

September 2023



Our monthly news & updates

[Visit our Website!](#)

A Message from Chamber Board Vice- President, Sailesh Mehra

I am deeply honored to have been chosen to serve on the 110-year-old South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in January. I am also grateful to have been elected to the position of vice president of the board. I am in awe of this organization, its history and all of the truly dedicated individuals who have served the chamber over its century-old legacy.

As we embark on this new journey, I am keenly looking forward to take our Chamber to new heights. My primary goal is to support our new CEO, Mary Prem, as well as our President, Olga Garcia. Under their stewardship, I'm confident that our amazing organization will continue to soar to new heights. I also look forward to learning from my Board of Directors—they are all profoundly dedicated and masters in their particular fields.

Some of the areas I would like to focus on, in no particular order, include: strengthening our relationships with the community at-large; building an affiliation with the airport; increase our involvement with and support of our warehousing, freight-forwarding, production, distribution and repair businesses. These businesses continue to add depth and vibrancy to our community and made it “The Industrial City.” Secondly, while the Chamber has strong ties with the school district through its Education Foundation, I would like our Chamber to now build a bridge to the middle and elementary schools. Specifically, the Chamber could become the facilitator between elementary and middle school students and the life science cluster, construction and development professionals and the trades (welders, electricians, mechanics, etc.). This introduction will give our students a wide range of professional opportunities to consider pursuing.

Thirdly, our Chamber needs to build a strong bond with our biotech REITs (Real Estate Investment Trust). These REITs have built large campuses in our city and have expressed an eagerness to be more involved with the Chamber and the community. Their partnerships with the Chamber, City and the Community will be invaluable. This bond will also help connect the “East side” with the rest of the city.

Lastly, I truly want the Chamber to continue to cultivate and help small businesses to flourish. The economy and the pandemic notwithstanding, small businesses, especially those in the food service



industry, have an uphill battle. They continue to face challenges due to staffing issues, lack of customers, the positives and negatives of third-party delivery apps, rising rents and costs.

In closing, I want to emphasize that we cannot go forward without embracing our past. Our Chamber is what it is because of the dedicated individuals that have shaped it into a legacy. We are its custodians now and will nurture it and continue to make it flourish with our members, the community and the city as our partners.

A Message from the CEO of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce

Dear Chamber Members and Esteemed Colleagues,

As the autumn winds start to flow through South San Francisco, change and renewal are in the air for our business community. Our September newsletter comes filled with updates, upcoming opportunities, and a note of sincere appreciation for your continued commitment to making our Chamber a bustling hub of innovation and camaraderie.



Record Turnout at Chico Marx Mixer

We kicked off the season with an incredible networking event at Chico Marx. The energy was palpable as we saw a record turnout, with a diverse mix of business owners engaging in meaningful conversations and collaborations. Thank you for making it a night to remember.

New Member Benefits on the Horizon

We understand that every dollar counts when you're running a business. That's why we're thrilled to announce we are in the process of negotiating new member benefits. These will include substantial discounts on insurance, purchases, and other exclusive perks that will add real value to your membership. Stay tuned for more details.

Genentech Goes to Town – Celebrating 30 Remarkable Years

Our longstanding partnership with Genentech reaches a significant milestone this year—the 30th anniversary of 'Genentech Goes to Town.' This time-honored initiative will run from September 11th to the 22nd and will feature a special perk for Genentech employees: each will receive \$30 in GenenMoney to spend at local businesses. This program has not only consistently supported our merchants but has also been a cornerstone in enriching our local business ecosystem.

Taste of South San Francisco at the New Civic Center

Our much-anticipated 'Taste of South San Francisco' is set to be hosted at the brand new Civic Center—a prime location to showcase the city's architectural marvel while indulging in its culinary wonders. Due to the venue's intimate setting, we will be featuring just 25 select restaurants. So, if you're looking to showcase your delicacies, register early to secure your spot. Moreover, attendees will have the chance to vote for the 'South City Restaurant of the Year.' May the best flavors win!

Let's Collaborate

As we move into the final stretch of 2023, I encourage each and every one of you to reach out and share your victories, challenges, and ideas for growth. Your input is invaluable, and you never know—we might just have the perfect collaborative partner in mind for you.

Thank you for being a part of this extraordinary journey. Together, we're not just doing business; we're building a community, enriching lives, and making South San Francisco a vibrant place to live and work.

Warm regards,
Mary Prem
CEO, South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Join the Team SSF Holiday Gift Program and Boost Your Business this Season

The South San Francisco City Manager's Office is excited to extend an invitation to local businesses interested in participating in the Team SSF Holiday Gift Program. Designed with dual objectives in mind, this initiative aims to both uplift our local business community and offer a curated selection of holiday gifts to Team SSF staff.

If this piques your interest and you're considering getting involved—or if you'd simply like more information—please reach out to Marie Patea directly. Marie is available at 650-829-6666 or via email at marie.patea@ssf.net. You can also visit the City Manager's Office located on the top floor of City Hall for a face-to-face discussion.

Don't miss the deadline: we request that all interested parties contact us by November 1, 2023. We genuinely value your participation and look forward to a successful holiday season together.

SAVE THE DATE



The City of SSF invites you to a
COMMUNITY MEETING
ON CHILD CARE IN SSF

SAT, SEPT 16 | 10 AM - 12 PM

**Joseph A, Fernekes Building
in Orange Memorial Park
781 Tennis Drive, SSF, CA 94080**

Parents & Guardians, Child Care Providers, ECE Staff, Child Care Advocates...

We want to hear from you!!!

Looking for or using child care? Working in the child care field in SSF?

**Learn more about the 2022 SSF Child Care Master Plan by joining Co-Chairs
Mayor Flor Nicolas and Councilperson James Coleman!**

**Share your childcare needs and concerns with members of the Child Care
Advisory Committee and City leaders and Celebrate National Working
Parents Day on September 16th!!**

CONTACT

childcareplan@ssf.net

Kathleen White kathleen.white@ssf.net

Laura Armanino 650 829-3983



SAVE
DATE

PASSION TO P



NOV 8
5:30 - 8

Bringing together Daly
to reflect on success
growth opp

Featu

Renaissance Entrepreneu
Daly City, Daly City Econ
Cow Palace Team, Daly
Commerce, Environmen
Business Network, CD

CONTACT

(650) 829-4652

brc@rencenter.org

366 Grand Ave., South San Francisco, CA 94080

FREE
CLASS!



Ready to start your busi

START SMA

5-WEEK IN PERSON CLAS



THURSDAYS

SEPT 28 - OCT 26



SSF ADULT EDUCATION

825 SOUTHWOOD DRIVE, SSF,

- DEFINE YOUR VISION
- CREATE A MISSION STATEMENT
- ASSESS YOUR SKILLS, PASSION AND RESOURCES
- CRAFT A BUSINESS STRATEGY TO MATCH YOUR REALITY
- TEST THE VIABILITY OF YOUR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

JOIN US

RENCENTER.ORG/CALENDAR
BRC@RENCENTER.ORG
650-829-4652



2023 Fall Class Bayshore Libra

460 Martin St, Daly City, CA 9



SEPT 7

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Canva: Learn t

Instructor: Abby Feder

A class for absolute beginners
graphic design tool. Learn the
designs for print or web!



SEPT 14

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Canva: Practic

Instructor: Abby Feder

Review the basics of Canva and y
Participants will get hands-on ex



SEPT 21

6:00 - 7:00 pm

Tech Basics De

Instructor: Abby Feder

Whether you are a tech novice or
the digital world or simply looking
digital skills, this class is design
applicable to everyday life.

Contact

(650) 829-4652
brc@rencenter.org
366 Grand Ave.
So. San Francisco, CA 94080
rencenter.org/calendar

About Us

Renaissance Entrepreneurship Cen
communities through entrepreneur
empower and increase the number
and economically diverse women
strengthening our communities by
businesses, jobs, and financial self

YOU ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

BLACK BUSINESS SUMMIT

Join us in celebrating San Mateo County
Black Owned Businesses.

Network with like-minded entrepreneurs, share
your thoughts on support needed for black business
owners, and learn about the resources available to
grow your business.

EVENT

2555 Pulgas Ave
East Palo Alto

Wed, Sept 13, 2023

5:30 PM-Doors Open
6:00-8:00 PM-Event

SAVE THE DATE



Register now!
Dinner will be provided,
please help us prepare by
submitting your RSVP!

for more information please contact info@sanmateosbdc.org | (650) 395-9130





Tutor Roundtab

Attend one session to learn about Project Read and Adult Literacy

**Saturday
September 23, 2023
or
November 18, 2023
10:30 AM - 12:00 PM**

- Teach & Assess Adult Learners
- Volunteer Duties
- Tutor Resources



Where?

Gene Mullin
Community Learning Center
520 Tamarack Lane
South San Francisco CA

Mak
an
T

For inquires, contact
(650) 829-3871 or projectread@ssf.net



PROJECT READ
North San Mateo County

BECOME VOLUNTEER TUTOR

MEET 1-1 WITH ADULT LITERACY GOAL

- Study for GED
- Share books with loved ones
- Read and write work-related
- Pass the Driver's License written
- and more!

Meet 1 -2 times a week in-person
online on your free time.

No experience required!
Free Tutor Training provided

If you are interested, contact
(650) 829-3870
projectread@ssf.net



Pancake Breakfast

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

Mission Blue Nursery
3435 Bayshore Blvd, Brisbane, CA

Breakfast Fundraiser: 9am - 11am
Native Plant Sale: 9am - 11am

Entry to plant sale is FREE!
Pancake breakfast tickets
available at the door or at
[www.mountainwatch.org/
pancakebreakfast2023](http://www.mountainwatch.org/pancakebreakfast2023)



PANCAKES FOR YOUR BELLY, PLANTS FOR YOUR



Grand Opening!



**SOUTHWOOD PLAZA
BLOCK PARTY**

659 EL CAMINO REAL SSF

SEPTEMBER 9, 2023
10:30 TO 6PM

@WALANGSAYANGECO



It's almost time for your annual flu shot

The CDC estimates that the flu shot prevents tens of thousands of hospitalizations annually. And if you do get sick with the flu, being vaccinated will likely reduce the severity of your symptoms.

Benefits of getting a flu shot

The flu shot helps reduce your risk of severe flu disease, hospitalization, and death. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), while the impact of the flu varies annually, each year between 2010 and 2020 it has resulted in:

- 9 – 45 million illnesses
- 140,000 – 810,000 hospitalizations
- 12,000 – 61,000 deaths

The most effective prevention against the seasonal flu is to get your annual flu shot which will be widely available in the community from health care providers and retail stores. Kaiser Permanente will be opening [seasonal flu clinics](#) throughout the Bay Area starting on September 11, 2023, and recommends getting a no-cost flu shot as soon as they are available.

Do I need a flu shot every year?

Flu viruses change each year, so it's important to get an annual flu shot.

What flu shot should people ages 65 and older get?

The CDC now recommends that people ages 65 and older get "higher dose" or "adjuvanted" flu shots.

When should I get the flu shot? Can I get it at the same time as my COVID-19 vaccination – first dose, second dose or booster?

I recommend getting the flu shot at your first opportunity and preferably by mid-October. An annual COVID-19 vaccination is also recommended and is expected to be available in late October and can be given at the same time as the flu vaccine.

Is the flu shot particularly important for some groups of people?

Yes. It is especially important for people who are at greater risk of flu complications: pregnant women, health care workers, people with compromised immune systems, children ages 6 months to 4 years, adults 50 and over, extremely obese people, people with diabetes, and people with chronic kidney, pulmonary, or cardiovascular diseases.

How can I get the flu shot?

Kaiser Permanente members can get a no-cost flu shot (as soon as they are available) during any doctor visit or at one of our flu shot locations. In early September, flu shot locations and hours can be found at kp.org/flu or by calling 1-800-777-7904.



John E. Skerry, MD
Physician in Chief
Kaiser Permanente South San Francisco

Friendly reminder to Chamber Members:

Have you changed your contact information, email address, or phone numbers?

Please provide the SSF Chamber of Commerce with your information to keep our website up to date.

You can email any changes to info@ssfchamber.com



Suzanne Lee

Senior Manager

Employee & Community Engagement Public Affairs & Access



Genentech
A Member of the Roche Group

This September marks the 30th anniversary of the wonderful small business support program, Genentech Goes to Town. This initiative has undoubtedly left a positive impact on our local economy over the past 30 years bringing more than \$3.5 million into more than 200 of our South City businesses. During 2 weeks in September, Genentech encourages employees to explore our downtown and small business community by providing them with “GenenMoney” that can be used at participating businesses. Shuttles between the Genentech campus and downtown reduce the parking impact and promote participation, and many of our small businesses use this annual program to draw in new customers that return throughout the year. You can’t miss the Grand Avenue Hardware sign that goes up every September welcoming folks and the happy diners filling our restaurants.

The SSF Chamber of Commerce partners with Genentech to promote and administer Genentech Goes To Town, and Genentech's unwavering dedication to giving back to the local community has helped our small businesses and Downtown area continue to thrive. Even through the challenges of the pandemic, Genentech continued to partner with the Chamber to understand the most pressing needs of small business owners and creatively adapt the Genentech Goes to Town program to address them.

Let's extend a warm welcome to Genentech employees, both new and returning, to our special Downtown this month. Genentech employees and local community members are invited to a 30th Anniversary Celebration on September 14th, from 11:30 am - 12:30 pm to commemorate this milestone before going out to support our downtown restaurants and shops.

**Genentech Goes to Town
30 Years of Neighborly Investment and Local Economic Vitality**

As we embrace fall, it's time to put a spotlight on a partnership that has been nothing short of transformative for our city. This year marks the 30th anniversary of Genentech's community-focused initiative, “Genentech Goes to Town.”

A Legacy of Neighborly Investment

Established as a beacon of biotechnology innovation, Genentech, born and bred in South San Francisco, has never forgotten its roots or its neighbors. What truly sets them apart as a community partner is their enduring commitment to enriching the well-being of our local community. This commitment shines brightly through their annual financial contributions to the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce—a generous act that underscores their faith in fostering collective, synergistic growth for our city. Inspired by this impactful collaboration, we warmly invite other large biotech firms to reach out to the Chamber to explore embarking on a similar program that benefits us all.

Unveiling the Magic of Genenmoney

You may have heard the term 'GenenMoney' around town, and if you've wondered what it is, you're in for a treat. It's not just a clever name; it's a currency of opportunity that stimulates our local economy. Every year, Genentech disburses GenenMoney to their employees, incentivizing them to discover and engage with businesses right here in our city. These aren't just one-off transactions but the building blocks of long-lasting relationships between local merchants and a workforce eager to explore what's in their own backyard.

A Grand Affair on Grand Ave

From quaint cafes to the specialized boutiques that line Grand Ave, the impact of GenenMoney is felt far and wide. As local business owners can attest, this initiative not only boosts sales but also fosters a sense of community. After all, nothing says "we're in this together" like seeing a familiar face walk through the door, GenenMoney in hand, ready to support a business they've come to love.

The Ripple Effect

The financial boon doesn't stop at the cash register. With increased revenue, businesses can hire more staff, expand their offerings, and participate in community events. This, in turn, creates a virtuous cycle of prosperity that benefits everyone from local vendors to job seekers and beyond.

The Road Ahead

As we celebrate this milestone anniversary, it's not just about looking back but also envisioning what's ahead. The partnership between Genentech and the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce serves as an exemplar for how corporations and communities can co-create thriving ecosystems. Here's to another 30 years of shared growth, mutual respect, and unbreakable community ties.

On behalf of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce, we extend a heartfelt thank you to Genentech for being not just a global pioneer in biotechnology but a local hero in community building.

Cheers to 30 years, and here's to many more!

Warmly,
The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce Team



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.

SSF Chamber Calendar of Events

**Genentech Goes to Town
September 11– 24**

The 35th Annual Taste of SSF

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

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

Thursday, November 2, 2023
12:00noon –2pm Taste
South San Francisco Civic Center
located at the corner of:
Chestnut Avenue and Antoinette
Lane
RSVP: info@ssfchamber.com

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](#)!



A52 Signs & Graphics, LLC

1111 Shafter Ave
San Francisco CA 94124
(415)235-8671
<https://www.a52signs.com/>

Agilent Technologies

5301 Stevens Creek Blvd.
Santa Clara CA 95051
(408)425-4408
<https://www.agilent.com/>

SIM Architects, Inc.

3675 Mount Diablo Blvd., Suite 310
Lafayette CA 94549
(415)362-8081
<https://www.simarchitectsinc.com/main/>

Shabu Shack Restaurant

200 Grand Ave
South San Francisco CA 94080
<https://www.shabushack.com>



Your support is truly appreciated!

Amador General Construction, Inc. (March 2022)
California Life Sciences Association (April 2009)
Carcione's Fresh Produce Co., Inc. (May 2000)
Darby Dan's Sandwich Co. (August 1981)
Grand 76 - Circle K (September 2013)
Historical Society of South San Francisco (July 2005)
Kimberly A. Liao, DDS (September 2017)
Lum Optometry (July 1998)
Robison-Nieri-White Construction (July 2012)
SSF Police Association, Inc. (July 1980)
System Designers Group (September 1990)

Legislative Watch List

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

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



Chairman Circle – SILVER MEMBERS



Chairman Circle – BRONZE MEMBERS



Board of Directors

2023 Board Officers

President
Olga Garcia
CG Moving Company

Vice President
Sailesh Mehra
SM8

Board of Directors

Bill Benavides
BLT Construction

Matthew Butler
Tri Counties Bank

David Huddleston

Chamber Personnel

Mary Prem
CEO

Arlene Dozier
Administrative Assistant

Annie Distefano
Office Assistant

Treasurer
Kevin Williams
California Water Service

Ex-Officio City Manager
Sharon Ranals

BWP Grosvenor Hotel

Daniela Jongitud
Chajinel Home Care
Services

Keri Kirby
Sitike Counseling Center

Reggie Kumar
AC Hotel by Marriott SFO

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

South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce | 213 Linden Avenue, South San Francisco, CA
94080

[Unsubscribe arlene@ssfchamber.com](mailto:arlene@ssfchamber.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by info@ssfchamber.com powered by



[Try email marketing for free today!](#)