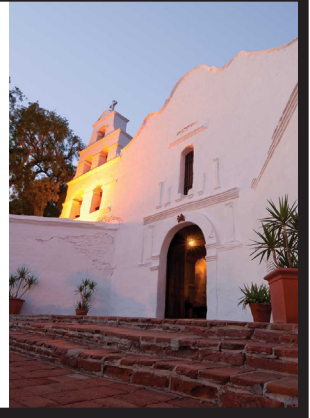




# The Old Mission Bell of Old Mission Rotary



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

December 2020- Edition Two

## Making Democracy Work



*Jeanne Weidner is the Speakers Bureau Chair for the San Diego League of Women Voters.*

The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy.

The League of Women Voters is a peoples' organization that has fought since 1920 to improve government and engage all Americans in the decisions that impact their lives. They never endorse or oppose political parties or candidates and yet they are political.

Formed from the movement that secured the right to vote for women in 1920, the centerpiece of the League's efforts remain to expand participation and give a voice to all Americans. Their issues are

## Art Pratt Foundation Urban Corps Grant

The mission of Urban Corps of San Diego County is to provide young adults with the tools to expand their career opportunities through education, life skills training, and paid work experience on projects that benefit our communities.

Urban Corps has given thousands of under served low-income young adults ages 18-26 the opportunity to improve themselves while improving their own communities. Urban Corps' unique work-learn program allows youth to finish high school while earning a paycheck, learning real-world job skills, and giving back to the community through professional services.

Urban Corps provides a second chance at a high school education and paid job training designed to encourage civic engagement, responsibility, and self-sufficiency. After completing the program, youth are more employable, have the skills and confidence needed to succeed in the workforce, and know the importance of resource preservation and giving back to the community.

Young adults in the program may have dropped out of high school due to involvement with gangs or drugs, becoming a young parent, or an undiagnosed learning disability.

Some are refugees with limited English. Some aged out of the foster system without a diploma. A growing number are homeless. On average 90 percent of graduates are either placed in jobs following commencement or are enrolled in higher education.

The Art Pratt Foundation grant of \$5000 will be used for the purchase of landscaping equipment to help with brush clearance for wildfire defense in our community. One example is a project in City Heights to clear old brush around the houses of low income homeowners.



*Lauren Welch is a grant writer for the Urban Corps of San Diego.*

### Program Calendar

*Why not invite a friend to ZOOM with us?*

- December 15th **The San Diego Gulls Hockey Club** with Casey Callahan

## *Making Democracy Work Continued from Page One*

grounded in a goal of making democracy work for all Americans. The United States is the world's oldest living democracy founded in 1776. The Constitution is stable with only 15 amendments since 1791.

The good news is that in the latest presidential election, 73.7% of the voters cast ballots. The bad news is that the voting process has created polarization between red and blue states and that swing states disproportionate control elections.

The League believes that we should abolish the Electoral College and use only the popular vote. The winner take all system discourages voters in many states from voting. They also believe in public only funding of elections to reduce the influence on elections by big donors.

Modernization of the voting process is essential and voter registration and prohibition of voter suppression is critical. There also needs to be increased cyber security. Election day reforms should include expansion of early voting, mail in ballots and even declaring election day a holiday to allow working people more chance to vote.

Manipulating voting districts by Gerrymandering is a huge problem and the League is seeking to end this as a political process.

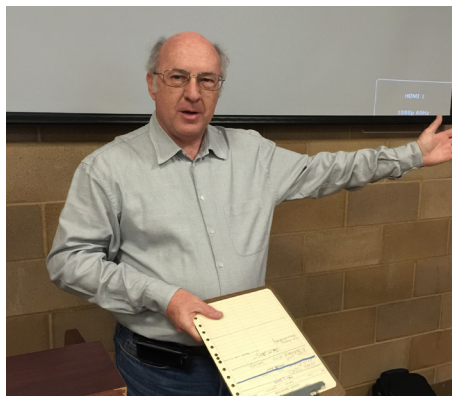
Jeanne also talked about media manipulation in elections. Various telecommunications legislation over many decades, net neutrality and social media have allowed the spread of disinformation and the concentration of media with large conglomerates.

Jeanne reminded us that Democracy is not a spectator sport!

## **Past Club Newsletters on our Website**

Jim Green is a veteran Old Mission Rotarian and is managing our club website from his new home in Tucson Arizona where he and Paulette are enjoying their retirement.

Jim has made our past club newsletters available at [oldmissionrotary.org](http://oldmissionrotary.org) by clicking on the word *Newsletters* in the top menu of the website home page. A list of past newsletters will then pop up and members can click on the links.



*Jim Green's heart will always be with Old Mission Rotary. Not only does he manage the club's website from retirement in Tucson but he has been instrumental in promoting our Talent Show fund raiser year after year.*

*A person may cause evil to others not only by his actions but by his inaction, and in either case he is justly accountable to them for the injury.*

*-John Stuart Mill, philosopher and economist*

## **Rotary Calendar**

- Tuesday, December 22nd- **Old Mission Rotary DARK**
- Tuesday, December 29th- **Old Mission Rotary DARK**
- Tuesday, January 12th- **Old Mission Rotary ZOOM Board of Directors Meeting.**

## **Corona Conversation**



*Don Krupp is a weekly feature now included in our Old Mission Rotary ZOOM Meetings.*

At this week's Corona Conversation, club member Don Krupp encouraged everyone to "Get Vaxxed." He talked about the uniquely safe and effective Coronavirus vaccines that will be available soon. They are simply protein molecules surrounded by a thin layer of fat. The same stuff that gives steak it's nutritional value. These proteins are a form of messenger RNA that helps our body's cells manufacture microscopic protein molecules that mimic the spikes that are attached to the COVID-19 virus. These spikes then train your immune system to make antibodies that will recognize the virus if you get infected and mount a defense.

The approach is ingenious and has accelerated the ability for pharmaceutical companies to manufacture large volumes of the vaccine.

These vaccines become available just as the nation is reeling from a second and more deadly surge of the virus. Just this last week, COVID-19 became the most deadly killer in the United States.

It will take a while before these vaccines are widely available, so stay safe and wear a mask, keep your distance and wash your hands.