with the club logo, including hats, T-shirts, jackets and aprons.

Order at danteclub.shopgraphx.com or contact Mark Pedroncelli at peddc@surewest.net or 916-812-6729.

For special orders, call Julie Brown at 916-787-0603 or email her at julie@premieregraphx.net.

Pull-tab program

The Ronald McDonald House charges \$20 per night for parents to stay there while their children receive treatment at UC Davis Medical Center.

The pull-tab program helps those who can't afford the cost by accepting donations of aluminum-can pull tabs, which it then sells for cash.

The Dante Club has donated to the program since March 2018. The Dante Women's Club also participates. Our two clubs have donated a total of 1,757.7 pounds of pull tabs to the Ronald McDonald House.

Scholarships

Graduating high school seniors seeking a Dante Club scholarship next year must submit applications by March 31.

Applications are available online and at the Dante Event Center office.

Students must provide their grade-point average, two letters of recommendation, a personal essay and activities they've participated in during their high school years.

Applicants may apply online at <https://danteclub.com/scholarship.info/>.

For questions or more information, they may email Richard Battistessa at drbattistessa@comcast.net.



2026 Committees and Assignments

COMMITTEES

ADVISORY AND FINANCE

Matt Longo, Dan Calcagno, Bruce King, George Procida, Joseph Pasquinelli

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ron Pane, George Procida, Frank Perri

BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, Pat Orelli

MEMBERSHIP AND INVESTIGATIONS

Don Agostinelli, Steve Lavezzo, Colin Orelli, Bill Maffei

PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

Tom Mezzanares

SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, Tom Novi, Mark Pedroncelli

SOCIAL

Joe Porata, Steve DeCristofaro, Pat Orelli, Joe Bonanno, Tom Mathews

SPECIAL COMMITTEES

BOCCE

Rich Battistessa, Frank Bartucco, John Rizzato, Jim Dimino

GOLF TOURNAMENT

Rich Battistessa

ENHANCING OUR ITALIAN CULTURE

Ralph DiLibero

WOMEN'S CLUB LIAISON

Dan Calcagno, Bill Maffei, Joe Bonanno

100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Dan Calcagno, Rich Battistessa, Joe Porata and a crew of hundreds

More assignments and changes to be announced.

2026-2027 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

- Dan Calcagno, president: dmcalcagno@aol.com, 916-677-7146
- Matt Longo, first vice president: longomb@sbcglobal.net, 916-397-5869
- Joe Porata, second vice president: jporata@sbcglobal.net, 530-368-7479
- Steve DeCristofaro, secretary: stefanodad@gmail.com, 916-752-3247
- Joseph Pasquinelli, treasurer: jmpasquinelli@gmail.com, (708) 805-5242

DIRECTORS

- Joe Bonanno: jbonanno@sbcglobal.net, 916-524-3952
- Ron Fiorica: rbfiorica@frontiernet.net, 916-687-6406
- Bruce King: bking23@hotmail.com, 916-709-1530
- Bill Maffei: mrmaffei@sbcglobal.net, 916-207-6837
- Pat Orelli: pat@apcpagroup.com, 916-369-2327
- Ron Pane: repane@icloud.com, 916-798-0111
- Mark Pedroncelli: peddc@surewest.net, 916-812-6729
- Frank Perri: perri1740@att.net, 916-337-5284
- George Procida: gprocida@glandscape.com, 916-869-6591



Women present new slate of leaders for 2026

At our January meeting, we were greeted by very festive table decorations provided by Anna Tenderella and her decorating crew. The hats, boas and glitter all helped create the happiest New Year's Eve feeling.

We installed officers and board members for the year. Officers are Debra Cattuzzo, president; Alyse



DANTE WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

De Fazio, vice president; Susan Kasimatis, secretary; and Tina Bowers, treasurer. Board members are Anna Tenderella, hospitality; Karol Buccola and Carole Meyers

(not present), co-past presidents; Marie Waldron-Booth, historian; and Nancy Doyle, Adrienne DeFazio, Kathy Holberton, Roseann Jamison and Donna O'Neil, callers.

At the request of one of our bocce directors, Debra Duccini-Hansen, we reinstated the monthly birthday song. All members with a January birthday were encouraged to stand while the others sang to them. I hope I can remember to do these each month.

Our raffle prize winners in January were Mary Anne Chivaro, free auxiliary dinner; Elizabeth Antonni, baby items basket and gift certificate from Puddles Shoppe; Kelly Pane, \$20 Peet's gift card and \$25 Leatherby's gift card; Ellie Ielati, \$25 Bennett's gift card; Virginia Griffin, wine-tasting party basket; Lianne Leavitt, Pavillions car wash; Janie Real, assorted olive oils and vinegars basket; Silvana

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The Dante Women's Club's newly installed officers for 2026 are, from left, president Debra Cattuzzo, vice president Alyse DeFazio, secretary Susan Kasimatis and treasurer Tina Bowers.

2026 DANTE WOMEN'S CLUB BOARD

- **Debra Cattuzzo, president:** cattuzzod@gmail.com
- **Alyse DeFazio, vice president:** alysedefaz@aol.com
- **Tina Luchini Bowers, treasurer:** tebowers55@gmail.com
- **Susan Kasimatis, secretary:** sjk955@gmail.com
- **Anna Tenderella, hospitality:** annatenderella03@gmail.com
- **Carole Stefani-Meyers, past president:** cchivaro2@aol.com
- **Karol Buccola, past president:** karolrb55@gmail.com
- **Adrienne DeFazio, trustee/caller:** adefazio73@gmail.com
- **Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller:** ncdoyle59@gmail.com
- **Kathy Holberton, trustee/caller:** crystalgal@yahoo.com
- **Roseann Jamison, trustee/caller:** rosieado@yahoo.com
- **Donna O'Neil, trustee/caller:** rtg4005@gmail.com
- **Marie Waldron-Booth, historian:** bmbooth@aol.com

**Membership**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

We hope to see new members Anthony Giannotti and Jay Boundy at the February meeting as well, so they can be introduced and become active in the club.

Because we occasionally have a lag, sometimes a few months, between interviewing and voting on candidates and their subsequent inductions, we are considering doing the whole process on the same night. We ask members to reach out to the committee and let us know their thoughts on such a change.

Slated for February interviews are Johnny Magagnini and Tony Van Curen. An application from Julian Long also is expected soon. He is likely to be scheduled for a chat on Feb. 16.

Renewal of yearly dues is progressing, with about two-thirds of members paid up and a third a bit tardy.

In January we saw the passing of one of our lifetime members, Frank Cemo, and the resignation of four others—Jeffry Marsassa, Vince Mastracco, Jeff Herzog and Howard Seaton. We will miss all of them. We expect some additional attrition, as we see every year.

We have restarted the monthly attendance raffle. A member must be present to win. The pot starts at \$25 (the cost of dinner) and will increase by \$5 a month until claimed by an attending member. The first winner was Jason Novi, badge No. 32. The February pot will be \$30.

Our membership now stands at 230—211 active and 19 lifetime. Several are very active.

As always, we encourage members to invite their family and friends to consider applying to join our club.

We welcome Joe Bonanno, Bill Maffei and Colin Orelli as new members of the membership committee.

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

it if you hit it." No idea what my father had to pay. I kept throwing, until eventually ... whack.

Then my family moved to Sacramento, but we didn't connect with an Italian social club right away. We still had crowded, noisy and fun dinners, but they were for 20 or 30 of our family, friends and neighbors at our home. We had select guests at the main table, others in the family room and kids in the garage. It wasn't a club, but we continued to celebrate our Italian heritage.

My brother finally took the first step and became a Dante Club member in 2002, followed by a son, a brother and two more sons. And here we are today, enjoying as many events as our schedules allow.

I then bought into the notion of how I and other members could keep this club going. The Dante

Club is also a facility requiring care, feeding, support and oversight. Our 20,000 square feet of buildings—plus a tent, gazebo and bocce courts outside—sit on 3.5 acres.

Over the next two years, my opportunity as president will be to take a larger role in promoting the continued vitality of our club. It takes a village of active members. Add in the importance of our centennial year, and I am a bit anxious about addressing our social and fiscal needs.

So now some obvious questions: Why are you a member? Are you getting all the social benefits you want? Are there too many of some things and not enough of others? Are there events from the past that you wish were happening now?

Our members have many talents. Can we share more of

them to help the organization?

Several of us go far above and beyond to strengthen the club, socially and financially. We all know who these faithful members are, and we should thank them every chance we get.

Every member has his own vision of what needs to be done. We may not always agree, but we all have the best interests of our club at heart.

I encourage everyone to help as much as they can to make us social and to make sure we can continue for another 100 years.

My skin is kind of thick. I don't need to know that every member totally agrees with me.

But I do need to know where we differ and how we can keep strengthening this club of which we all want to be members.

**Leaders**

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Cioli, appetizer serving tray and condiments; Marie Waldron-Booth, \$20 Subway gift card; and Kelly Pane (her lucky night—she won three things!), \$20 Peet's gift card, \$25 Leatherby's gift card and \$50 cash door prize. Congrats, Kelly.

Anna Tenderella, Linda Raridan and Anna Skewes brought in pull-tab donations in January.

Anna and Linda have encouraged others to collect pull tabs for them as well, so they always bring in a big bag.

Other bags of pull tabs also were donated last month but weren't marked with names. Thanks to all who contributed.

By the way, our members shouldn't think their little bags of pull tabs don't matter.

I recently delivered a huge



Ready to serve in 2026 are the new board members for the Dante Women's Club. Seated in the front row, from left, are Debra Cattuzzo, Alyse DeFazio, Susan Kasimatis and Tina Bowers. Standing in back, from left, are Karol Buccola, Roseann Jamison, Marie Waldron-Booth, Nancy Doyle, Donna O'Neil, Adriene DeFazio, Kathy Holberton and Anna Tenderella. Not pictured is Carol Meyers.

bag of women's pull-tab contributions, and the bag weighed 18 pounds.

Our contributions do make a difference to the Ronald McDonald House.

We had time to play bingo in January—four games of straight bingo. Linda Raridan and Ivana Arostegui each won \$10 cash.

Elaine Shaedler was lucky enough to win two games, earning herself \$20 cash.

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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 530-368-7479 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 Tom Mezzanares at tjmezzan@gmail.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. All submissions are subject to editing for clarity, accuracy, style and length. 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 Dan Calcagno at 916-481-8638 or dmcalcagno@aol.com.

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