



**Summer BBQs
coming soon**

DANTE'S INFERNO



**PRESIDENT'S
CORNER**

Dan Calcagno

June events kick off summer before two-month hiatus

June is busting out all over. I do like a good show tune now and then, and if we can pull ourselves away from the Dante Club events ahead, we might consider a side trip to “Frozen” at Music Circus. A certain cold-hearted actress happens to be in the greater familia Calcagno.

Things will actually slow down a bit as vacations and the economy take a toll. We appreciate everything members do to support us, especially during these quieter times. Look at the Dante Event Center website to find something of interest to attend in coming weeks.

So what’s happening as we continue our 100th anniversary year? This month, nine graduating high school seniors will each

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HONORING MOMS

Members and guests enjoy the Dante Club’s annual Mother’s Day Brunch on May 9. The meal featured an array of munchable brunch delights, including smoked salmon, scrambled eggs, shrimp cocktail, cheeses, fruits and bottomless bellini cocktails.





NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

General manager's report

On May 9, the Dante Event Center was thrilled to welcome more than 100 guests for our Mother's Day Brunch, which received wonderful feedback on both the food and the service. We also proudly hosted the Dante Club's annual cioppino feed on May 18, continuing a tradition that brings our community together year after year.

May also marked a very busy prom season. We were honored to host three area high schools for these important milestones in their students' lives. We also hosted our first PTA auction and look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnerships with local schools and families throughout the community.

June promises to be another event-filled month. On June 5, we will welcome back the popular Murder Mystery Dinner event, an evening of food, theatrical entertainment and plenty of surprises. On June 15, we will host the Dante Club's annual scholarship awards and dinner, honoring this year's high school scholarship recipients and celebrating their accomplishments and bright futures.

To close out the month, we invite everyone to join us for one of our favorite annual traditions, the Tricolore Pasta and Sausage Festa on June 20.

We look forward to another month of great events, community connections and memorable experiences shared together. As always, thanks go to club members, guests, staff members and community partners for making Dante events so memorable.

Bocce

The spring session for our bocce league is winding down, with one week to go before tournament time.

The top three teams — Italian Stallions, D'Rollers and Bocce Brothers — are in key spots to move into the tournament round. Inferno, Maestri di Bocce and Avanti are fighting for the

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 3



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

Prices listed are for credit card payments online. Call club for cash and check prices.

June 5

Murder Mystery Dinner and Show

Time: 5 p.m. cocktails, with dinner and performance to follow

Menu: Peach caprese skewers, insalata mista, herb-roasted focaccia breadsticks, creamy Tuscan salmon, lemon orzo, French green beans, blueberry lemon cake

Cost: \$50 per person
Reservations are closed.

June 7

Sunday Family Dinner

Times: 4 p.m. cocktails and to-go orders, 5 p.m. seating, 5:15 p.m. first course

Menu: Caesar salad, chicken Parmesan, penne pasta with marinara, vegetables, garlic bread, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$29 adults, \$16.50 children 12 and younger
Reservations are closed.

June 8

Dante Women's Club Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Italian summer salad, chef's lasagna, herb-roasted squash and peppers, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$32 members, \$37 guests
Reservations are closed.

June 15

Dante Club Members Dinner and Meeting

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

Menu: Italian summer salad, herb-stuffed pork loin, risotto, seasonal vegetables, rolls and butter, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$25 per member

Reserve by midnight Friday, June 5. Special guests: scholarship winners and their families. On agenda: voting on bylaws proposal.

June 20

Tricolore Pasta and Sausage Festa

Time: 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6:30 p.m. dinner

Menu: Caesar salad, pesto tortellini, fettuccine alfredo, Bolognese mezza rigatoni, mild and hot sausages, housemade garlic bread, Italian ice pops

Cost: \$36 adults, \$18 children 12 and younger

Reserve by midnight Friday, June 12. Event outdoors under the tent.

July 12

Sunday Family Dinner

Time: 4 p.m. cocktails and to-go orders, 5 p.m. seating, 5:15 p.m. first course

Menu: House salad, pork saltimbocca alla Romana, seasonal vegetables, focaccia breadsticks, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$29 adults, \$16.50 children 12 and younger

Reserve by midnight Friday, July 3. Dinner on July 12 because of July 4 holiday.

July 21

Dinner and Wine Tasting, featuring Oak Farm Winery

Time: 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner

Menu: To be determined

Cost: \$90 per person

Reserve by midnight Sunday, July 12.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

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fourth spot. Top teams will then compete against the Columbus League's top teams.

Play has been spirited and enjoyable in the Italian way. Members are always encouraged to join in the fun, and new teams and new players are welcome.

Buildings and grounds

May was relatively quiet for the buildings and grounds committee. We did complete some work on the air conditioning units with the hope that they'll make it through the warm season with no major issues.

In mid-May, we experienced heavy winds for a couple of days but are happy to report that the outdoor tent made it through with no issues.

Once again, special thanks go to Ron Pane and Don Agostinelli for keeping the Dante Event Center grounds pruned and looking good.

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 reinvigorated the fund as one of five strategies to help pay off the club's remodeling mortgage.

Donations to the fund will help retire the mortgage early.

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

Donors are recognized annually in the *Dante's Inferno* newsletter and at a members dinner. They're also honored on a plaque in the Dante Event Center.

Donations are applied to the mortgage principal monthly.

Prospective 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.

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.

As of March, our two clubs

have donated 1,823.4 pounds of pull tabs. At the current \$1.09 exchange rate, we have raised \$1,987.50 or 99 nights for the Ronald McDonald House.

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.

Scholarships

The nine recipients of this

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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 Rizzardo, Jim Dimino,
Nick Canepa

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: patrickjo@gmail.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@gplandscape.com,
916-869-6591



Guest troupe gets club members up and dancing

At our May dinner, we were entertained by eight members of the Italian cultural dance performance group Balliamo.

The troupe, which is sponsored by the Sacramento Italian Cultural Society, performed several traditional Italian dances, then encouraged our members to get up and join them for the famous



DANTE WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

chicken dance. Everyone had such great fun.

Our raffle prizes winners for the month were as follows: Denise Garbero and Carletta Puppo, free dinners; Cathy LaPietra, \$50 cash

door prize; Judy Kaminski, hanging planter with flowers and Green Acres gift card; Sabrina Stewart, limoncello gift basket; Carole Orelli, purple wine holder with bottle of wine; Ellie Ielati, pasta gift basket; Linda Norce, \$25 See's Candy and \$25 Bennett's gift cards; Molly Altieri, two accent pillows with matching vase; Alyse DeFazio, \$25 Corti Bros. gift card; Nina Ciani, \$25 movie gift card and basket; and Debbie O'Donoghue, \$20 Peet's gift card. Congrats to all the winners, and thanks to the members who donated gifts.

Thanks also to Janine Orsi and others who brought in pull tabs. We appreciate these donors for collecting the tabs from their soda, beer and cat food cans.

After the May meeting, when members had questions regarding the separation of the men's and women's clubs, I explained that although both clubs were started

See DANCING, Page 7

Women's Club member Debra Duccini-Hansen, center, and others join the Balliamo dancers in a lively rendition of the chicken dance during the troupe's performance for the club in May. Balliamo specializes in tarantellas, mazurkas and other types of traditional dance.



2026 DANTE WOMEN'S CLUB BOARD

- Debra Cattuzzo, president: cattuzzod@gmail.com
- Anna Tenderella, hospitality: annatenderella03@gmail.com
- Kathy Holberton, trustee/caller: crystalgal@yahoo.com
- Alyse DeFazio, vice president: alysedefaz@aol.com
- Carole Stefani-Meyers, past president: cchivaro2@aol.com
- Roseann Jamison, trustee/caller: rosieado@yahoo.com
- Tina Luchini Bowers, treasurer: tebowers55@gmail.com
- Karol Buccola, past president: karolrb55@gmail.com
- Donna O'Neil, trustee/caller: rtd4005@gmail.com
- Susan Kasimatis, secretary: sjk955@gmail.com
- Adrienne DeFazio, trustee/caller: adefazio73@gmail.com
- Marie Waldron-Booth, historian: bmbooth@aol.com
- Nancy Doyle, trustee/caller: ncdoyle59@gmail.com



Bylaws change vote on agenda for June

Efforts continue to increase our Dante Club membership rolls to the maximum of 380 people allowed in the bylaws.

Key to the efforts, as noted in *Dante's Inferno* over the past couple of months, are proposed bylaws changes that would allow associate membership privileges for non-Italians who don't have Italian spouses but who love all things Italian and the Dante Club.

We will vote on these proposed changes during the June 15 members dinner, after another reading of the proposal and a discussion.

We ask members to plan on supporting the bylaws changes at this month's meeting. See full text of the revisions accompanying this article.

Any questions? Call past presidents Rich Battistessa at 916-995-0291 or Tom Novi at 916-607-1740.

Proposed Bylaws Changes

Article III
Section Two: Classes:

Current

2. Associate members: a) An associate member can be non-Italian by birth or origin, but his spouse must be the daughter of a member of the Dante Club, either deceased or living, in good standing. b) An associate member can be non-Italian by birth or origin, but his spouse must be of Italian origin and a current member of the Dante Women's Club. (Amended 5/17) c) An associate member can be non-Italian by birth or origin, but his spouse must be of Italian origin. (Amended 10/23)

Proposed addition

d) An associate member can be non-Italian by birth or origin but have a strong interest in all matters Italian and the Dante Club.

Current

e) Membership committee will record and track four associate member waiting lists. When there is an opening for an associate member, the first priority is the subsection a) list (above). If no one is on the subsection a) list, then the next priority is the subsection b) list (above). If no one is on the subsection b) list, then the opening goes to the subsection c) list (above).

Proposed addition

Finally, if no one is on the subsection c) list (above), then the opening goes to the subsection d) list (above).

Current

f. 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.

Change to

Associate members will not exceed 33% 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.

President's Corner

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receive a Dante scholarship in recognition of their education to date and as a token of help for their upcoming years. The Dante men's dinner on June 15 will host the annual scholarship awards.

Congratulations to the scholarship winners who have shown their merit. The awards event represents the fruits of several people's labor to establish an ongoing legacy for the next generation of Italians.

Also this month is a 1930s-style Hollywood Murder Mystery

Dinner on June 5, the Sunday Family Dinner on June 7 and the Tricolore Pasta and Sausage Festa on June 20.

Like one? Like all? Members can be as active as they like in June because our regular monthly meetings go on hiatus in July and August, replaced by summertime barbecues. More details soon.

A mea culpa is in order. In acknowledging our great past president Richard Battistessa, I know much better than to call him Michael. (His son now thinks he will be on the past presidents plaque.) I did immediately

apologize for my error, but it happened twice, so is that a sign? I pledge that my senior moments will happen only two or three more times.

Finally, a reminder: The Dante Club is a social club to be celebrated by all of us. If some members don't display that spirit of celebration, they might consider who they are and who we are. Enough said.

As always, I write as I speak: unfiltered. I encourage all members to reach out to me with their constructive comments for the betterment of our club.



Dancing
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in 1926, the Dante Club has traditionally been a men's club. The men's club runs the Dante Event Center and manages and maintains the event center building. They handle everything needed to keep it running — repairs, maintenance, staffing — and covering those costs.

They have to respond when something breaks — meet the plumber, meet the air conditioning guy, deal with any personnel issues. They are at the club a lot.

For example, Ronnie Pane spent several days last week by himself trimming all the bushes around the parking lot because the club cannot afford a landscaper. The dues paid by the men help support the operation and upkeep of the event center.

The Women's Club focuses on the work that matters most to us.



Anna Skewes, left, joins members Sharon Lynch Taylor and Shirley Santiago at a table before the Dante Women's Club's May dinner.

Our dues stay within our club and go toward scholarships, donations to the legacy fund when a member passes away and costs for entertainment, raffle prizes, charitable work and other activities that support our members and community.

The men's club does not control how our money is spent. However, we are trying to help out with expenses when we can.

I was also made aware that there was a concern that members thought the recent \$7 increase was being used to help pay off the

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News, Notes and Otherwise

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year's Dante Club Scholarship Awards deserve a big shout-out.

The 2026 graduating seniors represent a high standard for academic excellence and achievement and a strong commitment to community service.

The students were selected from among a competitive pool of applicants, each showcasing an impressive blend of academic excellence and personal character.

We are proud to support these future leaders and look forward to seeing the great things they will accomplish.

Congratulations to these nine students, who will be formally recognized at the June 15 members dinner: Ben Lopez, Matthew Ielati, Ava Dunham, Ben Monson, Stella DeRoss, Cade Rucker, Maria Rizzardo, Audrey LaDuke and Gianna Rizzardo.

The dinner program will begin at 6 p.m. Guests should make reservations on the Dante Club website.

Club apparel

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

Members can order items at danteclub.shopgraphx.com or they can contact our apparel coordinator 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.

Social

The Dante Club will hold its new Tricolore Pasta and Sausage Festa Dinner on Saturday, June 20, in the event center garden under the tent. The member-prepared dinner replaces the Sausage Festa.

Colors of the Italian flag will be represented in the menu (see Page 2 events calendar) by green pesto tortellini, white fettuccini alfredo and red mezza rigatoni ragu sauce. Sausages, too!

Come support this dinner under the stars. Bocce courts will be open for play.

For questions, email Joe Porata at jporata@sbcglobal.net.

Cioppino dinner

Dante Club members, friends and family gathered May 18 for this year's five-course, family-style cioppino dinner, a mainstay annual event for the club over the past 14 years.

Volunteer Michael Talani and his team of helpers, under the guidance of Dante Event Center chef Adam Rodriguez, prepared the wonderful fish stew and a special risotto, to the delight of the 90 attendees.

The Dante cooking crew always takes great pleasure in sharing the Italian delicacy, whose origins stem from the tradition of immigrant Italians helping each other during the early days of California.

In the late 1800s, San Franciscans would rush to the wharf where immigrant Italian fishermen, many hailing from Naples and Genoa, returned in their boats after a day's work.

The fishermen would share out extra bits of their catch for the locals to take home, and the extra bits became the tasty stew known as cioppino.

A touch of Naples and Genoa and a nod to those early fishermen contributed to the creation of the Dante Club's signature cioppino dinner.

The recipe for the Dante's cioppino came from a past club member, Jim Casalli, who enjoyed the camaraderie of the club and was always an integral part of the dinner preparation.



Want to book a personal event? Don't delay

The Dante Event Center is booking special events for the 2026-2028 event seasons. Any club members interested in hosting a personal event at the center should inquire about booking as early as possible.

To host an event, a member must first schedule a meeting with general manager Ashley Ponder.

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 the member time to decide if the center is the best place for the event, without the date getting booked in the meantime.

At the end of the two weeks, if confirmation and a security deposit have not been received, the date will be released.

To confirm an event, a deposit must be paid and a contract must be signed and dated.

Members can rent a banquet room at a 50% discount for a personal event for themselves, for family members — limited to spouses, parents and children —or for a personally owned business.

Members with questions about the discount may contact club president Dan Calcagno.

For event inquiries, send an email to info@danteclub.com or call the Dante Event Center at 916-925-8230.

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Dancing
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mortgage loans.

This is not true. The event center has not been making enough money from member events, so the board has been trying to make events more financially sustainable to help cover operating expenses.

The board is urging the event center to make a profit on all organizational events.

I think they said last February that our dinner's profit was only about \$18. A business cannot sustain itself with that.

And, remember, we don't rent this room.



Member Margaret Sapienza doesn't look 102 years old, but she basks in the limelight for hitting that milestone birthday during the Dante Women's Club meeting in May.

Our treasurer also wanted me to mention that although we are trying to financially help support the Dante Club —

including giving \$10,000 in each of the past two years — we have recently been told that we can decide where that money goes.

I don't think any of you would have a problem helping out with the maintenance of the building.

Recently, for example, the old air conditioning system had to be repaired, and I think everyone can agree that was a necessary expense.

I hope that clears up members' questions about the increase in price, but if anyone has other questions, they can email me directly.

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 Mezzanara 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.