

SOULS OF THE CITY

Hometown heroes were feted this fall by organizations that recognized the dedicated and philanthropic efforts of stalwart citizens.

Shining stars: Shanti celebrated its 48th anniversary on October 13 at the Palace Hotel during its Compassion Is Universal gala. Led by board chair Dr. **Mick Klearman**, 350 guests cheered community activist **Thomas Horn** and Dr. **Monica Gandhi** for their leadership. The joyful soiree (featuring emcee **Kevin Joyce**, SF poet laureate **Tongo Eisen-Martin**, the **Joe Warner Jazz Combo** and **Jiten Daiko**) raised \$300K to support women with cancer and those isolated by AIDS/HIV by providing home visits, its aging initiatives and its Pets Are Wonderful Support (PAWS) program.

Horn — War Memorial board president, honorary consul to Monaco, Bob A. Ross Foundation president and former *Bay Area Reporter* publisher — received the Nancy Pelosi Lifetime Achievement Award. Gandhi — an infectious diseases expert, director of the UCSF-Gladstone Center for AIDS Research and breakout COVID Twitter star — received the James C. Hormel Community Spirit Award.

“My husband [Dr. **Rakesh Mishra**] died of cancer just before the pandemic. And my sons and I were with him in the hospital, every second of every day,” recalled Gandhi. “That experience underscored why Shanti means so much to me: At that most profound time in life, no one who is suffering or sick should be alone.”

Mama Mia: On September 25 at the Fairmont Hotel, during the Salesian Boys’ & Girls’ Club centennial anniversary, Original Joe’s restaurateur **Marie Duggan**, everyone’s favorite EssEff mom, was honored as Salesian Person of the Year for her decades-long support as a trustee. Executive director **Randal DeMartini** and board president **Jerome Paolini**, along with 555 fans, raised \$325K for youth education and after-school and scholarship programs of this organization, founded in North Beach in 1921 by Italian immigrants.

Marie’s children, third-gen restaurateurs **John Duggan Jr.** and **Elena Duggan**, and her husband, **John Duggan**, sang her praises, noting that this Cow Hollow native, a daughter of Croatian-Italian immigrants, was born just over the hill from North Beach.

“Our mom leads with her legendary heart, a heart that knows no bounds,” said Duggan Jr. “She’s lived a life

serving others, even running a part-time soup kitchen in the Tenderloin. Many here, and on the streets of San Francisco, can attest to her generosity.”

Thanking extended family, which encompasses her staff at the 85-year restaurant founded by her father, Marie Duggan recalled the daily student body recitation at the now-closed St. Paul’s High School in Noe Valley: “Be not overcome by evil. But overcome evil by good.”

“A hundred years ago, Salesian fathers established this club as a place to gather for the sons of Italian immigrants — fishermen, scavengers and laborers. They grew up to become great citizens and leaders of San Francisco,” she shared. “Today, the club throws out its net to young boys and girls of all backgrounds, colors and creeds. This is our mission: to improve the lives of these children in our little corner of North Beach.”

OJ’s PS: The Duggan empire is expanding! Next month, John Jr. and Elena open a second Little Original Joe’s restaurant-market in the Marina on Chestnut Street. In honor of her children’s heritage, Elena debuts the family’s inaugural Mexican restaurant on West Portal Avenue.

Grand slam: Super San Francisco Giants fan **Kathleen Dowling McDonough** scored at home plate on September 20 as she was recognized for two championship decades of devotion as a trustee to the Giants Community Fund.

From ballpark glove drives and Junior Giants Leagues games to Play Ball Lunch fundraisers, McDonough — dressed in chic orange-and-black ensembles — cheered the team while raising funds, often assisted by her husband, **Kevin McDonough**, and their sons, **Colman** and **Michael**.

Toasted by Giants Community Fund executive director **Sue Petersen** and board co-chairs **Brian Murphy** and **Kelly Larkan Coover**, McDonough was joined by fellow retiring trustees, including Giants CEO **Larry Baer**, **Christine Pelosi**, **John Feely** and **Denise McCarthy**. Each was gifted a personalized Giants jersey numbered by years of service.

“The fund relies upon the resources and expertise of board members who graciously give their time to guide our youth outreach activities,” said Murphy. “Their leadership has grown the fund into a model foundation and raised more than \$40 million for youths.”

Prettier than a picture: Among



Miss Bigelow’s
BABBLE-ON-BY-THE-BAY



Shanti honors Dr. Monica Gandhi and Thomas Horn



Giants Community Fund honorees Denise McCarthy, Kathleen Dowling McDonough and Liz Steyer



Randal DeMartini and Salesian Person of the Year honoree Marie Duggan

locals glued to Christie’s live online auction (October 20–24) of exquisite art *objets* from the Ann and Gordon Getty Collection, there was an end-of-era wistfulness — gilt **George II** armchairs lolled upon and **Degas** masterworks admired amid numerous charitable events hosted in the Getty manse have disappeared into private collections.

But there’s a reason why the hashtag #DynamoDede exists: A pre-auction purchase by civic leader **Dede Wilsey**,

on behalf of the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco, scored one of the Gettys’ most precious works for our fair city: “Venice, the Grand Canal looking East with Santa Maria della Salute,” by famed artist **Canaletto**.

“This is truly a museum painting, and I was thrilled to buy it as a donation for the Legion [of Honor],” shared Wilsey. “Ann was an amazing woman and so knowledgeable in the arts. Now even more people will experience this work, in her memory.” **NHC**