



March 7, 2018

from The President's Desk

by Henry Karnilowicz

The following represent just a few of the issues and events that SFCDMA supported and participated in during February.



Inner Sunset Merchants Association 90th Anniversary

Congratulations to the Inner Sunset Merchants Association on their 90th Anniversary Celebration. Kayleigh Lloyd, the aide to District 5 Supervisor London Breed - the President of the Board of Supervisors, presented a Certificate Of Honor from the District Supervisor and the Board of Supervisors, to President Craig Dawson and Vice President Susannah Wise. Woody LaBounty put on a really interesting presentation about the history of the Sunset District. The Merchants Association was started by a group of businesses after the City announced that the street car line would be extended to the Sunset district and anticipated that this service would bring customers to the district and thus decided to create the association.



The Dream Team, our Executive Committee

In preparing for our monthly meetings the Executive Committee decided to meet about a week or so after each meeting to debrief and to set the agenda for the next meeting.

In February we met for breakfast on a Sunday morning at Cassava restaurant, whose owners are Kris Toliao and our Secretary, Yuka Ioroi. The fare is Japanese fusion and it is truly mouth watering. The space has a warm ambiance and is a perfect place for us to gather, enjoy a good meal and discuss Council matters.



Chinatown Merchants Walk and New Year of the Dog Parade

Once a month, together with Airbnb, we organize Merchant Walks in our merchant corridors. For February it was Chinatown: the oldest and largest Chinatown in the United States and a true neighborhood gem! We were treated to a fun and informative curated tour by our very own Eva Lee, a Chinatown Merchants Association delegate.



The itinerary included:

- 616 Grant** Canton Bazaar with its huge variety of quality Chinese items, including hand-crafted kimonos.
- 718 Grant** **The Wok Shop** – opened after President Richard Nixon’s visit to China created huge interest in Chinese wok cooking.
- 752 Grant** **Dragon Papa** – Chinese royal dessert made from hand-pulling solid maple sugar into strands, resembling hairs of a beard. One can watch it being made behind the front window. Owner, Derek, provides interesting information about the history of this for-royals-only dessert.
- 905 Grant** **Vital TeaLeaf** – Tea Tasting with Kenny (Saturday – Tuesday) is an experience that gives a whole new perspective on tea.
- 56 Ross Alley** **Golden Gate Fortune Cookies** – watch them being made and owner Kevin accommodates special message requests.
- 644 Broadway** The tour ended at the busy and really stunning **China Live** – the Chinese version of Eataly! Retail venue and dining options from casual to upscale. Stations includes dim sum, Peking duck, desserts, tea.

(Coincidentally, Mayor Mark Farrell did his merchant walk earlier in the day.)

At our last meeting Eva Lee presented Vas Kiniris and I with beautiful Chinese jackets which were emblazoned with dragons on the back, so, of course we just had to be on a float Chinese New Year Parade!

Minna Tao welcomed us to join with the Recology contingent. We decided to ride on an antique fire truck and we really had a blast. On board there were karaoke singers and a terrific sound system, which proved a true crowd pleaser to the 800,000 + people lining the route, who had huge smiles and waved back at us and sang along as we went by!



Business Comes to City Hall Advocacy Day

This was the second all-day annual event at City Hall, with sponsors including the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.

The proceedings included meetings with our supervisors at City Hall and Forums at the State Building. Subjects covered included The Future of the City, Homelessness, Clean and Safe Streets, Workforce Development for the 21st Century, Doing Business with / In the City Traffic and Transportation and Housing Affordability.



At the end of the day there was a Cocktail Reception in the Green Room, at the War Memorial Building, followed by the San Francisco Mayoral Candidates Forum in the Herbst Theater, War Memorial Building. It was lively debate from the candidates London Breed, Jane Kim, Angele Alioto, Mark Leno, Richie Greenberg and Amy Farah Weiss.

I am pleased to announce that there was an excellent attendance, with people from a broad spectrum of businesses and organizations. Kudos and thanks are in order particularly to Dee Dee Workman and Alex Mitra at the Chamber for making it happen!

Rebooting Marina Merchants

The Marina Merchants Association is one of the oldest and historically most active merchant associations. But they been dormant for a number of years, so Cameron Crockett has decided to step up to the plate to reboot the organization.

Vas Kiniris, Marianne Mazucco-Thompson, Cameron Crockett and I met at Peets on Chestnut Street and had a very productive meeting.



Cameron has worked hard to establish Marina Merchants' non profit status and to pay the SFCDMA annual membership. — Welcome Marina Merchants Association!



Comcast Viewing Party

Vas Kiniris and I were honored to be invited to the Olympics Viewing Party hosted by Comcast at Showplace Square. There was quite a large crowd. I bumped into many friends and also Larry Baer, the President and Chief Executive Officer of the S.F. Giants! There was plenty of delicious food and libations to enjoy. A large screen showed events from the Winter Olympics in South Korea. A panel discussion was held on the topic of the adoption of new technology and the integration of social media into the Olympics brand.



The Inaugural Supervisorial District Summit

I attended the inaugural Supervisorial District Summit with District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani. Also in attendance were Police Captain Joseph Engler, Fillmore Street Merchants Association Executive Director and SFCDMA Executive Administrator

Vas Kiniris, Sacramento Street Merchants Association President Traci Teraoka, Union Street Association Executive Director Lesley Leonhardt, Marina Merchants Association President Cameron Crockett, and Upper Divisadero merchant representative Jeffrey Llewellyn.

We had a robust meeting, discussing issues impacting small businesses such as a lack of foot traffic, vacant storefronts, grab and run and car break-ins, homelessness and competition from online sales. We asked for Supervisor Stefani's help in promoting events such as Wine Walks, Easter Egg Hunts, Art Walks, St. Patrick's Day, Pet Costume Halloween Parade, Small Business Saturday, neighborhood History Walks, music festivals and farmers markets. We also asked that she used her office to approach cruise ship companies to promote our commercial corridors which have an eclectic selection of shops and activities.

We would also like to see more involvement and promotion by influencers such as hotel concierge, Airbnb Super Hosts, Yelp Elites, Uber, Lyft, Scoot, Twitter, Google, etc. By collaborating with City government and the private sector we are convinced that district summits will help to build vibrant communities and successful businesses.

Mark your calendar for the following events:

The 68th Annual Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner

June 13, 2018 at the prestigious Olympic Club Lakeside.

PURCHASE TICKETS

San Francisco Small Business Week

May 14 – 19, 2018. Celebrate small business and its contribution to the community.

FIND OUT MORE

Thank you to everyone who is helping us promote small business in San Francisco. I will keep you - our Membership - in touch with my March schedule of meetings and events in my next monthly newsletter - **"from the President's Desk"**.

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