

Project Open Hand's 29th Annual
HAND TO HAND LUNCHEON



Thursday, December 9, 2021
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Fairmont, San Francisco
In-Person & Virtual Event



ABOUT PROJECT OPEN HAND

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Ruth Brinker

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OUR MISSION

Project Open Hand's Mission is to improve health outcomes and quality of life by providing nutritious meals to the sick and vulnerable, caring for and educating our community.

LETTER FROM THE CEO

Welcome Friends of Project Open Hand

Around this time last year, we were preparing for our Annual Hand to Hand celebration in a virtual world. Guests tuned in from their computers and mobile devices and helped support Project Open Hand during a critical time of need when the pandemic was at its worst. This year, I am thrilled to celebrate Hand to Hand in-person at the Fairmont because I'm looking forward to reconnecting with many faces that I haven't seen outside of a Zoom or video conferencing platform. Connection is an important part of what we do here at Project Open Hand.



Yes, we provide our clients with more than 2,500 nutritious meals and 200 bags of groceries daily in support of community members in need. It's what we do, because it helps our clients improve and maintain their health. But we also provide something that goes beyond the meals or groceries. It's a basic and important human need.

Connection.

When clients sign up to receive Project Open Hand services in San Francisco and Alameda counties, they are immediately connected with our staff at different levels of the organization. Our client services department will reach out to them for intake. Then our team of Registered Dietitian Nutritionists will connect with them for a nutrition counseling and education session. Then we encourage our clients to take advantage of all other services we offer because we want them to feel connected to Project Open Hand.

Over 5,500 seniors and adults with disabilities receive meals from us through our Community Nutrition Program. Over 3,500 clients receive meals and fresh groceries through our Wellness Program in San Francisco and Oakland.

Over 4,800 volunteers donate their time. Over 120 staff, which includes the kitchen, delivery drivers, and operations staff, work tirelessly from the early morning into the night, every day. And all of us are all connected in one belief — Meals with Love that Heal.

As you enjoy this special lunch today, I hope you can reflect on how your support is helping many of our most vulnerable neighbors and community members. Because not only are you helping improve their health with a nutritious meal, you are also creating a community of connection here at Project Open Hand.

Thank you!

Paul Hepfer,
Chief Executive Officer

GIVSMART INSTRUCTIONS



h2h21.givesmart.com

1. Click the link in your welcome text or welcome email to visit the Hand to Hand Event Page.
2. To buy **raffle** tickets, bid on **silent auction** and preview the **live auction**, click "Items".
3. To **donate**, click "Home" and scroll to the Donate Now section.

FAIRMONT WIFI: Network Name: **Project Open Hand**



Project Open Hand
meals with love



ITINERARY

Emcee

Renel Brooks-Moon

Musical Performances

Joe Wicht
Nick Rossi Trio

Welcome

Mike Henry, Chair, Board of Directors

A Remembrance

Paul Hepfer, Chief Executive Officer
Tom Nolan., Executive Director Emeritus

Award Presentations

Mike Henry & Paul Hepfer

Ruth Brinker Visionary Award

Neil MacPhail

Community Advocate Award

Dr. Tim Seelig, Artistic Director, San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Most Outstanding Community Partner Award

*San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus
Chris Verdugo, Executive Director*

Live Auction and Fund A Need

Renel Brooks-Moon & Franco Finn

Special Announcement

Paul Hepfer

Closing Remarks

Paul Hepfer & Renel Brooks-Moon



RUTH BRINKER VISIONARY AWARDEE

Neil MacPhail

Born and raised in San Rafael, Neil MacPhail has lived a full and generous life. Moving to San Francisco in 1973, Neil later read a newspaper article about the work Ruth Brinker was doing with the formation of Project Open Hand. Neil and his partner Gerald agreed it was a disgrace for people in this country to be going without food, and Project Open Hand has counted them among its incredible supporters ever since. Neil made his first gift in October of 1990 and has been a passionate advocate for our work. Gerald passed away from Alzheimer's in 2008 and Neil has continued to support Project Open Hand in his memory, among so many others.

Neil spent 26 years teaching elementary school throughout San Rafael Public School District while his brothers continued running the family business, MacPhail Fuel Company. After retirement, Neil caught up on some overdue travel, racking up 130 countries to his passport, but still maintains that San Francisco is home to the best food in the world.

When asked about Ruth Brinker, Neil says she is one of those rare individuals that saw a need and decided to do something about it. She encouraged other people to join with her, one of these remarkable people that went ahead and did it, figuring out the details later. Inspired by Ruth's generosity, Neil continued to support Project Open Hand to help those who have trouble surviving with the requisite nutrition they need.

On this award and last thoughts, Neil reiterates that "it's just an added bonus but it's not why I give to Project Open Hand, for recognition, so I will say I'm very humbled about it." He adds "My sincerest admiration is for all the volunteers, I wish I could volunteer like all these people do. I remember going to the kitchen and talking with them, just all the time they spent in there. Incredible people." On behalf of our volunteers, staff, and clients, we are truly honored to award Neil MacPhail with the Ruth Brinker Visionary Award for 2021.



COMMUNITY ADVOCATE AWARDEE

Dr. Tim Seelig

Tim Seelig is a conductor, singer, teacher and author. He was formerly on the faculty of Southern Methodist University and is the Conductor Emeritus of the Turtle Creek Chorale, which he conducted for 20 years. He continues a busy guest-conducting and appearance schedule around the world. Dr. Seelig holds four degrees, including the Doctor of Musical Arts degree and the Diploma from the prestigious Mozarteum in Salzburg, Austria. He has seven best-selling books and DVDs on choral technique. His memoir was released in 2019.

His recordings have been on Billboard Top Ten and iTunes Top Ten classical charts. His choruses have been the topic of three documentaries. The PBS documentary *After Goodbye: An AIDS Story* received the national Emmy for best documentary. The latest documentary, *Gay Chorus Deep South*, won over 40 awards around the world (2019). It was awarded the Audience Favorite at its premiere at Tribeca Film Festival, NYC.

Dr. Seelig will retire from SFGMC in July 2022, capping 35 years of conducting LGBTQ+ choruses.

He is the proud grandfather of the amazing Clara Skye, Eden Mae, Cora Rose, Ivy Hope.



MOST OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY PARTNER AWARDEE



San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus

Founded in 1978, SFGMC sparked a nationwide LGBTQ choral movement after its first public performance at a vigil on the steps of City Hall following the assassinations of Supervisor Harvey Milk and Mayor George Moscone. Since then, SFGMC has been embedded in the fabric of San Francisco. It has soothed souls in pain, lifted spirits in triumph, and has remained a steadfast beacon of hope.

Under the leadership of Artistic Director Dr. Timothy Seelig, SFGMC has established a heightened level of performance standards bringing renewed audience and choral industry acclaim. Recent touring schedules, recordings, and outreach programs have broadened its impact and reputation in the community while maintaining its signature blend of humor, personality and ground-breaking performances. In 2019, SFGMC acquired a historic facility that has become its permanent home for rehearsals and offices. The building also serves as The Chan National Queer Arts Center, the first-ever community space for LGBTQ artists and arts organizations.

EMCEE & AUCTIONEER



Emcee

DR. RENEL BROOKS-MOON

Renel is a Bay Area native, entering her 22nd season as P.A. Announcer for the San Francisco Giants. She is a graduate of Woodside High School, and received a B.A. in English Literature from Mills College. She spent 35 years as a local radio and television broadcaster, including stints at 106 KMEL, 98.1 KISS-FM and CBS-5, among others. Renel has been recognized by the Baseball Hall of Fame as the first woman to Public Address Announce a world championship game in any professional sport, following Game 3 of the 2002 World Series. Renel has received numerous awards, including honors from American Women in Radio and Television, Multi-Ethnic Sports Hall of Fame, 100 Black Women, Bay Area Black Journalists Association and Girls, Inc. Renel was a founding member of Friends of Faith, a non-profit that served low-income Bay Area breast cancer patients. March 18, 2005 was proclaimed "Renel Brooks-Moon Day" in San Francisco by Mayor Gavin Newsom, honoring her broadcasting career and community activism. Renel was profiled in O, The Oprah Winfrey Magazine, as "The Woman Who's Changing Baseball". In 2008, Renel received an honorary doctorate from her Alma Mater, Mills College, and in 2018 she received an honorary doctorate from the University of San Francisco and delivered the commencement address. Also in 2008, Renel was the featured bobblehead for the Giants African-American Heritage Night, and in 2020 she served as Ambassador for the annual Giant Race, and was again the featured bobblehead. In 2017, Renel was honored to MC the historic inauguration of San Francisco's first African-American Female Mayor, London Breed. Renel is a 2019 NorCal Emmy Award winner as host of the television series "Forever Giants", and was featured on a limited edition 2020 TOPPS baseball card.



Auctioneer

FRANCO FINN

Franco Finn is in his 20th season as the in-Arena MC and TV Personality for the NBA Champion Golden State Warriors. Known as the "Warriors Hype Man" at Oracle Arena and now the new Chase Center

by 20,000+ fans each night. Franco's job is to energize and entertain the crowds, and his responsibilities include introducing the team's starting lineup, hosting the pre-game show "Warriors TV", and conducting all the contests and promos at the Arena. Also, Franco is currently a segment host on KRON 4 TV and freelances as an MC/host for the San Francisco Giants' special events for the past 10 seasons. He is a local and national MC, hosting a variety of sporting events from NASCAR to Red Bull's extreme sports events. His previous stints include being an on-air personality and host for TV and Radio for CBS, Comcast SportsNet, the Oakland Raiders (NFL Network), KOFY-TV, Radio Disney, KGO AM 810, and guest appearances on ESPN Radio.

Franco is a professional auctioneer and graduated from the Medenhall School of Auctioneering. He has worked a multitude of fundraising and corporate events for various high-profile companies and non-profit organizations. He has worked with some of the most recognized organizations from the American Red Cross, March of Dimes, The Ronald McDonald House, the Boys & Girls Clubs, the YMCA, and the Make-A-Wish Foundation—just to name a handful—helping to raise millions of dollars and counting, in his career!

MUSICAL PERFORMERS



Joe Wicht

Joe Wicht is best known as the jovial host of Piano Bar 101 at Martuni's where he has been a house pianist for the past 14 years. As a musical director, Wicht has worked with New Conservatory Theatre Center ("When Pigs Fly"), Feinstein's ("Mame," "Hello, Dolly!" and "Hair" in concert), and with the notorious production of "Christmas with the Crawford's" (for 10 years, in both SF and NYC). He's a frequent collaborator with Katya Smirnoff-Sky, having hosted Broadway Bingo for 18 months together, plus concert shows at Club Oasis and Feinstein's.

Wicht most recently accompanied East Bay tenor Johnny Orenberg for his successful solo show with the Castro Valley Arts Association. In 2022, he will be serving as musical director for NCTC's "Encore" musical revue. He is also a staff member at Project Open Hand.

Nick Rossi Trio

Guitarist and bandleader Nick Rossi is a longtime San Francisco-Bay Area favorite, renown for his stylish, personal approach to classic jazz. His range as a performer stretches from intimate, acoustic solo work through small ensembles, all the way up to large dance bands. But his cocktail combo, the Nick Rossi Trio, is perhaps the group for which he is most celebrated. Inspired by the likes of the King Cole Trio, it focuses on sophisticated, swinging modern jazz. Nick is also a notable jazz historian, writer, and educator.

www.nickrossiguitar.com



photo by Grant Fukui

MENU

COCKTAIL HOUR

Wine provided by Bonterra Winery

DESSERT SPONSOR

Z. Cioccolato, Chocolate Fudge

SALAD COURSE

Fairmont Hotel

Mixed Baby Lettuces, Shaved Fennel,
Plumped Golden Raisins, Manchego Cheese,
Champagne Vinaigrette

MEAT COURSE

Chef David Verzello

Braised Beef Cheeks over Creamy Polenta with
Kale & Butternut Squash Confetti

SEAFOOD COURSE

Chef Adrian Barrow

Poached Wild Black Cod with
Red Pepper Couscous, Artichoke Provencal and
Pumpkin Seed Basil Pesto

VEGETARIAN/VEGAN COURSE

Fairmont Hotel

Stuffed Delicata Squash, Chickpeas, Spinach,
Herb Crust, Grilled Broccolini

FEATURED CHEF



Chef David Verzello

Chef Verzello is an honors graduate of the California Culinary Academy and has worked in New York, San Francisco, Italy, and Napa Valley. For the past 15 years, Chef Verzello has been hosting cooking schools in a villa in Lucca, Italy. He has since moved to Green Valley, California, just outside the Napa Valley, and has been producing events and dinners for private and winery events. His cuisine focuses on the "in season" local produce and products. His cooking school has been featured on The Travel Channel. David has an unbridled passion for food. If he could, he would throw a dinner party every night filled with fun, diverse, creative and fascinating guests.

FEATURED CHEF



Chef Adrian Barrow

Executive Chef, Adrian Barrow has spearheaded the production of 2,500 meals every day at Project Open Hand for over 12 years. Previously, he was also a former sous chef at many well-known upscale New York restaurants, including Union Square Cafe, Hudson river Club, and most notably, Blue Water Grill. He was also a former Executive Sous Chef at Aqua, a top-rated Michelin restaurant in San Francisco.

LIVE AUCTION EXPERIENCES

1

A Curated Luxury Food and Wine Adventure in Tuscany

(September 17-24, 2022)

Imagine spending a week with renowned chef David Verzello in a magnificent villa in the Tuscan countryside, just outside the walls of Lucca. You will learn to make perfectly light gnocchi, taste super tuscan wines in Bolgheri, have lunch on a cliff overlooking the mediterranean in Cinque Terre and more.

Includes all accomodations, meals as listed with wine and cocktails, other beverages, all ground transportation tours and excursions.

There is a \$1,500 single supplement for those traveling alone who do not wish to share a room.



2

Instant Wine Cellar

Each Instant Wine Cellar, courtesy of Tim Barabe, is design to transform any occasion into a tour of California wine country, with other notable inclusions. The Instant Wine Cellar includes 48 bottles of select years and vintages from Napa, Sonoma, France, Chile, and two bottles of Sebastopol's own Kosta Brown Pinot Noir.

Turn your wine cabinet into a global trek and be prepared for any and all celebrations with this year's Instant Wine Cellar, just in time for the holiday season to kick into high gear as we gather together again.



3

St. James's Club & Villas, Antigua

A resort experience unlike any other. Two white-sand beaches offer a host of fun-filled activities. St. James's Club provides complimentary non-motorized water sports such as kayaking, paddle boarding and sailing. Guests can also enjoy six distinctive swimming pools and rejuvenating treatments at our Spa & Salon.

Active travelers can take advantage of the resort's four tennis courts and state-of-the-art Fitness Center, while families will appreciate the resort's complimentary Kids Club. And when it comes to dining, the resort's five distinctive restaurants serve everything from casual to international cuisine.



4

Gourmet At-Home Dinner

Host a gourmet three-course meal for up to eight in the comfort of your own home! Let Project Open Hand Executive Chef Adrian Barrow wow your taste buds with an exclusive meal paired with fine wines. Chef Adrian spearheads the production of 2,500 meals every day at Project Open Hand, but he was also a former sous chef at many well-known upscale New York restaurants including Union Square Café, Hudson River Club, and most notably, Blue Water Grill. He also was a former chef at Aqua, a top-rated Michelin restaurant.

Chef Adrian will blow you and your guests away with his magnificent culinary talent, accompanied by complimentary fine wine. Your fine dining experience will be catered by Project Open Hand.



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS

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Chef David Verzello

SPECIAL THANKS



Thank you to all our volunteers, staff and dedicated supporters who helped us put on this spectacular event!



2019 Hand to Hand



Creating Possible

Gilead is proud to support Project Open Hand's 2021 Hand to Hand Virtual Gala.

For more information, please visit www.gilead.com.

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It's treatment
based on symptoms,
not income.

It's a thousand things, big and small.



WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER.

At Kaiser Permanente, we don't see health as an industry. We see it as a cause. That's why we're excited to be part of Project Open Hand. Our doors, hearts and minds are always open to help every last one of you thrive.

kp.org/sanfrancisco



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be here
be hugs
be heart

be home.



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INTO LOVE
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Join Our Holiday Meals With Love Challenge!



You can help provide
more nutritious meals
with a monthly gift

Sign up as a monthly donor to ensure
that we continue to get nutritious
meals in the hands of those who
need it most. Join The Supper Club
with a monthly gift today!

www.openhand.org/supperclub

Help to deliver more meals with love and food
as medicine to those who need it most.

During this challenge, every dollar
contributed between now and December 31, 2021,
will double in value, up to \$260,000, thanks to
the amazing commitment of our Board and
a group of generous donors.



The mission of Project Open Hand is to improve health outcomes and quality of life by providing nutritious meals to the sick and vulnerable, caring for and educating our community.

We deliver more than 1 million meals every year by preparing 2,500 nutritious meals and 200 bags of healthy groceries daily to help sustain our clients as they battle serious illnesses, isolation, or the health challenges of aging. We serve the City and County of San Francisco and Alameda County with offices in San Francisco and Oakland, engaging more than 125 volunteers daily to nourish our community.

@ProjectOpenHand



openhand.org