



**Donate to the  
Dante Club  
Legacy Fund!**

# DANTE'S INFERNO



## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

*Ron Pane*

*In difficult times, we  
must pull together for  
the good of the club*

I hope all of you are healthy and well, considering the current lifestyle we're now living during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Fortunately, our club is surviving during these difficult times, but our dedicated staff is on furlough until we can restart club business. Sadly, they've been hit the hardest, and our hearts go out to them. We hope they can return to work once the stay-at-home order is lifted.

During closure, the Dante Club board has been busy preparing for that day. Under my supervision, our building and grounds committee chairman, Ernie Tomassilli, and his small but dedicated crew have been addressing a multitude of deferred-maintenance projects, transforming the club into a venue we can all be proud of.

I would like to especially thank John Rosso, who has been

See PRESIDENT'S CORNER, Page 5



Construction volunteers John Rosso, left, and Ron Pane redo the closet adjacent to the Dante Club stage.

## **Committee pitches in to spruce up the building**

Members of the Dante Club's buildings and grounds committee have spent many hours during our pandemic-imposed hiatus addressing a litany of deferred-maintenance projects throughout our facility.

Here's a quick look at a few projects that have been completed or are still in progress:

- The walk-in refrigerator has undergone a complete makeover.

In addition to a deep cleaning of the fridge, the surrounding walls and floor have been painted, a leaking compressor repaired, the inside refrigerator sealed, new shelving installed and the entry door realigned so it will open and close without bending its hinges.

- The men's room adjacent to the kitchen will soon have new hardware on the urinal and sinks.

See BUILDING, Page 6



## NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE

**Ladies Auxiliary**

The Ladies Auxiliary will not have a dinner meeting in May but hopes to resume in June — maybe featuring May's planned Mother's Day theme.

Auxiliary callers will keep members updated. Some callers even contacted members last month just to check in on them.

Membership continues to grow, despite the current shut-down. Four applications were received in April from Carole Corda, Debbie Soto, Cathy Callaghan and Marilyn Nagel. The group hopes to welcome these newcomers in June.

Thirty-eight women signed up in March to play bocce. League organizers Jodie Maita and Debra Duccini-Hansen will announce times when members can practice at the courts behind the Dante Club building.

Anyone who still wants to sign up can email Debra Duccini-Hansen at [dduc56@gmail.com](mailto:dduc56@gmail.com) or call her at 916-956-6789.

The auxiliary has joined the men in collecting aluminum can pull tabs for donation to the Adopt-A-Family program. The program helps pay for lodging at the Ronald McDonald House, where families whose children are patients at UC Davis Medical Center can stay.

A pull-tab collection box is available at the Dante Club reception desk. Anyone having difficulty removing tabs can bring their cans to a meeting and get help.

The auxiliary board wants any members who are having difficulty

getting food or other needed items to please call the callers, who can arrange for help.

Also, members are encouraged to reach out to others who are alone in their homes, especially those with no family or who can't see their families.

Light up someone's day with a quick call or a funny card.

This crisis will pass. Mandare amore a tutti voi!

**Newsletter marketing**

The decision to make our *Dante's Inferno* newsletter a more interactive marketing vehicle continues to be very positive.

Members Johnny "The Barber" Waldron, Tom "Mixed Bag" Novi, Jim Relles of Relles Florist and Mark Pedroncelli of Pedroncelli Chiropractic, along with Ladies Auxiliary board member Helen Manfredi of Medic Ambulance, have all made annual advertising commitments for their businesses. So, too, have the Italian Cemetery in Colma and Realtor Pat Vogeli. Many thanks to all.

Other members with businesses interested in advertising may email John Caselli at [Jac6652@aol.com](mailto:Jac6652@aol.com).

**San Francisco outing**

Ladies Auxiliary member Gloria Tomei is planning a San Francisco



UPCOMING EVENTS  
Reserve and pay online at:  
<http://www.danteclub.com/calendar.php>

**All club and members events are on hold until further notice.**

outing Sunday, Aug. 9, to see *My Fair Lady* at the Golden Gate Theatre.

The Lincoln Center Theater touring production is a revival of the 1956 Lerner and Loewe musical classic.

Participants will meet at 10 a.m. at the Target parking lot on Broadway and continue to the Dante Club parking lot.

Arrival in San Francisco is at 1 p.m., the show is at 2 p.m. and dinner is at 6 p.m. at Alioto's restaurant on Fisherman's Wharf.

Dinner will include tomato bruschetta, green salad with shrimp, rigatoni with pesto sauce, a choice of pan-fried petrale sole or chicken with sauteed mushrooms, and cheesecake.

Cost is \$195 per person. Reservations and payments must be received by June 25.

Mail checks to Gloria Tomei, 2785 14<sup>th</sup> St., Sacramento, CA 95818. Provide guest name, address, phone number, choice of dinner entree and whether pickup at Target is needed.

Questions? Call Gloria Tomei at

See NEWS, NOTES AND OTHERWISE, Page 4



## 2020 Committees and Assignments

(revised 3.28.20)

### COMMITTEES

#### ADVISORY AND OPERATIONS

Tom Novi, chairman; Michael Micciche, vice chairman

Members: Tom Novi, Frank Calcagno, Richard Battistessa, Mark Pedroncelli

#### BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman

Members: Ron Pane, Bob Guidera, vacancy

#### BYLAWS

Ron Fiorica, chairman; Tom Novi, vice chairman

Members: Michael Micciche, Richard Battistessa, Ralph DiLibero

#### FINANCE

Tom Novi, chairman; Pat Orelli, vice chairman

Members: Tom Mezzanares, Ralph DiLibero, Dan Calcagno

#### INVESTIGATION

Ron Pane, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

#### MEMBERSHIP

Dan Calcagno, chairman; Bob Guidera, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Ernie Tomassilli, Frank Calcagno

#### PUBLICITY

John Caselli, chairman; Tom Mezzanares, vice chairman

Member: Mark Pedroncelli

#### SCHOLARSHIP

Rich Battistessa, chairman; Jim Dimino, vice chairman

Members: Joe Porata, Mike Battistessa, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

#### SOCIAL

Michael Micciche, chairman; Joe Porata, vice chairman

Members: Pat Orelli, Mark Pedroncelli, Colin Orelli, vacancy, two Ladies Auxiliary representatives

#### PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY (special committee)

Tom Novi, chairman; Ralph DiLibero, vice chairman

Members: Jim Dimino, Rich Battistessa, Pat Orelli

#### VOLUNTEERS (special committee to recruit members to assist with painting, plumbing, electrical, landscaping, social activities, internet, website and other club needs)

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman; Ron Fiorica, vice chairman

Members: Michael Micciche, Frank Calcagno, Jim Dimino

### ASSIGNMENTS

Bocce: Rich Battistessa and Ladies Auxiliary

Dante Club apparel: Mark Pedroncelli

General membership meetings: John Caselli, Joe Porata, Ron Bacher

Sergeant-at-arms: John Fiorica, general meeting

Ladies Auxiliary liaison: Richard Battistessa

## 2020 DANTE CLUB BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### OFFICERS

- Ronnie Pane, president: [repone@icloud.com](mailto:repone@icloud.com)
- Tom Novi, first vice president:  
[tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Vacant, second vice president
- Ron Fiorica, secretary:  
[rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Tom Mezzanares, treasurer:  
[tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEMBERS

- Richard Battistessa: [drbattistessa@comcast.net](mailto:drbattistessa@comcast.net)
- Dan Calcagno: [dmcalcagno@aol.com](mailto:dmcalcagno@aol.com)
- Frank Calcagno: [fscal@comcast.net](mailto:fscal@comcast.net)
- John Caselli: [jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com)
- Ron Cristoni: [roncristoni@aol.com](mailto:roncristoni@aol.com)
- Ralph DiLibero: [ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov](mailto:ralph.dilibero@dhcs.ca.gov)
- Jim Dimino: [jkdmino@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jkdmino@sbcglobal.net)
- Ron Fiorica: [rbfiorica@frontiernet.net](mailto:rbfiorica@frontiernet.net)
- Bob Guidera: [robertguidera@att.net](mailto:robertguidera@att.net)
- Tom Mezzanares: [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com)
- Michael Micciche: [michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:michael.micciche@gmail.com)
- Tom Novi: [tomnovi@aol.com](mailto:tomnovi@aol.com)
- Patrick Orelli: [pat@apcpagroup.com](mailto:pat@apcpagroup.com)
- Ron Pane: [repone@icloud.com](mailto:repone@icloud.com)
- Mark Pedroncelli: [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net)
- Joe Porata: [jporata@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jporata@sbcglobal.net)
- Ernie Tomassilli: [ca.ernest@pacbell.net](mailto:ca.ernest@pacbell.net)





# Plagues and pandemics? Humans have seen their share

By Dr. Ralph DiLibero

Humans have been plagued by influenza ever since their transition to a more agrarian way of life 10,000 years ago.

As populations further condensed living spaces and as travel increased, the protective local silo restriction effect on the spread of influenza viruses first decreased, then disappeared. Pandemics of the influenza virus then became not only possible but probable.

More recent global plagues and pandemics have repeatedly culled the human species but have never led to its extinction.

In 1889, the first great global influenza pandemic of H3N8, or H2N2 flu, began in Siberia and Kazakhstan and was therefore named the Russian flu. In one year, the infection took more than 360,000 lives worldwide.

In 1918, a sentinel outbreak of H1N1 flu in Madrid that may have originated in China was named the Spanish flu. This influenza A virus was responsible for

more than 50 million deaths worldwide. In the United States, the flu's so-called "cytokine storms" caused lung hemorrhage and edema, specifically attacking young adults and killing more than 675,000 people.

The word "quarantine," derived from the Italian word "quaranta," means 40. During the plague of the Middle Ages, ships were mandated to stay out of ports for a period of 40 days if they harbored suspected infectious cargo. Public isolationism, although a well-known health protective mechanism, wasn't rapidly deployed to protect the masses from the Spanish flu, even though it was equally well-known that Henry VIII had quarantined himself to escape the Black Plague.

In 1957, two consecutive waves of an H2N2 flu, which originated in Southwest China at Guizhou and was named the Asian flu, killed more than 2 million globally and more than 116,000 in the United States.

See PLAGUES, Page 5

## News, Notes and Otherwise

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

916-447-5559 or email her at [gtomei@comcast.net](mailto:gtomei@comcast.net).

### In memoriam

Lifetime club member Frank Perri died April 5. Members are asked to keep the Perri family in their thoughts and prayers.

### Club apparel

Members can purchase Dante Club-branded aprons and four styles of sweatshirts and polo shirts. Clothing comes in sizes for men, women and children.

To order items, email Mark Pedroncelli at [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net).

### Bocce break

We encourage our paisani to go to their closets and storerooms,

and look for those marbles and steelies they've been hoarding for their grandkids. Proceed to the family room and roll a steely 10 feet. Then take the marbles and practice rolling to the palino.

We'll return to our bocce courts as soon as the world settles down. Stay well!

### Save pull tabs

We continue to ask Dante Club members to save the pull tabs from their aluminum cans and bring them to club events and meetings.

We will donate the pull tabs to the Sacramento Ronald McDonald House pull-tab program, based at the University of California Davis Medical Center in Sacramento.

The program collects and recycles pull tabs and contributes

proceeds to the Adopt-A-Family Program.

The program helps subsidize lodging costs for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House near the medical center while their children are hospitalized.

The program collects only tabs instead of entire cans because collection and storage of the tabs is easier and more hygienic.

### Scholarship committee update

With the indefinite closure of area schools, we have adjusted our scholarship plans.

The scholarship committee will meet soon in some capacity, but let's see what the coming weeks have in store.

Be patient. We'll get it done.

**President's Corner**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

at the club working for 31 days.

I ask all members to be mindful of the overdue repairs inside and outside the building.

Without question, we have a long road ahead of us to get the building in shape so we can be competitive now and in the future. With your help, we can travel this road much faster. Please volunteer if you can.

Additionally, we are pursuing a federally backed small business loan, as well as a regular equity loan. Our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, has spent many hours facilitating this process. The loans have the potential to help us through these hard times and assist us in completing necessary repairs. See Tom's report on Page 7.

Finally, I again ask all Dante Club and Ladies Auxiliary members to donate to our legacy building fund so we can more easily rebuild our business once the current shelter-in-place orders have been lifted.

The future won't be business as usual, so it's paramount that members get involved and contribute to our club's success.

Please look into your Italian souls and evaluate what you think your obligation could be to further the legacy of our wonderful club, which was founded in 1926.

Each one of you can help us move forward and make our club the best it has ever been. Thank you so much.

**Plagues**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

In 1968, an H2N2 antigenic shift created a reassortment H3N2, which was called the Hong Kong flu, that killed more than a million people globally and 33,800 in the United States.

In 1977, an H1N1 Russian flu attacked a global population that was partially immune because of previous infection with an H1N1 viral configuration.

In 1997, an avian, or bird, flu at Guangdong Province, China, evolved to cause bird-to-human infection.

This novel H5N1 influenza virus caused acute respiratory failure, first accurately documented in Hong Kong poultry markets where the direct bird-to-human infection killed a 3-year-old boy.

Fortunately, that virus was contained, resulting in only six deaths, but it had a prepandemic fatality rate of nearly 50 percent.

If the H5N1, or Southeast Asia H7N1, mutate their bird-to-human infectious RNA further to permit a potentially fatal human-to-human infectious spread, the worst

influenza pandemic in human history may yet arrive.

In 2003, the coronavirus that led to Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, was classified as a novel virus in infected bats, cats and, finally, humans in China, but it was not classified as a pandemic because only about 8,000 people died.

Deadly Zika and Ebola viruses were successfully contained and never reached pandemic proportions.

In 2009, a new strain of influenza A, an H1N1/09 "swine flu" virus, evolved. It may have originated in birds and pigs before reassortment with a human strain.

Perhaps originating

in Mexico, the resulting pandemic killed more than 280 million globally.

In the United States, despite recognition as an official national emergency, the virus caused more than 60 million cases and resulted in more than 12,000 to possibly 20,000 unaccounted deaths.

In November 2019, a new coronavirus arose in Hubei Province, China, but its potential severity went unrecognized. The virus formed in a

*In November  
2019, a  
coronavirus  
arose in Hubei  
Province,  
China, but its  
potential  
severity went  
unrecognized.*

See PLAGUES, Page 9



## Dante Club Treasurer's Report

By Tom Mezzanares

As of April 27, we have received a total of \$5,938.72 in donations this year. Along with our current account balances and member donations, we should have enough funding to get us through the middle of June.

In the meantime, I have submitted disaster loan applications to the U.S. Small Business Administration for \$50,000 monthly and to the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act for a \$10,000 advance.

We also have requested a loan from the U.S. Small Business Paycheck Protection Program, which can help with as much as eight

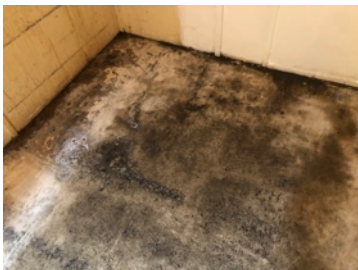
See REPORT, Page 9

## Dante Club Legacy Building Fund

These members of the Dante Club and the Ladies Auxiliary have contributed to our building fund in 2020. Many thanks for their continued support:

- Don Agostinelli, \$250
- Lee Bennet, in memory of Shirley Bennet, \$150
- John Bertoni, \$200
- Frank Calcagno, \$100
- Kyle Calcagno, \$100
- Randy Canova, \$150
- John Caselli, \$101
- Beverly Catchpool, \$100
- Debra Cattuzzo, \$500
- Kenneth Cemo, \$25
- Jim Dimino, \$100
- Nancy Doyle, \$100
- Ron Fiorica, \$100
- Vince Heater, \$100
- J.A. Kaminski, \$100
- Richard Kinzel, \$200
- Bill Maffei, \$200
- Tom Mezzanares, \$100
- Tom Novi, \$100
- Elaine Panattoni Schaedler, \$500
- J. Paul Pane Jr., \$250
- Ron Pane, \$1,362.72
- Vito Parisi, \$100
- Donald Pasquini, \$150
- Linda M. Raridan, \$100
- Tom Relles, \$100
- John Skinner, \$100
- Anna Tenderella, \$100
- Ernie Tomassilli, \$100
- Gloria Tomei, \$300

Members' hard work reveals a transformation from the before, right, to the after, below, of a club kitchen deep cleaning.



## Building

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

- The stage and its accompanying storage space have received a facelift and now feature new electrical components, a new door and a fresh coat of paint.
- The sewage and drain lines leading to Little Magpies Preschool have been cleaned. We await a proposal for replacing the cast iron drains under the building and the grease trap in the kitchen, as both are deteriorating.

Future projects include:

- Doing a makeover of the women's bathroom near the kitchen
- Partially or completely remodeling the kitchen and bar areas
- Removing the wallpaper and texturing and painting the walls in the men's and women's bathrooms by the bar
- Repairing the roof on the main building and the Magpies school
- Resloping and repacking the parking lot and adding islands and drainage, especially in the area behind the building
- Adding plants and doing fence work along the property's outside perimeter

And much, much more.

Ernie Tomassilli, chairman of the buildings and grounds committee, offers his thanks to Joe Porata, Richard Battistessa, Steve Lavezzo, Paul Pane, Frank Bartucco, Don Agnostinelli, Richard Kinzel, John Caselli, Ronnie Pane, Frank Perri, George Procida and, especially, John Rosso, for their help.

"I invite all club members to join us," Tomassilli said. "The pay is low, but the camaraderie is high."



## Group lobbies city to recognize deep Italian roots of east Sacramento

Sacramento's longtime Italian American community is currently pursuing a new initiative with the city of Sacramento.

The community is asking the city to recognize and designate the neighborhood of east Sacramento as the Little Italy Historic District.

"It is important for Italian Americans to preserve the local memory of Little Italy and the Italian history of the neighborhood," said Bill Cerruti, executive directive of the Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento, which is involved in the effort. "Recognizing Little Italy would be a tribute to those generations of Italians who settled there and created a way of life for the Italian people."

Cerruti said the designation also would provide a greater awareness of the neighborhood's strong Italian heritage and provide a sense of connection to the larger Italian community of the Sacramento region and the state.

In recent years, several California cities, including San Diego, San Jose and San Pedro, have created Little Italy historic zones to revitalize their historically Italian-populated areas.

The cities have identified these zones in a variety of ways, with arches, banners, flags, monuments, piazzas and festivals, to celebrate the Italian heritage of the communities.

Anyone seeking more information about the Little Italy initiative or wanting to lend their support may call Bill Cerruti of the Italian Cultural Society of Sacramento at 916-482-5900 or email him at [Italy1@surewest.net](mailto:Italy1@surewest.net).

## *Committee proposes changes in club bylaws*

Ron Fiorica and his bylaws committee have been reviewing club bylaws, some of which date back to the club's inception in 1926.

To better reflect the times, the committee has proposed these changes, which will be presented when club meetings resume:

### **Nonsubstantive, semi-technical**

- changing the word "shall" to "may"
- renumbering certain agenda items
- combining the position titles of financial secretary and treasurer to treasurer/financial secretary

### **Substantive**

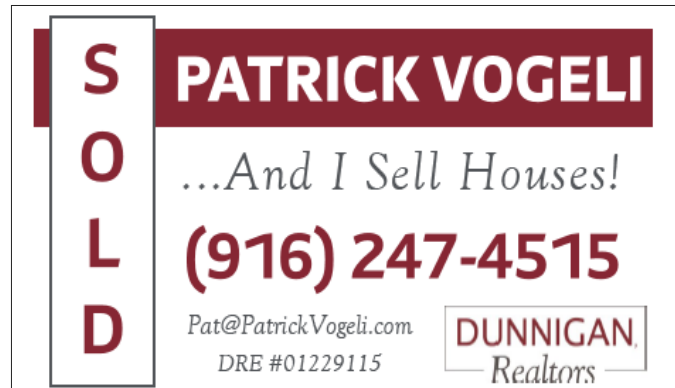
- combining advisory and finance committees and their duties
- combining membership and investigating committees and their duties
- shortening the bylaws amendment process from three to two months by voting in the second month
- reducing the bylaws amendment vote requirement from two-thirds of those present to a majority of those present
- increasing terms of the board of directors from one to two years
- having club officers assume their duties at the time of election
- adding duties to the role of recording secretary
- changing the term "club room" to "Dante Club facility"
- changing the membership of certain committees

For questions or concerns, call Ron Pane at 916-798-0111 or email him at [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com).





# Please patronize our paesanos



## ADVERTISER LISTING

Mixed Bag. Gifts for all reasons. 24th and K. 9-6 M-SA, 10-5 SU. 10% discount to club members. Tom & Linda Novi, proprietors. 916-447-6123. [mixedbagsac.com](http://mixedbagsac.com).

**THIS SPACE AVAILABLE**  
For details, contact John Caselli at  
[jac6652@aol.com](mailto:jac6652@aol.com) or 916-217-6482.



**Report**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

weeks of payroll costs.

These loans are pending, but we hope to hear about them as soon as the government provides additional funding to these programs.

The SBA has connected us with Banner Bank, and we now have a substantial loan in the works to help get us through the current COVID-19 crisis, as well as provide us with funding for much needed upgrades and repairs.

**Plagues**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

reassortment of genetics, combining a duck strain with a human strain.

In December, a further coronavirus genetic reassortment of viral RNA sequencing with animal and human viral strains occurred in Wuhan, China. The virus soon made a quick mutational jump to two powerfully infectious strains that rapidly transmitted a lung infection, human to human.

A treating physician, Dr. Li Wenliang, reported news of the novel coronavirus, called COVID-19, to other healthcare workers but ultimately contracted it himself and died within a month.

Eventually, COVID-19 took hold worldwide this year, with countries instituting strict social distancing practices in the hope of isolating and containing the virus and saving lives until a vaccine can be developed.

In World War II, the general public unified around a common national purpose. The COVID-19 pandemic could provide a similar unifying force with issues such as public education, healthcare delivery and environmental awareness.

*Sacramento orthopedist Ralph DiLibero is a new member of the Dante Club board.*

## DANTE'S REMINDERS

**Member volunteers**

To volunteer, contact club president Ron Pane or social chairman Michael Micciche to offer your services. You can reach Ron at 916-798-0111 or [repane@icloud.com](mailto:repane@icloud.com). You can contact Michael at 916-550-1122 or [michael.micciche@gmail.com](mailto:michael.micciche@gmail.com).

**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 easily online at <http://www.danteclub.com/donation.html>.

**Dante Club apparel**

If you'd like to purchase club shirts or other specialty clothing items, contact Mark Pedroncelli at 916-812-6729 or [peddc@surewest.net](mailto:peddc@surewest.net) or speak to him at a members meeting. You must present cash or a check to place an order.

**Newsletter photos and news**

Submit photos and news items for *Dante's Inferno* to John Caselli at [jac6652@aol.com](mailto: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. To post news and photos on Facebook, log in to your Facebook account and search for "Dante Club."

**Contact information**

Have you recently changed your address or phone number? Please alert our club treasurer, Tom Mezzanares, at 916-467-7483 or [tjmezzan@gmail.com](mailto:tjmezzan@gmail.com).