

January 2023



Our monthly news & updates

[Visit our Website!](#)



ELECTION OF SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BOARD MEMBERS

On December 20, 2022, the Chamber membership voted to elect four candidates to the Chamber's Board of Directors.

Thank you to all the Chamber members who voted!

The following candidates were elected to the Board of Directors:

Keri Kirby, Sitike Counseling Center

Sailesh Mehra, SM8

Shetal Patel, Hampton Inn, San Francisco Airport

Pravin Punjiya, Fairfield Inn by Marriot SFO Airport North

2023 BOARD OFFICERS ELECTED

In compliance with Chamber bylaws, an election was held for the 2023 Board Officers on December 30, 2022.

Congratulations to the newly elected officers:

President: Kristin Ditlevsen, Beacon Business Bank

Vice President: Olga Garcia, CG Moving Company

Treasurer: Kevin Williams, California Water Service Company

Thank you to three Board members who termed out on
December 31, 2022:

Tony Clifford, Jim McGuire, and Gus Shihadeh.

Thank you for bringing your passion, intellect, insight and experiences to the Board. We appreciate all that you've done for the Chamber as well as the South San Francisco community!



WELCOME TO OUR NEW BOARD OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Kristin Ditlevsen, President

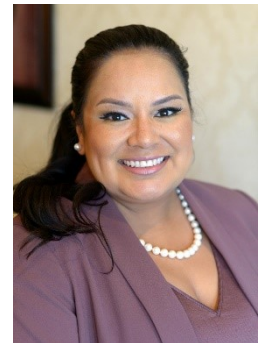
Kristin has over 30 years of banking experience with a focus on commercial lending and relationship management, and executive management. She is currently employed at Beacon Business Bank as Senior Vice President and Sr. Relationship Manager. Originally from the Santa Cruz area, she has been working in South San Francisco since 2018. Kristin has served on the board of directors for Rotary Club of Aptos, United Way of Santa Cruz, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Santa Cruz, and she is currently on the board of Sitike Counseling Center in South San Francisco.



Olga Garcia, Vice President

As a Customer Service Manager for CG Moving Company, Olga manages all aspects of customer interaction including site visits, estimates, invoices, payments, customer reviews, and public relations.

Our company, founded in 2005, has extensive relocation experience, including CSLB License for modular system installation, office equipment, furniture relocation, and biotech environments. We have relocated law offices, ranging from one attorney to large corporations. We are experienced in handling sensitive documents in high stake environments where the downtime is



minimized by working overnight. We also work with vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly. We've relocated children in at-risk environments, to and from group homes as well as elderly clients transitioning to assisted living facilities. Anyone can move furniture, we are smart, safe, professional movers! We are licensed commercial and residential movers, and we are very active in local, state, and national business and trade associations.

Olga currently serves as co-president of the Northern Region Chapter of the California Moving and Storage Association. She is the co-founder of the "Women of the Move" series and conferences. Olga has organized and done outreach on a series of events and panels, in support of the women's leadership and professional development for women in the moving industry.

Olga has also served as a board member on the Golden Gate Business Association, and, member of the San Mateo Area Chamber of Commerce-Hispanic/Latino Chamber of Commerce Advisory Committee.

Kevin Williams, Treasurer

Kevin was born and raised in the Bay Area and his family first immigrated to San Francisco in 1902. He has deep roots in the Bay Area and gives back through his involvement in various local groups such as the Menlo Park Italian-American club, San Carlos Little League organization, and the California Waterfowl Association. He is currently a superintendent for California Water Service Company (Cal Water) Bayshore District. He has been with Cal Water for over 10 years where he oversees the districts emergency preparedness, inter-agency relations, regulatory water quality compliance sampling and reporting, the operation and maintenance of nearly 60 water storage tanks, and a ground water treatment facility in South San Francisco among other responsibilities.



Shetal Patel - Director

Shetal graduated from the University of Georgia in 2002 with a Bachelor's in Business Management. Growing up in the family business she helped her parents from the young age of 15. Assisting her parents in day to day operations and helping them adapt to changes in the hospitality industry. After graduating, she spent a year learning the entirety of hotel operations in her home state of Mississippi. After marriage, she moved to South San Francisco and was assigned to operate the Hampton Inn SFO Airport in 2003. She eventually became the Director of Sales. Later, she took on the role of National Director of Sales for their own



management company, South Hospitality Services training and guiding Sales directors in CA, MS, & LA. Currently, she is Director of Sales for the West Region. She is married to Vishal “BJ” Patel, who is currently the Chief Operating Officer for the West Region for the company She enjoys travelling and spending time with her kids! Joining the SSF Chamber as a Board of Director will be an opportunity to give back to the city where she has lived for 20 years and dive into something new!

Keri Kirby - Director

Keri is the Executive Director at Sitike Counseling Center, a South San Francisco nonprofit that provides addiction, mental health, and violence prevention programs. She is a seasoned leader with more than 17 years experience in operations, strategic planning and program design, clinical and educational services, fundraising, marketing and communications and event and volunteer management. Keri's deep experience with programs, operations, and advancement, her people-centered and relational approach, and her passion for addressing social inequities through a trauma-informed lens make her a valuable addition to the South San Francisco community. Keri holds a master's degree in Counseling, with a specialization in Rehabilitation, from San Francisco State University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Sociology from Sonoma State University.



SAVE THE DATE
PLEASE NOMINATE

**Annual Recognition
and
Business Awards**



March 23, 2023 at SSF Conference Center

[CLICK HERE FOR NOMINATION FORM](#)

**South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce
2023 Nominations for
Annual Recognition & Business Awards March 23, 2023**

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Organization: _____ Email: _____

AWARD CATEGORIES

- **Pivot Pro/Innovation Award:** COVID-19 has thrown us all for a loop. During the pandemic this organization did not miss a beat, was responsive and adapted to its business and to the current climate.
- **Veteran Owned Business Achievement:** Recognizes a veteran owned small business that has attained outstanding business achievement.
- **Minority Owned/Woman Owned Small Business:** Recognizes a minority owned and/or woman owned organization that exhibits excellence and best business practices.
- **Legacy/Family Owned Business:** This award acknowledges businesses, second generation or older, where executive leadership has been passed down, and show prospect of thriving through the next generation.
- **Business of the Year:** A business that has achieved remarkable results and accomplishments within their industry and has moved their company forward, exemplifies excellent corporate citizenship by giving back to the local community and possesses a corporate culture that enhances the lives of its employees.
- **Small Business of the Year:** Recognizes a small business that has demonstrated an exemplary level of leadership and community engagement to assist the needs of its community, and to service the needs of its customers, employees, and neighbors.
- **Chamber Director of the Year:** This award is presented to a Chamber Board of Director whose exemplary service, contributed time, resources and leadership has impacted the South San Francisco Community.
- **Special Recognition Award:** Recognized by their peers as an individual or business who exhibits trust, kindness, a helping hand, and is the behind the scenes everyday hero.
- **Joe Fernekes Volunteer of the Year:**
- **Dick Noftsgger Lifetime Achievement:**

WRITE IN NOMINEE: I nominate (Company, Organization, Person)

Name: _____ Title: _____
Key Contact: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ City/Zip: _____
Phone: _____

Describe nominee's qualifications for this award. Please include any supporting documentation. Use the back of this form or attach a separate sheet of paper. You may nominate your own business.

Please email this form to info@ssfchamber.com before January 20, 2023.

New Disposable Foodware Ordinance Aims to Reduce Plastic Pollution

The County of San Mateo and several local cities including South San Francisco, Millbrae, and Brisbane, have adopted a Disposable Foodware Ordinance. It became effective on October 1, 2022.

The Ordinance aims to reduce waste by eliminating disposable foodware (cups, plates, clamshells, straws, utensils, etc.) that isn't reusable or compostable, especially plastic foodware that persists in the environment and contains harmful chemicals. The Ordinance requires restaurants and other food facilities that serve prepared food to use natural fiber-based compostable foodware. Aligning

Are You FOODWARE AWARE?

A new foodware ordinance became effective on **October 1, 2022**



with new state law (AB 1276), accessories such as utensils, straws, and toothpicks

can now only be distributed by request and/or at one-at-a-time dispensers, except for drive-throughs and airports.

Do you own or work for a restaurant or other food facility?

Make sure your food facility is compliant with the new Foodware Ordinance by using the resources available at smcfoodware.com, including

detailed requirements, a comprehensive Product Purchasing Guide, FAQs, and printed educational materials. For additional questions and technical assistance contact the County's Foodware Aware Hotline by phone at 888-442-2666 or by email to foodware@smcgov.org.



Resolve to Keep Organic Waste Out of the Landfill

State law (Senate Bill 1383) and corresponding local ordinances require Californians to separate yard waste, food scraps, food-soiled paper, clean paper and cardboard from their garbage. Why not make it your New Year's resolution to fully comply and encourage others to do the same? You will be helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, preserve landfill space, and create fuel and compost. Plus, you'll avoid possible service delays and fines. Please visit www.ssfscavenger.com/sort-smart to brush up on proper waste sorting. If you don't already have blue bins for clean paper and cardboard recycling, and a green bin for organic waste like food scraps, food-soiled paper, and yard trimmings, call us today at 650.589.4020!



NEW DISPOSABLE FOODWARE ORDINANCE

RESOLVE TO KEEP ORGANIC WASTE OUT OF THE LANDFILL

WE RECYCLE CHRISTMAS TREES

HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

DID SOMEBODY SAY FEAST?

BLUE LINE TRANSFER INFORMATION

SSFSCAVENGER.COM

SSF SCAVENGER COMPANY

YOUR RECYCLING, ORGANICS & GARBAGE SERVICE PROVIDER

500 East Jamie Court
South San Francisco,
CA 94080
Phone: 650.589.4020



Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW) Thursday Nights Starting Jan 12

Our first Winter Program kicks off in just 2 weeks with **Certified Specialist of Wine (CSW)**! We'll be hosting this program live from San Francisco Wine School in **Hybrid Format**, so you can choose to be with us in the room with wine in your glass or on zoom with a tasting kit. You can also view the video on your own later when you can't make the live session.

These 10 powerful workshops cover tasting, viticulture and enology and the entire world of wine to help prepare you for Society of Wine Educators' highly respected CSW Credential exam. Taste over 50 wines throughout the program.

[Learn More!](#)



renaissance
entrepreneurship center

UPCOMING CLASSES & EVENTS



**NEW YEAR
NETWORKING:
GO GREEN!**

Learn how to have or start a green business by talking with other green businesses!

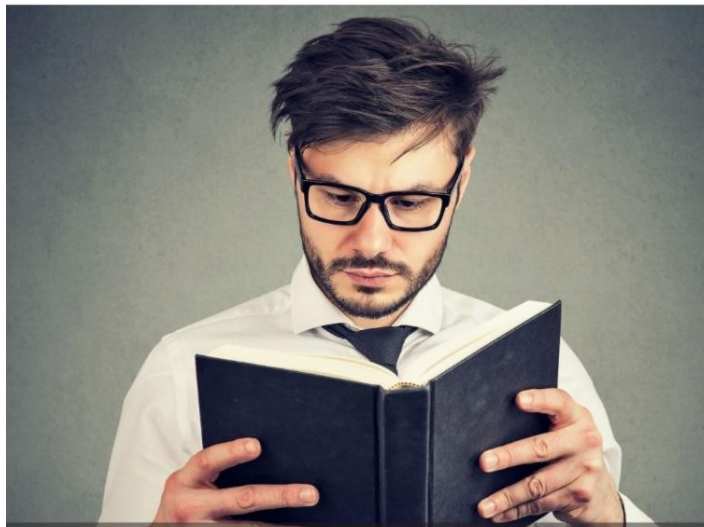
JAN 18 | 6 PM - 7:30 PM

With Carlos Reyes & Alexia Huerta

Renaissance BRC Site
366 Grand Ave, SSF, CA 94080

rencenter.org





REGISTER
RENCENTER.ORG

BRC@RENCENTER.ORG
650-829-4660

LEARN FROM THE BEST LESSONS FROM BUSINESS BOOKS

Do you wish you had time to read all of those business books? You don't have to! Our instructor reads these books to share the best words of wisdom in just 1.5 hours.

JAN 18 | 6 - 7:30 PM
Online via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR BETH HOUTROW
REGISTER AT RENCENTER.ORG



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BRC@RENCENTER.ORG
650-829-4660

WHAT CONTENT DO YOU NEED FOR YOUR WEBSITE?

Do you have a business story? Can you talk about your products in an effective way? Learn more about how to present your business online!

JAN 23 | 12 - 1 PM
Online via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR NICOLE MORENO-DEINZER
REGISTER AT RENCENTER.ORG



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The San Francisco
Community Business Law Center

Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center and the
San Francisco Community Business Law Center present:

BEFORE YOU SIGN THAT LEASE

The pre-printed lease form is complex and confusing, and the broker is pressuring you to sign right now – **but wait!**

Before you sign that lease and move in, there are many parts of an office, retail, or other commercial lease that you can and **MUST** negotiate with the landlord to increase the odds of success for your business.



An experienced business and real estate attorney will help you understand the fine print in typical commercial leases, with emphasis on the lease terms and commercial real estate laws that can help you get through periods of financial difficulty or deal with a non-performing landlord.

We will also discuss the process of renewing, amending or modifying your lease during an economic down-cycle.

January 25, 2023

Online, beginning at 6:00 p.m. No late entry allowed.

By registering for this program, you acknowledge and agree that:

- This educational group discussion is not privileged or confidential, and does not constitute a legal consultation or legal advice.
- Your attendance does not establish an attorney-client relationship or obligate The San Francisco Community Business Law Center (the "BLC") or Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center ("Renaissance") to provide any ongoing legal services or any follow-up information regarding changes in laws or regulations.
- It will not be possible for the BLC or Renaissance to review or prepare legal documents for you, or to individually advise or represent you regarding any legal matter or legal dispute.
- No recording or publication of BLC materials is allowed. Please do not duplicate, quote, or excerpt without specific written permission.
- You are eligible for pro bono legal education and self-help support for local San Francisco Bay Area low-income community microbusiness owners who cannot afford to pay a lawyer.
- Renaissance and the BLC do not make referrals to for-profit law firms or legal service companies, and do not permit any program participant to solicit or refer to for-profit law firms or legal service companies (or other for-profit professional firms).

Register here: tinyurl.com/renclientportal



HOW TO WRITE ENGAGING CONTENT FOR SOCIAL MEDIA & WEBSITES

Need help in getting more views on your website?
Looking to get more likes and comments on your
posts? Learn more about how to write effectively
for your website or social media page.

JAN 30 | 12 - 1 PM
Online via Zoom

INSTRUCTOR NICOLE MORENO-DEINZER
REGISTER AT RENCENTER.ORG

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RENCENTER.ORG

BRC@RENCENTER.ORG
650-829-4660



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JOIN OUR **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

We are seeking dedicated, diverse and enthusiastic Board Members to help advance our mission and vision. The people who make up our Board of Directors are ordinary people with an extraordinary goal - to help those struggling with addiction and mental health challenges find hope, resiliency, and life-affirming change.





IF YOU THRIVE IN ANY OF THESE AREAS, WE NEED YOU:

- Advocacy
- Communications
- Fundraising
- Law
- Marketing
- Technology
- Public Policy
- Public Relations



**Please submit your resume and cover letter to
Keri Kirby, Executive Director, at
kkirby@sitike.org.**



You can RSVP and pay for our events by going to the calendar section and clicking on the event you want to attend. Registration is for SSF Chamber members.

Not a Chamber member yet?
Contact the Chamber at
info@ssfchamber.com
or visit www.ssfchamber.com

Follow us on [Facebook](#) for the latest Chamber news.

SSF Chamber Calendar of Events

**SSF Chamber and See's Candies
Sip n Shop at See's Candies
Thursday, February 2, 2023
6pm-7:30pm
See's Candies
400 S. Airport Blvd., SSF**

**SSF Chamber of Commerce Annual Recognition
& Business Awards
Thursday, March 23, 2023 (tentative)
Reception at 6:00pm, Dinner at 7:00pm
255 S. Airport Blvd, SSF**

**SSF Chamber of Commerce Scholarship
Luncheon
Thursday, April 20, 2023
11:30am-1:30pm
Basque Cultural Center
599 Railroad Ave., SSF**

**The 35th Annual Taste of SSF
Friday, November 3, 2023
12:00n – 2:00pm
South San Francisco Conference Center
255 S. Airport Blvd, SSF**

South San Francisco Chamber Member Benefit

Did you know as one of the many benefits of being our member that you can submit your events for Chamber approval through our monthly newsletter, or social media outlets. Once approved, it will be listed on our [event calendar](#)!



GOODWILL of the San Francisco Bay
Michelle Elston
750 Post Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
melston@sfgoodwill.org
(415)279-0047
<https://sfgoodwill.org/>

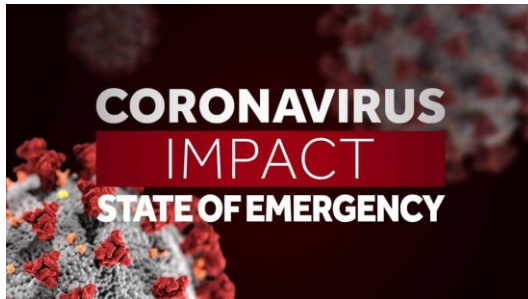
Thank You! RENEWING MEMBERS

Your support is truly appreciated!

Brother's Furniture Warehouse (January 2008)
Burrell Haircutting Place (October 2020)
BWF Consulting Engineers (December 1986)
Carpenters Union Local 217 (October 2003)
Cheung Hing BBQ Restaurant (October 2013)
Crain Marketing, Inc. (January 2019)
Crain Walnut Shelling, L.P (January 2020)
E-Plus Studio Inc. (September 2011)
Garden Chapel (January 1969)
JAS Forwarding USA (November 1997)
Kenny Realty (January 1970)
Kiwanis Club of SSF (October 2000)
Let's Resume! LLC (October 2021)
Luminous Day Spa Inc. (December 2007)
Nicolas Family (October 2017)
Project 101 Associates (January 2004)
Radius Optometry (October 2014)
San Francisco Wine School (October 2015)
San Mateo County Harbor District (January 1979)
Scott Buschman Photography (January 1999)
South San Francisco Rotary Club (January 1994)

Legislative Watch List

We take care of politics so you can take care of your business



California to end the COVID state of emergency

CalMatters



Factors to Consider When Deciding Whether to Pay for "Try-Out" Time

CalChamber Alert

Chairman Circle Members

Chairman's Circle members receive benefits above and beyond typical membership, with the highest visibility at Chamber events and in publications

Chairman Circle – GOLD MEMBER

Genentech

A Member of the Roche Group

Chairman Circle – SILVER MEMBERS



Chairman Circle – BRONZE MEMBERS



2023 Board Officers

President
Kristin Ditlevsen
Beacon Business Bank

Vice President
Olga Garcia
CG Moving Company

Treasurer

Board of Directors

Bill Benavides
BLT Construction

Matthew Butler
Tri Counties Bank

David Huddleston
BWP Grosvenor Hotel

Chamber Personnel

Chief Executive Officer
vacant

Staff
Linda Parenti
Arlene Dozier

Kevin Williams
California Water Service

Daniela Jonguitud
Chajinel Home Care Services

Keri Kirby
Sitike Counseling Center

Reggie Kumar
AC Hotel by Marriott SFO

Darius Lahtinen
Genentech

Sailesh Mehra
SM8

Natalia Morales
Kilroy Realty Corporation

Christina Ng
Grand Palace Restaurant

Shetal Patel
Hampton Inn SFO

Pravin Punjiya
Fairfield Inn by Marriott SFO

Kevin Worth
Kaiser Permanente