

A Photographic Love Letter to San Francisco

In the heart of San Francisco, St. Anne's Resident, Jonathan Curtis, has unveiled a captivating photographic showcase that transcends the borders of ordinary imagery. The photography exhibit, currently on display in our lobby, serves as a heartfelt love letter to the City, capturing its landmarks and urban environment with a mesmerizing blend of artistry and authenticity.

Jonathan's adept handling of lighting stands out as a hallmark of his exhibit. Natural light is used with perfection, casting a warm glow on the City's landmarks with a touch of magic. Shadows add depth and dimension to each frame.

Each photograph narrates a story, and together, they knit

a vibrant tapestry unveiling the City's true character, which is sometimes obscured by contemporary challenges. Despite these challenges, Jonathan captures the City's inherent charm.

More than a collection of photographs, Jonathan's deep affection for San Francisco resonates in every frame and succeeds in depicting not just the visual beauty of the City, but also the emotional resonance that makes San Francisco unique. Thank you, Jonathan for treating us to a pictorial feast that goes beyond the boundaries of conventional photography and gives us a view into the spirit of our iconic City!

Salute our San Francisco Natives

By Maria Cunningham

Mary T. Nelson, a true San Franciscan through and through, proudly hails from the Richmond District. When she made the transition to St. Anne's in 2017, it was an added bonus to remain in her neighborhood.

Mary attended public schools in San Francisco, but is thankful to have been guided on her spiritual journey by the Holy Family Sisters. Through the Sisters, her Catholic formation began at the catechism program at Sacred Heart Church, and that is what led her to pursue further Catholic studies at the University of San Francisco. There she honed her skills and was able to impart knowledge to children like herself by teaching catechism.

Music has always been Mary's passion and with her brother gracing the stage as principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet, Mary found herself happily immersed in the City's cultural offerings early on. She explored the depths of classical music through ballet performances and operatic spectacles, relishing the opportunity to pursue singing for herself as well as witnessing the talents of not only her brother, but also legends like Pavarotti and Domingo.

True to her San Francisco spirit, Mary's heart beats for her beloved sports teams, the 49ers and the Giants. During a particular time of grief after the loss of her mother, Mary sought solace in the camaraderie of fellow fans, forging enduring friendships at 49er and Giants' games. Their shared love for the City's sporting events and cultural gatherings became the grounding for her healing journey and her treasured support system.

At St. Anne's, Mary finds comfort in the tranquil embrace of the chapel, but her vibrant spirit yearns for activity, so her days start early with invigorating chair exercise. When she's not listening to her music collection, she takes to exploring the neighborhood with leisurely walks. But it is through active participation in community life that Mary discovers deep satisfaction. She values offering assistance throughout the Home, from tending to the patios to aiding in dining services. For her, contributing to the rhythm of life at St. Anne's is not a duty, but a cherished privilege. Mary's dedication to contributing to the community shines brightly and her humble kindness is recognized and appreciated by all.



Mary T. Nelson

Mary Ronco first visited St. Anne's on behalf of a friend many years before it became her home. She remembers being captivated by what she saw and liking that the Home was such an important part of the San Francisco landscape. In 2016, she moved from her childhood neighborhood of Ingleside Heights to live at St. Anne's Home.



Mary Ronco

Mary attend St. Emydius Grammar School and Mercy High School. She started her career in office work, but her fondness for volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul led her to discover a calling for live-in companion work. Caring for others became her life's work. She became family to those without a family or part of the family for those with family.

As a proud San Franciscan Mary fondly recalls the City of yesteryear. As a fan of San Francisco history, she has enjoyed seeing the development of San Francisco and its landmarks, even though she has been saddened by some of the things that did not survive the test of time. Some of her favorite spots included Playland at the Beach, and of course Laughing Sal, who unnerved everyone with her size and resonating laugh. She also recalls enjoying Stonestown as the meeting place for her and her friends, long before it became an enclosed mall. However, she admits that she has continued enjoying it as a meeting place through its many iterations. She has always enjoyed all of the museums in the City and is happy that she can once again visit them.

When asked about life at St. Anne's, Mary reflects on the warmth of its community, the kindness of the Little Sisters, and the array of activities. With a chuckle, she says, "I also enjoy the library and seeing the variety of books I can read when I'm not watching the "soaps" that I started watching over 25 years ago."

From her early days of volunteering at St. Vincent de Paul to her dedicated career as a Live-In Companion, Mary has exemplified the values of compassion, dedication, and love for others, attributes that embody the spirit of life at St. Anne's Home. Mary and St. Anne's Home are a match made in heaven.

The Evolution of Food Drives at St. Anne's Home

By Maria Cunningham

The pandemic reshaped countless aspects of our lives, including how we appealed for assistance. The challenges were all-encompassing, requiring many of our fundraising endeavors to adopt a renewed approach. One of our most important goals was to maintain a sense of normalcy for our Residents, even amidst quarantine measures, by treating them to special occasions and meals. We wanted to involve our extended family and loyal community, knowing that people were eager to help. Thus, the seasonal Food Drives were born.

In 2021, amid the throes of the pandemic, we launched our first Food Drive as a Christmas initiative. The response was heart-warming to say the least. Our community rallied behind us, enabling us to cook special Christmas meals for our Residents, a cherished treat during a difficult time. Buoyed by this success, we continued with an Easter Food Drive, urging people to shop for us as they shopped for themselves. Simple items like ham, bacon, sausages and eggs were purchased with



enthusiasm, reflecting the genuine desire to support our Residents.

Two years on, our Christmas and Easter Food Drives have become cherished traditions, offering special giving opportunities that bring joy to everyone involved. Our Jeanne Jugan associates eagerly volunteer to join the Little Sisters in accepting food donations in a drive-through fashion, making the process easy and enjoyable for all. For our donors, helping to provide holiday meals for our Residents is a deeply fulfilling experience, knowing they've made a tangible difference in someone's life.

We understand that not everyone can donate at the same level or in the same way, but each contribution matters. Our Food Drives seamlessly combine different levels of giving into one significant act of sharing love with our Residents. We are profoundly grateful for the impact made by each participant, whether through a simple donation or the volunteering of time. Together, we nourish not only bodies but also hearts, creating a sense of belonging and a community that extends far beyond the walls of St. Anne's Home.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



Springtime By the Bay

St Francis Yacht Club

Thursday, May 2, 2024

11 a.m. Champagne Reception

Noon Luncheon

Invitations Forthcoming

Red Tie Renaissance

Thursday, September 19

Details to follow

Carriage House Sale

St. Anne's Home

Friday, October 25 and

Saturday, October 26

9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Fall Holiday Luncheon

Date and time to be determined

THE LITTLE SISTERS OF THE POOR
ST. ANNE'S HOME

RED TIE RENAISSANCE



SAVE THE DATE

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

*Bimbo's 365 Club
San Francisco
Get ready to wear red!*

DETAILS TO FOLLOW

MOTHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

We closed 2023 with joy and gratitude in our hearts, thankful for the joy of welcoming friends, family, and steadfast



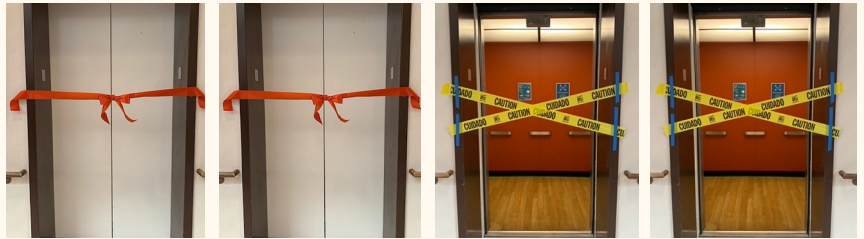
supporters through our doors once again. Your presence not only brought happiness to our Residents, but also filled us with awe for your kindness and generosity, whether it be through monetary contributions or simple acts of compassion.

We have greeted 2024 in hopeful anticipation of what the year promises. We have welcomed several new Residents to our family. Our RAISE US UP Elevator Modernization Campaign continues to gather momentum, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude to those of you who have already lent your support, bringing us closer to our goal every day. Your understanding of our escalating expenses as we also strive toward the completion of this essential project leaves us profoundly grateful.

The return of our traditional Auxiliary Spring and Fall Luncheons, our Carriage House Sale and our long-awaited annual Gala, the Red Tie Renaissance, are eagerly anticipated events that we hope to share with you. This will be my first Gala in San Francisco, and I am very excited to be a part of it. I look forward to welcoming you to the celebration that will honor our Advisory Board Chair, John Warda for his remarkable giving spirit and commemorate the enduring legacy of Yvonne and Angelo Sangiacomo as the founders of the original Red Tie Gala.

I hope to see many of you throughout the coming months. Until then, may the new birth and renewal represented by the Easter Season bring you joy and inspiration. As always, you remain in our prayers, and we ask that you include us in yours.

May God bless you,
Mother Marguerite



RAISE US UP

HELP TRANSFORM OUR VERTICAL JOURNEY

With gratitude overflowing from every corner of our hearts, we extend our sincerest appreciation to each and every one of you who have joined hands with us in our journey of caring for the elderly while illuminating our path and propelling us forward in our RAISE US UP — Elevator Modernization Campaign.

We are thrilled to announce that we have reached the halfway mark of our fundraising goal! Thanks to your incredible kindness and unwavering dedication, we have raised enough to complete work on two elevators, a monumental achievement that brings us one step closer to enhanced safety and accessibility for our beloved elderly Residents.

While we navigate the challenges of raising \$2.5 million for this project, we realize our journey is far from over. As progress toward full modernization of all four elevators beckons, we appeal to you, our loyal community, to stand with us once again. Your donations have become the cornerstone of our success. Every donation, no matter the size, brings us closer to the finish line and ensures that our Residents can move freely and safely throughout our Home.

Our fundraising efforts continue, fueled by the ongoing need for general operating support. When you choose to support our work by contributing to the overarching goal of our mission, you enable us to continue to provide for the essential needs of our Residents. Your support in any form will not just RAISE US UP, but will also resonate as a beacon of hope with a lasting impact on the lives of those under our care. With each contribution, you affirm our belief that compassion knows no bounds and that together, we can achieve miracles.

Use the QR codes or visit us at www.littlesistersofthepoorsf.org to make donations online.



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Scan here to visit
our website



Raise Us Up — Elevator
Modernization Campaign