

July 6, 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 June 2018.

## 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner



Our Annual Gala Celebration & Awards Dinner has become a very popular event. The Gala Committee first met in January and we were intending to have the event on May 23. We changed the date so as not to coincide with the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association Annual Luncheon, organized by their President, David Heller. Our event date was moved to June 13, and, despite the relatively such short time frame, the Gala ended up being sold out with over 300 guests attending!



I extend my appreciation and sincere thanks to Vice President Albert Chow, Secretary Yuka Ioroi, Executive Administrator Vas Kiniris, Maryo Mogannam, Jean Feilmoser, Anthony De La Cruz, Judy Slotsky, Ric Lopez, Eva, Lee, Nikki Cooper, Dominic Lloyd and David Heller who worked really hard to make this a spectacular event. I also extend my sincere thanks to our sponsor Ravi Sadarangani, the many businesses who donated items for the raffle and live auction and to Thuy Truong for her "A Vanity Affair" photo booth.

For more about the 2018 Gala, including a full list of the Raffle and Live Auction donors and prizes, please visit [www.sfcdma.org/2018-gala](http://www.sfcdma.org/2018-gala).

# Marina Merchants Mixer



Our Executive Administrator, Vas Kiniris and I were present at the well attended mixer, held at Monaghans Bar on Pierce Street. I am really pleased to see the Marina Merchants Association up and running, thanks to the efforts of Cameron Crockett. At last they are getting a board together and one of our past Presidents, Jim Maxwell, has decided to be on the board. It was really good to see Regina Dick-Endrizzi, Executive Director of the San Francisco Office of Small Business, who put on an excellent presentation about the latest legislation that will affect small business. She also spoke about registering for legacy businesses.

# SF Travel 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon



Vas Kiniris and I were invited as guests of Airbnb to this extravaganza which, this year, was held at the recently-completed section of the Moscone Center South. Among those joining us at the table was Darlene Chiu Bryant, Sarah Simon, Mick Del Rosario and Cali Martin.

Entertainment was provided by "Beach Blanket Babylon" and Breanna Sinclairé, a transgender singer, who became the first transgender woman to sing the American national anthem at a professional sporting event and sang a wonderful rendition of "O Mio Babbino Caro".

Presentations included the John A. Marks Scholarship, presented by Kevin Carroll, Executive Director, Hotel Council of San Francisco and Michael Pace, General Manager, The Clift Royal Sonesta Hotel and President, Hotel and Restaurant Foundation, to Chuck Judd, University of San Francisco; The Crystal Bridge Award presented by Outgoing Board Chair Melinda Yee Franklin to Jeff Kahn, CPA, Senior Accountant / Event Contracts Manager, SPIE; and the Silver Cable Car Award, presented by Incoming Board Chair Peter Gomez, to The Presidio of San Francisco, Recipient Jean Fraser, CEO, Presidio Trust.

The speakers included Ina Murray, Wells Fargo San Francisco Region Bank President, Incoming Board Chair Peter Gomez, Vice President of Global Sales, Two Road Hospitality, and closing remarks by Joe D'Alessandro.

# Japantown Merchants Association Honoring of Mayor Elect London Breed



I applaud and commend the President of the Japantown Merchants Association, Richard Hashimoto, who, along with the Japantown Task Force and the Japantown CBD, invited San Francisco Mayor-Elect London Breed to celebrate and congratulate her on winning the mayoral election. Myself and Vas Kiniris were honored to be invited. Among the many dignitaries present were Reverend Cecil Williams and Public Defender Jeff Adachi. The MC was Jeff Mori and the speakers included Police Sergeant Richard Jue, former Airport Commissioner Caryl Ito and the Executive Director for the Japanese Community Youth Council Jon Osaka. Mayor Elect Breed gave a very warm speech about the special relationship between the African American and Japanese communities. She mentioned how as a kid she and her friends would run across Geary Boulevard to go play at the Japantown Bowl. She also spoke about how both communities grew up together. It was lovely being greeted at the check-in table by former President of the Japantown Task Force Alice Kawahatsu.

## One Richmond



In January, District 1 Supervisor Sandra Lee Fewer's office, in cooperation with the Richmond District Neighborhood Center, launched a survey for Richmond District residents to gather feedback on neighborhood character, landmarks and favorite spots.

The resulting data was used for a new marketing campaign called One Richmond, designed to strengthen a collective identity for the neighborhood that promotes the values of inclusiveness, compassion, community pride and shopping local.

The kick-off was a free community event at Argonne Elementary School, which included participation by the Greater Geary Boulevard Merchants and Property Owners Association and Balboa Village Merchants Association. Geary President David Heller and Balboa Board Member Yuka Iroji, manned their respective booths. There were also other exhibitors from the neighborhood, as well as food, music and assorted resources.

In the evening there was a free movie night at the Richmond District YMCA in Rossi Park, which screened the original Jumanji film starring Robin Williams.

# Fillmore Jazz Festival



The Fillmore Merchants Association and Steven Restivo Event Services, Inc. hosted the 35th Annual Fillmore Jazz Festival, the largest free Jazz festival on the West Coast, drawing over 100,000 visitors, over the Independence Day period, blending art and soul in one of the country's most unique neighborhoods.

The kickoff was on a band stage where, joining Vas Kiniris, the Executive Director of the Fillmore Merchants Association, and I, was District 2 Supervisor, Catherine Stefani, who spoke about the history of the Fillmore and presented an award to Fillmore Merchants Association President Ron Benitez. Also on the stage was Northern Station Police Captain Joseph Engler and Pacific Height Residents Association Board Member Lynne Newhouse Segal.

Thank you Daniel Bahmani for the photographs and Secretary of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, Anthony De La Cruz, for dropping by for a visit.

# Ocean Avenue Merchants Association



As Castro Merchants President Daniel Bergerac mentioned when our neighborhood maps first were printed, we should reach out and encourage existing associations to join our family and help new ones get started. I am really pleased that our Executive Administrator Vas Kiniris is doing just that. He met with the new President of Ocean Avenue Merchants Association, Alexander Mullaney, who took Vas for a tour and will be coming to our next meeting.

# Leadership Development Workshop

Thank you to the Past President of Glen Park Merchants Association, Ric Lopez, who organized a Leadership Development Workshop, last month, led by Paul H. Ryder, PhD, Professor of Leadership, Ethics, & Innovation, University of San Francisco. It was an all-day event held in a conference room at Airbnb with an attendance of 14 CDMA delegates. Dr. Paul Ryde was really excellent at explaining how to improve workplace relationships and communications.

**A REMINDER! THE MINIMUM WAGE INCREASED TO \$15.00 PER HOUR ON JULY 1!**

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



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