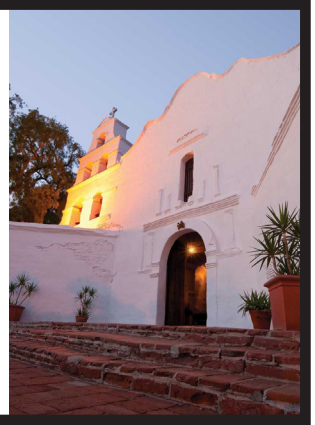




# The Old Mission Bell of Old Mission Rotary

Meetings Every Tuesday at noon  
at the Legacy Resort Hotel and Spa  
[oldmissionrotary.org](http://oldmissionrotary.org)

January 2022- Edition One



## Second Chance



*Bill Payne spoke to Old Mission Rotar about programs to help the recently incarcerated to re-enter society.*

*On Tuesday, January 4th Bill Payne of Second Chance spoke to the club about the challenges facing people when they get out of prison. Second Chance is dedicated to helping justice-involved individuals achieve sobriety, economic prosperity and ultimately self-sufficiency. This is done through education, encouragement, specialized training and supportive services which address issues such as behavioral health, housing, transportation and substance abuse. Learn why Second Chance is the most effective solution for reducing recidivism, unemployment and homelessness; empowering participants to make sustainable personal changes that positively impact society.*

## Club Host Miles Durfee



*Miles Durfee presented his **WHO AM I** at our club meeting on January 4th.*

Miles Durfee is a long time member of Old Mission Rotary. He joined Rotary in May of 1993 and served as club president in 1999-2000. Miles is also the current President of the Art Pratt Foundation of Old Mission Rotary. Miles and his wife Libby have a son and a daughter who both have college volleyball scholarships!. Trin plays at Saint Mary's College of California and Matt is on the team at at Menlo college. Miles was born in Pennsylvania and he grew up in Los Angeles He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from UC Santa Barbara and a Master of Public Administration from George Washington University.

Miles began his career in public education with the San Diego Unified School District. He also worked with fellow Rotarian Stan Vogelsang at Washington Inventory for six years.

Today, Miles is the Vice President of Local Advocacy for the Southern California team for the California Charter Schools Association. He is passionate about charter schools and noted that one in five school children in California attend some 1300 separate charter schools!

## Old Mission Rotary Meeting on ZOOM

The Omicron wave of the Covid 19 virus is so contagious that Old Mission Rotary will once again meet on ZOOM and NOT inperson at the Legacy resort and Spa. ZOOM Meeting links will be sent to members by club e-mail.

### Program Calendar

*Why not invite a friend to an Old Mission Rotary meeting?*

- Tuesday, January 17th on ZOOM- San Diego International Airport Development Update Michelle Brega, Senior Director for External Relations for the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, will join us to talk about redevelopment plans for Terminal 1.
- Tuesday, January 25th at 6pm Club Social on ZOOM-

## The Omnipotent and Omnipresent Omicron!



*The Corona Conversation with Don Krupp is a frequent feature now included in our Old Mission Rotary Meetings.*

With the omnipresent Omicron Covid variant dominating the news cycle, a key concern is that with our in-person meetings typically having between 20 to 25 club members and guests, the odds are high that at least one attendee will be infected and able to spread the virus to others. Don's last Corona Conversation was delivered over two months ago in early November 2021 when it appeared that the pandemic was dramatically improving. Don tells us that the seven-day average of new daily covid cases at that time was about 72,000 cases per day in the U.S. But as of Monday January 10th, that number was nearly 740,000 new cases per day. That's more than ten times greater. It's almost three times greater than our last covid case peak almost exactly a year ago. It's very likely that this is a significant undercount. The Omicron variant is estimated to be between two to four times more infectious than the Delta variant. To make matters worse, it is entirely possible for you to be infected by both of these variants at the same time or by Covid and the flu at the same time.

As for fatalities due to Covid-19, the current unofficial count for the United States is over 860,000. That's over 80,000 souls we lost to Covid since Don's last Corona Conversation in November.

Notably though, the current seven-day average for Covid deaths is running at about 45% of that during the peak of last year's winter surge. The difference, of course, are the vaccines. They are saving lives. Even if you experience an infection and symptoms your chances of getting really sick and in the hospital are about 5% of that if you are unvaccinated. Another advantage is that we know more about effective therapeutics and treatments for those who have been sickened.

However, Covid hospitalizations tell a more alarming story. As of Monday, January 10th, total current hospitalizations in the U.S. exceeded 145,000 patients, surpassing the peak in hospitalizations we saw during the awful winter surge of last year.

Pediatric Covid hospitalizations have already far surpassed previous peaks – with nearly 5,000 children currently hospitalized. That's nearly double the previous peak from September during the Delta surge. Since hospitalization and mortality figures lag the trend in case numbers we won't know the full effect of the current Omicron surge for at least a few more weeks.

Here in San Diego County, the story is the same. Covid cases are rising, as are hospitalizations and mortality. Just last weekend we saw nearly 50,000 new cases. Covid fatalities have risen to over 4,500.

While some are predicting case numbers will peak soon, as they did in South Africa, we don't know for certain that they will. While there is some indication that Omicron is causing less severe illness than Delta, we don't know for sure if

that's actually the case. Moreover, Omicron is overwhelming our hospitals and health care system. We're still knee deep in the middle of this and it's unwise to make fast assumptions before all of the experience and data has been examined. What we do know is that the vaccines are working to prevent serious, life-threatening illness. And we also know that protective facemasks in public settings are more important than ever. Consequently, the State of California has enacted a universal indoor facemask requirement through at least the middle of February.

Given how infectious Omicron is, club members may want to up their facemask game and invest in N95 or KN95 protective gear. If that's not possible, Don recommends double masking to reduce your risk of exposure to high viral loads. If you protect your vaccinated body diligently with a tight-fitting proper mask, you're going to ride out Omicron in much better shape than if you don't.

Based upon our ensuing discussion led by President Michelle Malin, **club members agreed to return to virtual Zoom meetings at least through the month of February.** We will also reschedule our evening club socials as lunch hour virtual meetings

### Bea Halk Cameo!



*Honorary Member Bea Halk dropped in for lunch at our January 4th meeting.*