



February 4, 2019

# from The President's Desk

by Henry Karnilowicz

I will never forget being invited to a meeting of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations by a Past President Jim Maxwell, back in 2008, at the offices of Cal Insurance, at that time owned by Scott Hauge. There rarely would be more than eight delegates attending and we had like \$9,000 in the bank. In 2011 President Herb Cohn called me and said he was moving to Palm Springs and asked if I would be willing to take over as President. At that time, we had 13 paid members.

In 2016 I met Vas Kiniris who was the Executive Director of Fillmore Merchants Association and we agreed to collaborate to grow the CDMA. By this time, thanks to Recology, we were meeting in their spacious conference room. The first association I convinced to rejoin the CDMA was the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association, whose President, David Heller organized and orchestrated the first Gala and Awards dinner under my leadership at the Concordia Argonaut Club. David Heller is a master of events having held many extremely popular luncheons for his association and thanks to him this became our signature event.

Under his wing, I got to learn the ropes and by the time the Concordia Argonaut Club was sold, and we moved to the Olympic Club, Lakeside, I assembled committees to work on everything from designing the program to selecting awardees, soliciting raffle prizes and helping at the event. It is one event that the CDMA can be really proud of with a sellout crowd of over 300 each year.

During my seven years as President our membership has grown to 32 merchant associations from all the corners of SF. Initiatives established during this period include Merchants Walks in collaboration with Airbnb, SF Travel and the Chamber. CDMA has also participated in numerous events such as Small Business Saturday and Small Business Week, Chinese New Year Parade, Pride Parade, St. Patrick's Day Parade, Memorial Day Parade, Italian Heritage Month Parade, attending association meetings, District Summits with District Supervisors, Security Summit with San Francisco Police Department and enough sponsors to see our bank account balance rise to over \$150,000.

It has been a truly wonderful journey that I will never forget and what really made it so special are all the small business owners and employees I have met. I discovered that we are one large family who care about our community and who really love what we do!

## SFCDMA Elections



The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations annual elections were held in January 2019 and I extend my sincerest congratulations to:

**President: Maryo Mogannam (West Portal)**  
**Vice President: Albert Chow (Taraval POPS)**  
**Vice President: Al Williams (Bayview)**

**Secretary: Jen Lee (Taraval POPS)**  
**Secretary: Heather Seliga (Marina)**  
**Treasurer: Susie McKinnon (Larkin)**

Private private/public partnerships are essential to the vitality of our merchant corridors. I extend a very special thank-you to our Mayor London Breed and to friends in City Hall for helping our efforts!

I also want to THANK our amazing collection of private companies and individuals that support our efforts!

Some special thanks go out to Airbnb for being the gold standard when it comes to this partnership and we're really thankful for their support.

Finally, at the Council, we say small business is big business. Even though big businesses get all the headlines, small business is the economic and social foundation of SF.

80% of companies employ 10 or less employees and yet they employ almost 350,000 people!

In addition, if we change our spending by 1% to local shopping, that generates \$100M back to the local economy.

THANK YOU AND A BIG HUG TO YOU ALL!

Lastly, thank you for all the "LIKES" in 2018 and please follow and share our posts.

## Jim Lazarus Celebration



The San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations was honored to attend the event honoring the service of Jim Lazarus as he begins a new chapter heading up Senator Dianne Feinstein's California office.

A fourth-generation SF native, Lazarus first dipped into public service during Governor Jerry Brown's first electoral run, later served as deputy city attorney (advising then-Board of Supervisors President Feinstein), served in then-Mayor Feinstein's office leading finance and administration, ran for the City Attorney's Office, led the San Francisco Museum and Historical Society, and, in a departure, served as chief operating officer of the San Francisco Zoological Society.

What an amazing 13 years he dedicated to the SF Chamber working with Public Policy. I look forward to his continued support to businesses in his role as the State Director for US Senator Dianne Feinstein, replacing outgoing state director Sean Eslernd, who just started as Mayor London Breed's new chief of staff. Thank you to the GGBA, SF Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the Hotel Council for organizing this event

Senator Feinstein praised Lazarus in a press statement. "Jim has an excellent grasp of policy and politics in San Francisco and has deep roots in the Bay Area. I've always valued Jim's judgment and his professionalism," she said.

Congratulations Jim!

## Recology Annual Cioppino Dinner

Recology, who became 100% employee-owned in 1986 through the Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP), have a heightened sense of commitment to the company, goals, and to customer satisfaction in the communities in which they serve.

They are dedicated partners to the many communities they serve, as they are members of those communities. They have local offices in every service area, which means that their employees often live and work in the communities they serve. They have a strong culture of teamwork and accountability, and their incentive for improvement comes from the inside, as they're not bound



to external shareholders. This means they can quickly push forward with new innovations and environmental initiatives, discovering new methods for reaching their mission of Waste Zero.

One way they give back to the community is through their annual dinners at their HQ banquet room, to which people from the public and private sector are invited.

I always look forward to attending the annual Cioppino Dinner, and meeting with a great group of people! Thank you Supervisor Fewer for your attention to small business and for joining David Heller and friends at the dinner. Thank you General Manager Minna Tao for always being so charming and welcoming. It also was wonderful having PDMA President Keith Goldstein and his wife Donna sitting at our table.

## PDMA Holiday Party



The Potrero Dogpatch Merchants Association held their holiday party at Goat Hill Pizza and among those present was President Keith Goldstein, Vice President Frank Gilson, Treasurer Kimberley Floren and Secretary J.R. Eppler. It was wonderful to see the newly-elected supervisor for District 10, Shamann Walton, who took time from his busy schedule to be at the party and to say a few words in support of small business.

## Outer Sunset Merchants & Professional Association awards Supervisor Katy Tang

VA Commissioner and Board President William Barnickel invited outgoing Supervisor Katy Tang to swear in the board at Uncle Benny's Donuts on Irving Street. Present at the event were Police Captain Robert Yick from Taraval Station, Dar Singh and Benny Yee. This event was also a surprise for Supervisor Katy Tang to whom we presented an award for her support for small business. Joe Dellert, owner of The Artisans framing shop, in business for over thirty years, was also awarded.



## People of Parkside Sunset Meeting



There was an excellent attendance at the POPS meeting chaired by President Albert Chow.

There was a presentation by Manpreet Kaur, owner of Rang De Bollywood, who extended an invitation to her Bollywood Dance lessons which she said is a great way to exercise.

Bill McLaughlin with Surfriders said they are working on an erosion control plan for the southern end of Great Highway. El Nino 1990's and 2010 caused erosion which continues. They are working with SPUR to clean-up the effects for a friendlier beach erosion plan. Sand being temporarily carried from north to south to cover rocks. Public meetings to be announced. Project will start later 2019, ending possibility 2030. Funding source unknown.

Albert Chow said SFMTA personnel could not make the meeting however they are apparently in the process of awarding a contract for work on Taraval. Start date will be sometime in March. First phase will be from zoo to Sunset Blvd with shuttle service for that portion. A mitigation committee was formed who will enquire about how long the project will take place and what are the deadlines. Modular boarding platforms have been installed in Oakland and Los Angeles however SFMTA has rejected these \$50K opportunities and is intending to rather pour concrete and double the cost. The mitigation committee intend to put forward the modular boarding idea during public comment at the Board of Supervisors and at the SFMTA. Newly elected District 4 Supervisor Gordon Mar will be invited to the February meeting and this idea will be presented to him.

Metropolitan Banners have been contacted to speak to POPS re banners for Taraval. Recommendation offered to employ a Taraval merchant. (Banner Shop, 35th and Taraval) Banners would be of a benefit to the merchants during and after construction letting the public know where to find a business, etc.

Mini-grant: 5 events funded in 2018. POPS, a non-profit organization, is the gate-keeper for leadership and events in the Sunset. \$85K grant. Community groups and Businesses may apply. Criteria: Family Friendly, Business Entity. OEWD is flexible as program matures. Thanks to Supervisor Tang who has secured funding for 4 more years. Website is ready to launch.

# House Speaker Nancy Pelosi New Year Thank You Brunch



Team Pelosi was out in full force, including several hundred supporters, campaign volunteers, Democratic Party officials and local politicians who welcomed back newly elected House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for the Nancy Pelosi Thank You brunch at Delancey Street.

Pelosi, the only woman to serve as House speaker, did not disappoint. At a “community swearing-in ceremony” and reception at the Delancey Street Foundation, she told a cheering, ebullient crowd that House Democrats plan to introduce gun safety legislation, the Dream Act to give undocumented young adults who came to the country as children a pathway to citizenship, and the Equality Act to bar discrimination against LGBTQ individuals.

She also addressed the government shutdown, which was in its third week, saying House Democrats plan to pass individual bills to reopen federal agencies so Americans can receive tax refunds and food stamps

Pelosi, who has represented San Francisco in the House of Representatives for 31 years, vowed to push for policies to reduce income inequality, which has particular resonance in San Francisco. She also lauded the gains in ethnic and gender diversity her caucus made in the midterm elections, citing the record number of female members in the House of Representatives.

“The beauty is in the mix,” she said. “Ethnic, gender identity, generational and geographic diversity ... it’s going to be a very, very exciting time.”

# Moscone Center Expansion Ribbon Cutting



Four years and \$551 million later, the expanded Moscone Center is finished and open for business: this \$551-million project that the City hopes will juice an additional \$272 million into SF’s public coffers each year.

According to the San Francisco Travel Association, about 1,000 people attended the soiree in which Mayor London Breed cut the ribbon on the building and rededicated it to the memory of the late mayor George Moscone.

The building’s southern lobby is dedicated to late mayor Ed Lee, under whose administration the Moscone overhaul began.

Whereas most major San Francisco construction projects have run afoul of delays and budget overruns as almost a matter of course (e.g., the Transbay Transit Center), delivery on Moscone Center was more or less in line with initial projections from when construction started four years ago and the final budget was not far off from the planned \$500 million budget.

The expansion added roughly 157,000 square feet to the three buildings, bumping up the center's total usable space to nearly 1.4 million, including a "column-free ballroom" that's nearly 50,000 square feet all on its own, plus 25,000 feet of "secure outdoor terraces" and more than 100,000 feet of "pre-function lobbies" designed to emphasize view of the city. Most notably, a skybridge over Howard Street connects the two renovated buildings.

The SF Travel Association estimates that tourism brought more than \$9 billion into the City in 2017 off of 25.5 million visitors, at the time blaming the relatively slow growth year over year on the closure of large swaths of Moscone during construction.

The 2018 tourism season also saw renewed concerns that the city's homeless crisis hurt SF's image as a destination for tourism and big money conventions. There were also complaints from hotel managers and downtown business groups.

The hope now is that there will be an increase in visitors and conventions with the expanded Moscone Center now open and with Mayor Breed's commitment to move the homeless from in front of our businesses.

## Swearing in of Assessor Recorder Carmen Chu



With such a large crowd at the inauguration in the South Light Court for Assessor Recorder Carmen Chu one would think she was the Mayor! The MC was Sophia Andari who had the crowd entertained and Mayor Breed swore her in.

The color guard was the Lincoln High School JROTC Drum Core and State Controller Betty Yee lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Among the crowd there were also many VIPS including, Mayor Willie Brown, Mayor Art Agnos, Mayor Frank Jordan and late Mayor Ed Lee's wife Anita Lee. Also Jim Lazarus for Dianne Feinstein, Daniel Chan, for Kamala Harris, David Chiu and included supervisors Catherine Stefani, Rafael Mandelman, Katy Tang and Aaron Peskin.

## City Hall Advocacy Day Committee Meeting



March 1, 2019 is the second annual CHAD (City Hall Advocacy Day).

Representatives from the Hispanic Chamber, African American Chamber, San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations, Hotel Council of San Francisco, San Francisco Travel, SFHAC, Cannabis Retailers, the Hospital Council, the Golden Gate Business Association, SF Made and other organizations, have been meeting over the past three months to organize this event.

This annual event brings together San Francisco businesses of all kinds from the city to meet with elected officials, department heads and industry leaders for conversations that address the most pressing challenges facing San Francisco employers, employees, residents, and visitors. The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce is a co-convenor of this important day of advocacy.

More than 20 business organizations representing San Francisco industries of all kinds bring nearly 100 attendees to City Hall in meetings with civic leaders on key topics of concern to the business community including:

- Housing Affordability
- Public Transportation, Congestion and Traffic Planning
- Homelessness
- Business Taxes and Fees
- Clean and Safe Streets

This is an excellent opportunity for businesses. For more information visit: <https://sfchamber.com/event/cityhalladvocacyday/>

## Bayview Merchants Association welcoming D10 Supervisor Shamman Walton



I applaud Bay View Merchants Association President Al Williams for organizing this welcome party for the newly elected District 10 supervisor Shamann Walton at the fabulous Radio Africa on Third Street. It was a full room and among those present was LaShon Walker and Bayview Station Police Captain Valerie Matthews.

## Outer Sunset Merchants & Professionals Association introducing D4 Supervisor Gordon Mar



It was great meeting at the Hole in the Wall Pizza on Irving Street, chaired by President Bill Barnickel. Of course Benny Yee and Dar Singh were present and I was pleased to see Awadalla Awadalla being honored with an award. There were presentations by the SFFD, SFPD and Recology. Thank you Supervisor Gordon Mar for your presence at this meeting and for taking questions.

# Vacant Store Front Press Conference



A press conference was held outside the long shuttered Italian restaurant and saloon, Gold Spike with Supervisors Aaron Peskin, Sandra Lee Fewer, Small Business Commissioner Kathleen Dooley and North Beach Business Association Secretary Daniel Macchiarini.

Vacant storefronts have gained attention in recent years as local groups survey their own neighborhoods to counter the mere 25 registered by the Department of Building Inspection in 2016 and 40 in 2017. In April, Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer led a crowdsourced count that spotted 156 vacancies in the Richmond. North Beach had 38 vacancies in 2018, up from about 15 in 2015, according to Peskin.

Supervisor Fewer introduced legislation in December to require building owners to register their own empty storefronts. Instead of a 270-day grace period, they would pay the \$711 registration fee within 30 days or face another charge of \$2,844 if they don't comply after receiving a warning.

"It's all complaint driven. That system just is not working," Fewer said. "Clearly there are some bad actors here."

Building owners find loopholes to avoid vacant registration by putting up a 'for rent' sign if even for years on end, Fewer added. The upcoming budget process will figure into Fewer's proposal, as DBI would need to adjust their staff levels and responsibilities.

Supervisors Aaron Peskin announced on Wednesday that he is developing a ballot measure to discourage property owners from keeping storefronts and housing units empty by hitting them where it hurts: their wallets. Landlords owning residential properties with three or more units that are vacant for six consecutive months would pay \$250 per unit each day until leased.

The same conditions would apply to properties in Neighborhood Commercial Districts where stores - empty and operating, alike - are clustered in areas like Downtown or Parkside. Should the Board of Supervisors approve the measure, it would be placed on the November ballot and needs a two-third majority to pass. In November, Oakland passed a vacancy property measure that institutes taxes on properties used less than 50 days a year.

"This is not designed to be a revenue generator for San Francisco," Peskin said at the press conference, outside the long shuttered Italian restaurant and saloon Gold Spike. "This is designed to be a behavior changer for certain problematic landlords. If we can add several hundred units back to the rental stock, this will have been worth it."

Fewer and Peskin expect each of their legislative efforts to come up at the Board of Supervisors in February.

Thank you to all those who continue to promote small business in San Francisco. Moving forward **our new President Maryo Mogannam** will be providing you his news "**From the President's Desk**".

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**Past President**

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