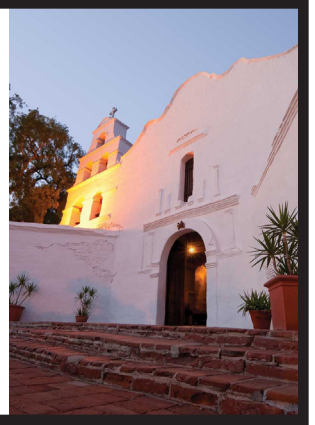




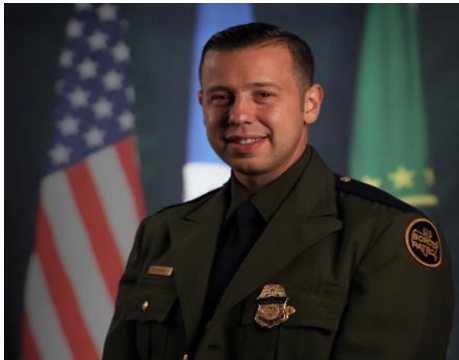
The Old Mission Bell of Old Mission Rotary

Meetings Every Tuesday at noon on Zoom
Post Pandemic at the Legacy Resort Hotel and Spa
oldmissionrotary.org

May 2021- Edition Three



Our Southern Border



Agent Pirro is the Community Liaison representative with the US Border Patrol, San Diego Sector.

Border Patrol Agent Vincent C. Pirro and Agent Theron Francisco joined us on Zoom to talk about the current situation along the US and Mexican border south of San Diego. They gave us an informative boots-on-the-ground perspective on what's happening where our two nations meet. The local San Diego area zone covers 60 linear miles along the border from the ocean to El Centro. The agents praised recent improvements to the border wall that have replaced old and deteriorating ineffective barriers.

The Border Patrol is also responsible for 931 miles of the California coastline. A recent

Apprehensions are up by 20,000 over last year with some 70,838 so far in 2021. This number included 2308 unaccompanied children and 5484 family groups. The most common drugs being smuggled today are cocaine and Fentanyl. The border patrol is busier than ever!

Art Pratt Foundation of Old Mission Rotary Grant to the Flying Leathernecks Museum

The Flying Leatherneck Aviation Museum is a United States Marine Corps aviation museum has been operating at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar since 1999.

Unfortunately, The museum can no longer use the land on the air station and has been closed. The museum leadership are looking for a new home with both a physical location and a larger online presence.

The museum contains exhibits and artifacts relating to the history and legacy of United States Marine Corps Aviation. The outdoor exhibits included 31 historical aircraft, multiple military vehicles and

equipment. Indoor exhibits featured photographs, artifacts and artwork from the early days of aviation to the present. The museum maintains and restores vintage aircraft used by the United States Marine Corps (USMC) through work performed by employees and volunteers. In the last 12 months, 28,000 people from around the world came to the museum.

A grant for \$6000 was accepted by retired Colonel USMC Victor Bianchi and retired Brigadier General USMC Mike Aguilar. The funds will be used for electronic equipment for their oral history programs and presentation capabilities.



One of the many impressive aircraft displays at the Flying Leatherneck Museum is the "Lady Ace 09." The CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter evacuated Ambassador Graham Martin from the rooftop of the American Embassy in Saigon in 1975 during the last hours of the Vietnam War.

An Opportunity to Serve in the Art Pratt Foundation

The Art Pratt Foundation's board of directors will have two openings for its upcoming 2021-2022 Fiscal Year (beginning July 1, 2021). If you would like to be considered, please send a note to Art Pratt Foundation President Eric Benink at eric@beninkslavens.com. The term lasts for 3 years. The duties include attending a monthly board meeting, setting an annual budget, and vetting and voting on grant requests. It is a great way to learn more about the non-profits serving San Diego County.

The Art Pratt Foundation started from a gift from the estate of Rotarian Art Pratt. He owned the Coca-Cola bottling distributorship in San Diego and left stock to the now defunct Kearny Mesa Rotary Club. The Foundation grew to be able to support numerous charitable organizations and by tradition has favored grant requests that help our local community. Grants typically benefit children and youth, persons with disabilities or those who are otherwise disadvantaged.

The Art Pratt Foundation is separate from the Old Mission Rotary Foundation but its board of directors is elected by the membership of Old Mission Rotary and must be members of the club.

Program Calendar

Why not invite a friend to ZOOM with us?

- Tuesday, May 25th **Ed Presnillo of Honoring USA Heroes** to talk about Americans who lost their lives attempting to rescue their fellow citizens on 9/11

Corona Conversation



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

Last week President Biden announced that those of us who are fully vaccinated don't need to wear our facemasks anymore, at least in most situations. That has created a bit of a stir and perhaps some confusion, but most important it's a sign that the vaccines are working. Nationally, daily new coronavirus cases have dropped to just ten percent of what they were at their peak in early January. Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 are just one-fifth of what they were at that time. Clearly things are getting better, and the reason is that the vaccines are working. With over 123 million Americans fully vaccinated it is getting harder and harder for the virus to spread to others. In fact, a recent study of vaccine efficacy among health care workers found that the vaccines not only prevent you from getting sick, but they also prevent you from spreading the virus to others. Vaccines are making a difference and remain the best elixir for a restoration of normalcy. So, what does this mean for wearing facemasks? It's pretty simple. Follow the guidance of San Diego County's Public Health Officer, Dr. Wilma Wooten.

Dr. Wooten issued her most recent public health order of May 6, 2021. In it she updates County facemask guidelines in accordance with the guidance issued by the California Department of Public Health on May 3, 2021. This guidance, which precedes President Biden's most recent statement will remain in effect in California at least until June 15th. Not only is this the law, but it is driven by the best available science. You may find that guidance at the following webpage:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/COVID-19/guidance-for-face-coverings.aspx>

When in doubt wear your mask.

And, if you have yet to get vaccinated, schedule it soon. It's your best shot to beat COVID-19.

GLOBAL PEACE CONFERENCE

JUNE 19, 2021

Do you care deeply about your community and looking for ideas to bring about positive change? Registration is live for the Rotary Peace Fellow Global Peace Conference on 19 June. 24 hours of peace talks, skills-based workshops, and networking is an opportunity you will not want to miss!

Rotary Calendar

- Tuesday, May 25th- **Art Pratt Foundation ZOOM Board of Directors Meeting**
- Tuesday, June 8th,- **Old Mission Rotary ZOOM Board of Directors Meeting.**
- Saturday, June 12th-Wednesday, June 16th **Rotary International Virtual Convention**