

April 8, 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 March 2018.



## Accessible Business Entrance Program

With the recent implementation of Ordinance #51-16, authored by Supervisor Katy Tang, making it mandatory to provide Accessible Business Entrances, there was a Merchant's Walk. Attending were Supervisor Katy Tang, Taraval Police Captain Robert Yick, Director of the Department of Building Inspection Tom Hui, DBI Manager of Legislative & Public Affairs, Bill Strawn, president of Outer Sunset Merchants and Professional Association, Bill Barnickel, President of People Of Parkside Sunset and Vice President of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations, Albert Chow and Executive Administrator of the San Francisco Council of District Merchants Associations, Vas Kiniris, along Irving Street and also along Taraval Street.

The purpose of the Merchant Walk was to publicize the ordinance. Supervisor Tang took this opportunity to present awards to some businesses. The ordinance requires filing of a prescreening which will need to be signed by a licensed architect, engineer or a CASp (Certified Access Specialist) inspector.

Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director at the Office of Small Business, will provide some details about available City grants for businesses to obtain an initial entrance CASp inspector. DBI Director Tom Hui said that DBI will most likely be waiving \$96.72, the administrative fee.

See table below for filing dates:

CATEGORY DESCRIPTION	CATEGORY	SUBMIT COMPLIANCE CHECKLIST AND SPECIFY COMPLIANCE OPTION	FILE APPLICATION FOR REQUIRED BUILDING PERMIT(S)	OBTAIN REQUIRED BUILDING PERMIT(S)
I	In compliance	January 1, 2019	N/A	N/A
II	No steps but barriers	January 1, 2019	April 1, 2019	April 1, 2020
III	One step with barriers	June 1, 2019	September 1, 2020	September 1, 2021
IV	1+ step with other barriers	December 1, 2019	March 1, 2020	March 1, 2021

For more information please visit: <http://sfdbi.org/businessentrance>



## Marina Merchants Walk

We were thrilled to be invited by Mayor Mark Farrell to the Marina Merchants Walk along Chestnut Street, to support **Shop and Dine in the 49**. The contingent included District 2 Supervisor, Catherine Stefani, Northern Station Police Captain, Joseph Engler, Joaquin Torres and Marianne Mazucco-Thompson from OEWD, Vas Kiniris and myself.

The walk began at the Marina Market and from there we stopped off at a number of shops, including Fireside Cameras and the California Wine Company, who received awards and were offered registration as Legacy Businesses!



## GGBA WBA LGBT Summit & Power Lunch IV

Congratulations to the GGBA and WBA on an awesome Power Lunch IV, with the theme "Welcome Home", at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

There were around 800 attendees from 21 LGBT Chambers of Commerce from cities around the country and from Vancouver and Toronto, Canada.

Senator Mark Leno and Helen Russell were the Co-Chairs. Featured Speakers included Alex Padilla, California Secretary of State, Dave Jones, California Insurance Commissioner, Dawn Ackerman, President of GGBA, Dan, L'Abbe, CEO, Granite Solutions, Marquita Thomas of LAGLCC, Greg Sarris, Chairman, Federated Tribes of the Graton Rancheria, and my favorite speaker - the effervescent and charming Paul Pendergast, GGBA Vice President. Gina Grahame of Gina Grahame Presents gave a rousing and inspirational speech.

Mark Leno conducted the fire side chat with Randy Boissonnault, Member of the Canadian Parliament and Special Advisor to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on LGBT Issues. The entertainment was provided by the famous Glide Ensemble Change Band. Prior to the lunch guests had the opportunity to network and stop by vendors with their marketing materials.

The Closing Reception was at the headquarters of Sterling Bank, generously provided by the founder Scott Seligman and Senior Vice President Stephen Adams, on the 44th Floor of the iconic Transamerica Pyramid, with panoramic views of the entire Bay Area.



## Black and White Gala

We attended this fundraising event for the Richmond District Neighborhood Center (RDNC) at the historic Golden Gate Club in the Presidio. The Honorary Chair was District 1 Supervisor, Sandra Lee Fewer. Entertainment was provided by Master Illusionist Patrick Martin. There was a sold out crowd, including many distinguished guests and the live auction brought in over \$38,000!

Also attending were David Heller, President of Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Business Association, Cynthia Huie, President of the Clement Street Merchants Association and Marjan Philhour and Yuka Iroji, Board members of the Balboa Village Merchants Associations.

The Richmond District Neighborhood Center is the cornerstone for the Richmond community, serving families for over 38 years and supporting youth from childhood into adulthood. RDNC serves as the heart of our community by connecting over 5,000 people per year to important programming including:

- Enriching after school programs for 2,600 youth each day at 8 different public schools in the neighborhood.
- Food for 700 low income seniors and working families each week.
- Employment and training for 50 youth each year.
- Identity-based programming including the Black Student Union, Latinos Unidos, Feminist Club and more in their Beacon Youth Programs.
- Low cost yoga, Zumba, Tai Chi and Ballroom Dance classes to over 100 neighbors each week



## People Of Parkside Sunset Mixer

This was a really wonderful and intimate mixer at the Footprint Shoe Store. President of POPS, Albert Chow welcomed the attendees and District 4 Supervisor, Katy Tang gave a warm speech, highlighting how Airbnb is attracting visitors to the district who are staying with host families. Taraval Police Captain, Robert Yick also spoke about the police work in the district.



## Meeting with Twitter

Vas Kiniris and I met with Tom Tarantino, Twitter's Chair of Crisis Response and Public Policy, in the huge dining room at Twitter HQ. We spoke about SFCDMA's mission and discussed with him what Twitter can do to assist us in our mission. We asked about sponsorship and also workshops. He replied that Twitter cannot commit to any sponsorship at this time, however they would be willing to do a workshop with us. We will be getting back to him to come up with a date and location.



## Upper Divisadero Merchants Walk

We collaborated with Airbnb for this Merchant Walk. Everyone met at Scopo Divino on California Street where owner, Tim Hayman welcomed the business owners, hosts and friends, and served wine. Among those present was Matt Middlebrook, from Airbnb, with his son. Kat Anderson, Victor Olivieri, Alexandra Crerend, Ron Lee, Vas Kiniris and I were also in attendance.

Matt Middlebrook welcomed everyone with warm remarks and then the crowd was split into three groups who went on the Walk along California Street and Divisadero Street.



# 50th Anniversary of the San Francisco Japan Center

The Japantown Peace Pagoda, a gift from Osaka, Japan, San Francisco's sister city back in 1968, has become one of the city's landmarks. The city celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Japan Center Peace Plaza, which has dramatically changed the landscape and character of Japantown.

It was a gorgeous day and a wonderful ceremony with Emcee, George Yamasaki, Jr. There was a Cultural Performance - Song of Nihonmachi - by poet Genny Lim and the Lenora Lee Dance troupe. The blessings were given by the following: Rev. Ronald Kobata, Resident Minister, Buddhist Church of San Francisco, Rev. Grace Kaori Suzuki, Pastor, Christ United Presbyterian Church & JARF Treasurer, Rev. Masato Kawahatsu, Senior Minister, Konko Church of San Francisco & Konko Spiritual Center of South San Francisco, Minister & Head Minister Rev. Joanne Tolosa, Associate Minister, Konko Church of San Francisco. Among the many speakers there was Tomochika Uyama, Consul General of Japan, Supervisor London Breed, Phil Ginsburg, SF Rec. and Parks and Joseph Daneshgar, 3D Investments.

Our very own President of Japantown Merchants Association, Richard Hashimoto gave a wonderful and inspiring speech. He spoke of the city's redevelopment project and how it created a Japanese cultural and commercial center, but noted that it also came at a cost for families in more than 2,000 residences and businesses that were razed. He reminded those gathered that Japantown was 36 blocks large and after Urban Renewal it shrunk down to 9 blocks, and businesses that survived must be preserved. Among those also present were Alice Kawahatsu, President of the Japantown Task Force, Mohammed Nuru, Director of DPW, City Administrator Naomi Kelly, SFMTA Director, Ed Reiskin, and OEWD Deputy Director, Joaquin Torres. Adam Straus, founder of Straus Events was responsible for putting on this inspiring event.

View the video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PFv3BcD7qn8>



## Union Street Easter Sunday Parade

We were invited by Lesley Leonhardt, the Executive Director of the Union Street Association. She said that she would love us to join in the Parade, which travels along four blocks of Union Street with decorated convertibles. That morning we had our Executive Committee meeting, then Vas and I got together to attach our signs on the doors of our rented convertible and traveled to the staging area. Along the way I picked up Eva Lee, Board Member of Chinatown Merchants Association, and Nikki Cooper, Board Member of the Lower Haight Merchants and Neighbors Association, whose family followed us in their car. The parade included Mayor Mark Farrell, District 2 Supervisor Catherine Stefani, Senator Scott Wiener and Eleanor Carpenter, President of Union Street Association.

It was a really beautiful, sunny and warm day and it was great fun waving to the crowd gathered along the route watching, and cheering Happy Easter to them!

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 April schedule of meetings and events in my next monthly newsletter - **“from the President’s Desk”**.



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