

January 2025



Our monthly news & updates

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Celebrating 71 Years of the SSF Kiwanis Club

I had the privilege of being a guest speaker at the South San Francisco Kiwanis Club, thanks to an invitation from former interim Chamber CEO and Kiwanis Club member **Linda Parenti**. It was an honor to share insights about the Chamber's work and celebrate the Kiwanis' incredible 71st birthday! Established on December 2, 1953, this organization has been a cornerstone of community service and dedication in South San Francisco.

During the event, we also discussed the *Santa Comes to Town* program, highlighting the Kiwanis Club's enthusiastic support and the amazing community members who help bring this cherished holiday tradition to life.

A heartfelt thank you to Linda and the entire Kiwanis Club for the warm welcome and for your continued commitment to making our community a better place. Here's to 71 years of inspiring service!

A Message from the Desk of Mary Prem, A Fresh Start for 2025

CEO of the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce



Dear Chamber Members,

Happy New Year! As we step into 2025, I'm filled with gratitude for your ongoing support and excitement for the opportunities ahead. Together, we've accomplished so much, and I'm confident this year will bring even greater success for our Chamber and community.

To better serve you, we're making exciting changes to the Chamber Newsletter:

- We'll now publish twice a month, with one edition focused on Chamber business and another highlighting member events, specials, sales, and announcements.

This new format ensures we're amplifying your voice while keeping you informed. Make the most of your membership by sharing your special events, anniversaries, and promotions with us...we're here to help spread the word!

Consider hosting a Chamber Mixer at your business. It's a fantastic way to connect with fellow members, meet new clients, and strengthen your ties to the community. Hosting a mixer positions your business as a "good neighbor" while opening doors to valuable connections.

As we embrace the new year, it's also important to stay informed about new laws impacting businesses, including:

- California Minimum Wage Increase: Rising to \$16 per hour for all employers, with higher rates for larger organizations.
- Data Privacy Updates: Strengthened requirements under the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) for small businesses.
- Sustainability Mandates: Expanded waste reduction and recycling regulations to comply with updated standards.
- Workplace Protections: New training and compliance requirements addressing harassment and discrimination.

The Chamber is your partner in navigating these changes. Reach out for guidance, resources, and advocacy as we tackle the year ahead together.

Let's make 2025 a year of growth, connection, and success. Thank you for your membership and trust in the Chamber. Here's to all that we will achieve in the months to come!

Warm regards,
Mary Prem

Celebrating Solidaritus:

Ribbon Cutting in South San Francisco



This December, we welcomed Solidaritus Health Center to South San Francisco with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at their new office at 988 El Camino Real. The event marked an exciting milestone for the organization as they expand their mission of delivering innovative healthcare solutions to the community.

The ribbon was officially cut by Mayor James Coleman and Solidaritus CEO Mark Blum, joined by Chamber board members, local officials, and community supporters. The new office is a testament to Solidaritus' commitment to providing accessible and impactful healthcare services.

We are thrilled to have Solidaritus as part of our business community and look forward to seeing the positive impact they will have in South San Francisco. Congratulations to the entire Solidaritus team on this new chapter!

For more information please visit: <https://solidaritus.com/>



Chamber Attends Daly City Colma Chamber Cypress Business Achievements Gala

The South San Francisco Chamber was honored to attend the Cypress Business Achievements Gala, hosted by the Daly City Colma Chamber of Commerce at the beautiful Lake Merced Country Club. We were invited by our valued Chamber member, Matthew Divencenzi, owner of **Classic Bowling Center** and board member of the DCC Chamber.



This amazing holiday event, complete with festive caroling, brought together business and community leaders from across North San Mateo County. It was a wonderful evening of connection and celebration, highlighting the achievements of the local business community.

We are proud to collaborate with **Felicia Leong**, CEO of the DCC Chamber, to support and serve our shared business communities. Partnerships like these strengthen our collective impact and foster opportunities for growth and success.



Chamber Toy Drive Brings Holiday Cheer

This holiday season, the South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce organized a Toy Drive to help bring joy and warmth to our community. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and community members, we collected toys, coats, and gifts to brighten the holidays for those in need.

A special thank you to **Stripe**, **Evolve Training Center**, and **Thai Satay Restaurant** for serving as collection points and supporting this initiative. Your dedication to giving back has made a meaningful difference in the lives of so many.

Together, we've shown the true spirit of the season—community, compassion, and generosity. Thank you to everyone who contributed and helped make the holidays a little brighter for all!

Holiday Cheer at the SSF Women's Club & Chamber Mixer



The South San Francisco Women's Club and the Chamber teamed up for a festive Holiday Mixer and Toy Drive, spreading joy and community spirit. Thanks to generous toy donations from Chamber members, especially **Evolve Training Center**, we were able to support the SSF Police and Fire Departments and the Toys for Tots program, helping local families in need.

A huge shoutout to **Elaine Garbarino** and the Women's Club for hosting and treating everyone to amazing appetizers and wine. The holiday attire and creative ugly Christmas sweaters added extra cheer to the evening!

It was a wonderful night of networking, giving back, and celebrating the season.

For more information about the SSF Women's Club or to join, visit:
<https://www.ssfwomensclub.com/contact-us>.



A Magical Evening at the SSF Conference Center

As an ex-officio member of the South San Francisco Conference Center Authority Board, I had the pleasure of celebrating the holiday season at a stunning dinner hosted by the SSF Conference Center. Under the exceptional leadership of Executive Director **Jim McGuire**, a former Chamber board president, the evening was truly unforgettable. Guests enjoyed incredible food, festive cocktails, and breathtaking décor that transformed the space into a winter wonderland.



For more information please visit:
<https://ssfcon.com>

Dani & Roni Fandino Transform SSF City Hall into a Christmas Wonderland



A huge thank you to **Dani & Roni Fandino** from **Flowers and Events by Dani** for turning SSF City Hall into a magical Christmas wonderland! From the stunning Christmas tree adorned with flowers and handmade decorations by local school children to the elegant garland draped along the stairs, the transformation created the perfect backdrop for Santa Comes to Town photos with Santa.

As a dedicated Chamber board member, Dani generously covered the costs of the decorations and her staff's time to set up and take everything down. Her thoughtfulness and creativity brought holiday cheer to South City, making the season even brighter for the community.

Join us in thanking Dani & Roni for their generosity and holiday spirit. If you're planning an event and need a talented party planner or event decorator, contact Dani at flowersandeventsbydani@gmail.com.

Santa Comes to Town Brings Holiday Cheer to Grand Avenue



This year, ***Santa Comes to Town*** returned to its rightful place on Grand Avenue, thanks to the support of the South San Francisco City Council. The event brought hundreds of families together to celebrate the season, with smiles lighting up as children and parents lined up for photos with Santa at the beautifully decorated City Hall. Santa's grand entrance on an SSF Fire Engine was a highlight that delighted attendees of all ages.

The event was a true community effort, and we extend heartfelt thanks to our incredible volunteers and supporters who made it all possible:

- **Cesar Dominguez** of **Pro Color Collision** for planning, decorating, and personally handing out candy canes to every attendee after their photos with Santa.
- **Dani Fandino** of Flowers and Events by Dani for transforming City Hall into a magical Christmas wonderland.
- **SSF Parks and Recreation** for their partnership and support.

A special shoutout to our Chamber members who offered free treats as part of our holiday bingo game, spreading extra cheer:

- Antigua Coffee Shop: Free hot chocolate.
- Downtown Liquor: Free coffee and cookies.
- Cochinita: Free churro bites and a small taco.
- Curry Pizza House: Free cookie and discounted pizza.
- Bitters and Bottles: Free brandy tasting and alcohol-free spritzers.
- Cuneo Bakery: Free biscotti.

We also thank the **Renaissance Entrepreneurship Center** for their free gift-wrapping station and for hosting a holiday small business fair featuring local crafts and gifts.

A big round of applause to all the merchants who decorated their storefronts, bringing extra holiday spirit to Grand Avenue. The clear winner for the best-decorated store goes to **Antigua Coffee Shop**, which transformed into a storybook Christmas wonderland complete with snow and a visit from the Grinch!

Santa Comes to Town was a heartwarming celebration that showcased the spirit of South San Francisco. Thank you to everyone who participated, decorated, or volunteered to make this event a magical success. Here's to a new year filled with joy and community!



Antigua Coffee Shop Crowned Unanimous Winner of Best Decorated Window!

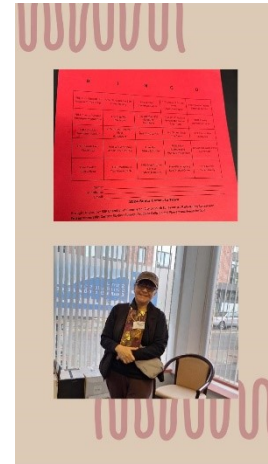


Congratulations to Our Bingo Winners!

We're thrilled to announce that Sylvia Mosqueda and Katie Deatherage were the lucky winners of our holiday bingo game! Both visited participating merchants, completed their bingo cards, and earned their well-deserved prizes.

Thank you to everyone who participated and supported our local businesses during this festive season.

Congratulations, **Sylvia and Katie!**



Skyline College Presidents Council Breakfast

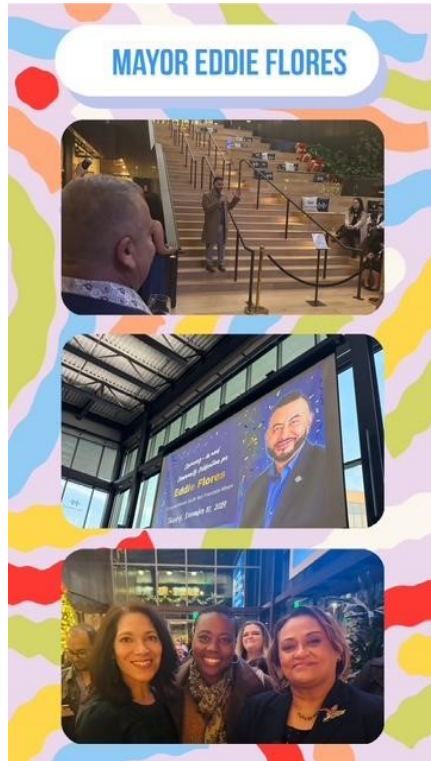
The Chamber had the delicious privilege of participating in a taste-testing session for the upcoming Skyline College President's Council Breakfast, scheduled for **March 21st**. Save the date and get ready to savor scrumptious breakfast delights while networking with local leaders, all in support of the President's Innovation Fund.

This annual breakfast not only offers a fantastic meal but also highlights the incredible work being done to foster innovation and excellence at Skyline College. As co-chair of this worthwhile cause, I am honored to be part of such meaningful efforts that benefit our community.

For more information, please visit:

<https://skylinecollege.edu/presidentscouncil/presidentsbreakfast.php>

Chamber Attends South San Francisco Reorganization Meeting



The SSF Chamber of Commerce was honored to attend the City's Reorganization Meeting, where the new leadership team was sworn in. Congratulations to Mayor **Eddie Flores**, the city's first Salvadoran-born mayor, and Vice Mayor **Mark Addiego** on their appointments! We also extend our congratulations to Council Members **Flor Nicolas**, **James Coleman**, and **Mark Nagales**, with the latter two reelected to continue serving our community.

The evening was a wonderful celebration of leadership and diversity, attended by a large and enthusiastic crowd at the **SSF Conference Center**. Guests enjoyed outstanding entertainment and a delicious Salvadoran dinner, a heartfelt nod to Mayor Flores' heritage.

We look forward to working with this dedicated team of leaders to support and uplift the South San Francisco community. Congratulations to all!



Chamber Attends Daly City Reorganization Meeting

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce was pleased to attend the Daly City Reorganization Meeting at Daly City City Hall. During the ceremony, the following leaders were sworn in:

- Dr. Rod Daus-Magbual, Mayor
- Glenn R. Sylvester, Vice Mayor
- Juslyn C. Manalo, Councilmember
- Pamela DiGiovanni, Councilmember
- Teresa G. Proaño, Councilmember

Congratulations to our neighboring city's newly organized council! We look forward to continued collaboration and supporting the shared success of our communities.



Chamber Donates Toys to District 5 Toy Giveaway

The South San Francisco Chamber of Commerce was proud to contribute toys collected during our holiday drive to the District 5 Toy Giveaway, led by Mayor Eddie Flores. This event brought joy to countless children and families in our community during the holiday season.

A heartfelt thank you to all our donors, especially Stripe, Evolve Training Center, and Thai Satay, for their generosity and support. Your contributions made a meaningful difference and helped spread holiday cheer throughout District 5.

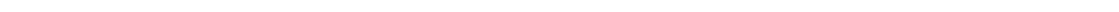
We are grateful for the opportunity to collaborate on such a wonderful event and thank everyone involved for their role in making it a success!

Holiday Food and Toy Giveaway Spreads Cheer in South City

The City of South San Francisco, in collaboration with the Fire Department, Police Department, CERT, and various stakeholders, hosted a heartwarming Holiday Food and Toy Giveaway. With over 80 enthusiastic volunteers working in a precision assembly line, the event was filled with festive spirit as the community came together to serve South City families.

The Chamber was honored to participate in this wonderful event alongside Mayor Eddie Flores, Council Members James Coleman and Flor Nicolas, Police Chief Scott Campbell, City Manager Sharon Ranals, Marie Patea, and many others. It was a true showcase of teamwork, generosity, and holiday cheer.

A big thank you to everyone who contributed their time and effort to make this event such a success. Together, we brought joy and support to our community during this special season!



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<https://www.thefitnesstech.com/sweepstakes-new-years>

-Fill out the application

-That's it!



NORTH SAN MATEO COUNTY RENAISSANCE

JANUARY

ENGLISH CLASSES & EVENTS

JAN 22
Wed
Introduction to Accounting & Bookkeeping for Businesses
366 Grand Ave SSF 6 - 8 PM

JAN 28
Tues
Mission, Vision, and Value Proposition Planning
Online via Zoom 6 - 8 PM

JAN 27
Thurs
Standard Operating Procedures
366 Grand Ave SSF 6 - 8 PM

JAN 29
Wed
Introduction to Quickbooks 101 (Pt. 1)
366 Grand Ave SSF 6 - 8 PM

JAN 27
Mon
Building an Entrepreneurial Mindset
Online via Zoom 6 - 8 PM

JAN 30
Thurs
Relationship Building
366 Grand Ave SSF 6 - 8 PM



Contact
north-smc@recenter.org
(650)829.4652

Find more events at
recenter.org/events





ACCOUNTING & BOOKKEEPING FOR BUSINESSES SERIES

[IN PERSON]

366 Grand Ave, South San Francisco, CA 94080

Whether or not you have an accountant to do your taxes, you will still need to be on top of your cash in and cash out of your business. Get to know important accounting and bookkeeping basics for your business.

JAN
22
Wed

Introduction to Accounting & Bookkeeping for Businesses
6 - 8 PM

QuickBooks is one of the most user-friendly applications for doing your own bookkeeping. By getting comfortable with it, you'll be able to make smarter decisions for your business.

JAN
29
Wed

Introduction to QuickBooks (Part 1)
6 - 8 PM

You've got the basics, now make QuickBooks work especially for your business. The last part of this series will help you use the program effectively for your needs.

FEB
5
Wed

Introduction to QuickBooks (Part 2)
6 - 8 PM



DORENDA HAYNES
BUSINESS CONSULTANT
OWNER OF A GROUP OF FAITH



REGISTRATION
recenter.org/events



National Blood Donor Month

January is typically a period of critical blood shortages. People stop donating blood during the holidays and when they get sick during cold and flu season. Blood drives also get snowed out during the winter months.

Donating blood helps people who have lost blood in an accident, and helps people who have an illness such as cancer, anemia, sickle cell disease, or hemophilia.

If you donate blood before you have surgery, your own blood will be stored for you in case you need a blood transfusion. If you don't need it, your blood may be donated to someone else. Donated blood includes red blood cells, platelets and plasma.

You can donate blood at American Red Cross clinics or at other clinics or blood banks. You may also be able to donate during blood drives at your workplace.

When you donate whole blood, you give about 1 pint (473 mL). It takes about 10 minutes; however, the whole process – including answering questions and having a brief exam – takes up to an hour.

To donate blood, you must:

- Be at least 17 years old. In some states, you can donate if you are 16 years old if you get permission from a parent.
- Weigh at least 110 pounds. If you are under 18 years old, you may need to meet a certain height and weight measurement.
- Be in good health.
- Donated blood is tested to ensure it is safe to use. It's also checked for its type. This ensures that the person who needs blood gets the right type.

If you would like to make a difference and wish to donate, the following link provides locations: [find your closest blood collector](#).

Edward Kao, 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



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](#) & Instagram for the latest Chamber news.

Calendar of Events

January

January is here—a fresh start and a chance to set new goals. Let's carry forward the lessons of last year, embrace new opportunities, and make 2025 one to remember!

1/8 City Council Meeting 6:30pm

1/17 Board Training 1pm

1/20 Martin Luther King Day - Holiday

1/21 Board Meeting 8:30am

1/22 City Council Meeting 6:30pm

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!





Your support is truly appreciated!

- Amoura Restaurant (October 2009)
- Brady Air Conditioning, Inc. (July 2003)
- Care America Homecare Services (December 2022)
- Congressman Kevin Mullin (January 2013)
- Dead Eye Coffee Bar (May 2018)
- Garden Chapel Funeral Directors (January 1969)
- Perfection Nails (October 2020)
- Pro-Color Collision SSF (Previously Royalty Auto) (July 1998)
- Project 101 Associates (January 2004)
- Radius Optometry (October 2014)
- Robison-Nieri-White Construction (July 2012)
- Royal Pin Donuts (May 2017)
- Scott Buschman Photography (January 1999)
- Simpson, Garrity, Innes & Jacuzzi, PC (January 2002)
- The Back Doctor (November 2006)
- Vincent Jones WFG Agent (January 2015)

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



2023-24 Board Officers

President
Sailesh Mehra
SM8

Board of Directors

Cesar Dominguez
ProColor Collision

Dani Fandino
Events & Flowers by Dani

Chamber Personnel

Mary Prem
CEO

Arlene Dozier
Administrative Assistant

Vice President
Daniela Jonguitud
Chajinel Home Care Services

Kamal Hyder
SF Bay ADU

Miju Kim
AC Marriott

Treasurer
Michael Formosa
SSF Scavenger Company

Suzanne Lee
Genentech

Natalia Morales
Kilroy Realty Corporation

Ex-Officio City Manager
Sharon Ranals

Pravin Punjiya
Fairfield Inn by Marriott SFO

Ex-Officio City Economic Mgr
Ernesto Lucero

Roger Rodriguez
Rockoto Peruvian Restaurant

Kevin Williams
California Water Service

Kevin Worth
Kaiser Permanente

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