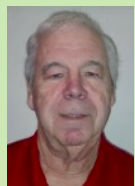




Second barbecue set for Aug. 17

DANTE'S INFERNO



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dan Calcagno

Anniversary plans in the works

Pat Orelli, our immediate past president, continues to recover after emergency surgery in July, with follow-up care at UC Davis Rehabilitation Hospital. We ask members to please keep Pat and the Orelli family in their thoughts and prayers.

In mid-July, I attended a committee meeting to discuss the Dante Club's 100th anniversary celebration weekend planned for Oct. 9, 10 and, possibly, 11. The meeting sparked many great ideas.

Now the work comes to finalize plans and create an anniversary celebration that we can be proud of.

The committee will hold additional meetings and will reach out for helping hands, as needed.

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 6



SUMMER SIZZLE

Dante Club and Women's Club members and their guests spent July 20 grilling up a storm during the first of two summertime barbecues at the Dante Event Center. A second barbecue will be held Aug. 17. See Page 9 for more photos of the July event.

What time is it? Tourney time!

The Dante Club's Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament will be held Sept. 19 at the Haggin Oaks Golf Complex. A major annual fundraiser for the club's scholarship fund, the event marks a tradition of over 25 years, bringing together golfers to enjoy a day on the course while also supporting a worthy cause.

Check-in for golfers on tournament day is 7 a.m., with an 8 a.m. shotgun

See TOURNEY, Page 7

Membership expansion drive continues

Earlier this year, past presidents Rich Battistessa and Tom Novi reported on current president Dan Calcagno's decision to initiate a Dante Club membership drive, a recognition that a robust

membership contributes greatly to a robust Dante Club.

Elements of the membership drive included asking the Dante Women's Club to encourage their husbands to participate, offering new

See DRIVE, Page 6



NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

General manager's report

July was another wonderful month of members, families and the community gathering together at the Dante Event Center.

The Dante Club's members and friends summer barbecue in July was once again a favorite, with members enjoying the tradition of selecting their own steaks before gathering for a great meal and even better company.

The event center also had the pleasure of hosting a beautiful wedding and welcoming guests for a special reunion, creating more memorable moments within our halls.

As summer continues, we are grateful to welcome both familiar faces and new guests. Each private event gives us the opportunity to share the warmth, hospitality and rich history that make the Dante Event Center a special place to celebrate life's meaningful milestones.

There's plenty to look forward to in August. We will welcome Oak Farm Vineyards on Aug. 11 for an evening of exceptional wines and delicious food. Be sure to reserve a seat while space is still available. Oak Farm co-owner Dan Panella will join us for the evening.

The Dante Club's second members and friends summer barbecue will be held Aug. 17. We look forward to gathering once again for another evening of great food, fellowship and one of our favorite Dante traditions. We'll also welcome another couple as they celebrate their wedding day, as well as the return of the National Football Foundation for its annual brunch.

We always enjoy seeing returning organizations choose the Dante Event Center year after year and look forward to another month filled with celebration.

See Page 8 for information on how members can book the event center for personal celebrations at a discounted rate.

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.

August 2

Sunday Family Dinner

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

Menu: Insalata mista, housemade garlic bread, spaghetti and meatballs, seasonal vegetables, chef's choice dessert

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

August 11

Dinner and Wine Tasting, featuring Oak Farm Vineyards

Time: 5:30 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. dinner and wine service

Menu: Grilled peach, arugula, honey and burrata salad; sweet corn risotto with Parmesan and chive oil; mushroom ravioli with brown butter, crispy sage and shaved pecorino; coffee-rubbed sirloin with potato puree, charred broccolini and red wine demi-glace; dark chocolate bread pudding with fig compote, cherry and port reduction; and vanilla gelato

Cost: \$100 per person
Reserve by midnight Sunday, Aug. 2. Limited capacity.

August 17

Members and Friends Summer Barbecue

Time: 5 p.m. cocktails, 6 p.m. buffet and steaks

Menu: Italian chopped salad; rolls and butter; grilled peppers and onions; rigatoni with marinara; uncooked New York steaks for do-it-yourself grilling; garlic, oil, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions and steak seasoning; spumoni

Cost: \$41 per person
Reserve by midnight Friday, Aug. 7.

September 6

Sunday Family Dinner

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

Menu: House salad, rolls and butter, chicken piccata, creamy orzo, seasonal vegetables, chef's choice dessert

Cost: \$29 adults, \$16.50 children age 12 and younger
Reserve by midnight Friday, Aug. 28.

**News, Notes and Otherwise**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Buildings and grounds

The buildings and grounds committee had nothing major to deal with during July, but Don Agostinelli, Ron Pane, Matt Longo and Frank Perri took care of many small projects. As always, special thanks go to them for their help.

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.

Social

In June, 85 members and guests attended a pasta and sausage festa, a men's social event in the Dante Event Center garden under the tent. Special thanks go to Ron Pane, Al Larocca, Pete and Carol Pessetti, Ernie Tomasselli, Steve Lavezzo, Don Agostinelli, Steve DeCristofaro, Ron Grove and Joe Porata for helping with the party.

In July, another men's social event was a World Cup Soccer watch party, featuring the USA Men's National Team. Sixty men's club members, along with a few Dante Women's Club board members, attended, which was a great turnout. The event featured a full buffet dinner.

Thanks to Ron Pane and Joe Porata for sponsoring the event.

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.

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 7



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

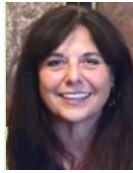
DIRECTORS

- 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



FIFA watch party among summer highlights

Summer has been an exciting season at the Dante Club, with members coming together for a variety of activities and special events.



DANTE WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

Debra Cattuzzo

One highlight was a spirited FIFA World Cup watch party, where members gathered to cheer on Team USA as they faced Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Several members of the Dante Women's Club board attended the event, enjoying an evening of soccer, camaraderie and outstanding Italian cuisine.

Men's club member Ronnie Pane served as chef for the evening, preparing a delicious

menu that included spaghetti, meatballs, pesto, fresh salad and garlic bread.

The meal was a crowd favorite and helped make the watch party a memorable celebration of community and fellowship.

And to top it off, Team USA won that evening. Make sure to check out the Dante Event Center website for all the events available to attend this summer.

The Dante Women's Club will not meet again for our monthly dinners until Sept. 14. Enjoy the upcoming hot days!



Ron Pane, Tina Luchini Bowers and Debra Cattuzzo enjoy the FIFA World Cup watch party at the Dante Event Center.

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

**Drive**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

members a complimentary dinner along with members inviting their friends to our Sunday night and members dinners.

The plan also included a proposal to expand the definition of associate member in the bylaws to allow a limited number of non-Italians to join if they have a

strong interest in all matters Italian and the Dante Club.

At the June members dinner, attendees voted to approve the proposal. As a result, friends who love the Dante Club experience can now be considered for membership.

Members have the ability to nominate for membership both their Italian and non-Italian

friends who would be strong club members.

So we encourage members to talk to a friend or two who would be good additions to Dante. The membership application is on the Dante Event Center website.

For questions about the membership process, call membership committee chairman Don Agostinelli at 916-451-1155.

President's Corner

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

More than 150 people enjoyed do-it-yourself steak grilling and build-your-own ice cream sundaes during our summer barbecue on July 20. We have a second barbecue coming up Aug. 17.

Information on special events offered at the Dante Event Center during August and September is available on the website, so members can consider which ones they'd like to attend.

Of note is the annual Martinelli/Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament set for Sept.

19. Golfers should get their groups together now. They also can sponsor a hole or encourage corporate sponsorships.

The club's recent bylaws change allowing non-Italian friends to request associate membership has reaped its first applicant.

Ben Racoma, sponsored by Tom Mezzanares, completed and submitted our new "Friends of Dante" form and now awaits the membership committee's call for an interview. We thank Ben for his interest in the Dante Club and Tom for encouraging him.

The Dante Event Center has launched two projects to

increase public awareness of our facility.

The first is an effort to enhance our social media and web presence. The second is an arrangement with an independent consultant to market and book private events at the center. I will keep members posted on the success of these initiatives.

I remind all that summer is a slow period at the event center, with club members and the broader community often busy with other commitments.

I encourage members to attend an event or two if able, and to consider reaching out to family and friends as well.

Support our paesanos

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





Tourney

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

start. Prospective golfers are encouraged to put their foursomes together now. They can register online at the Dante Event Center website. The cost is \$150 per golfer, payable by Sept. 7.

After the tournament, all players are invited to lunch and a raffle at the event center. Non-golfers also may enjoy the lunch for \$36 per person. Reservations are required.

Dante Club members and others can assist with the raffle in several ways:

- Donate a gift card for a local restaurant or other business. Gift cards make fantastic prizes and support our community partners.
- Create and donate a themed gift basket. Themes might include pasta, golf, pets, barbecue, drinks or other ideas that would delight raffle winners.
- Donate money. A donor can send a check to the

Dante Club scholarship fund or give cash to the golf tournament co-chairmen, Rich Battistessa and Joe Poratta. We will create a gift basket in the donor's name to recognize their generosity.

All baskets must be dropped off at the Dante Event Center by Sept. 10. Every donation, big or small, helps the Dante Club continue providing annual scholarships to talented students. Thanks to those whose generosity helps support this important cause.

Whether someone is an avid golfer or a supporter of educational advancement, the Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament provides a wonderful way to contribute to the community while also enjoying a beautiful outdoor setting and camaraderie.

Any questions? Call Rich Battistessa at 916-995-0291 or go online at the Dante Event Center website.



During the 2025 Vic Martinelli and Frank Calcagno Memorial Golf Tournament, above, Tom Novi, General Davie, Rich Battistessa and Michael Battistessa teamed up for play. Also on the course for the event were, at left, Sandy Calcagno, Sharon Scott, Jeanne Hoffman and Jackie Linn. The annual tournament raises money for the Dante Club's scholarship fund.

News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Membership

The membership committee has received its first "Friends of Dante" application. This is the result of a newly passed bylaws change that allows anyone sponsored by a Dante Club member to apply for associate membership in the club. Applicants do not need to be Italian.

The initial applicant is Ben Racoma, sponsored by Tom Mezzanares. Ben is not new to the club as he has

played bocce with Tom in the past and has attended many public events.

Tom had long pushed for this type of social membership. Assuming the September interview and vote on Ben's application goes as hoped, Tom's wishes will soon be granted.

Our membership count now stands at 205 regular and associate members, with an additional 19 lifetime members. We encourage members to continue inviting friends and family to consider joining the Dante Club.

The membership committee is on a summer break and will resume meeting in September.



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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MORE SIZZLE

Along with juicy grill-it-yourself New York steaks, the Dante Club's July 20 barbecue meal featured pasta salad, corn on the cob, a baked-potato bar, sautéed mushrooms, caramelized onions, steak seasoning and an ice cream sundae bar. A second barbecue with similar fare will be held Aug. 17.

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.