

Lynn
HEUBLEIN

After a successful career at Procter & Gamble, newly pregnant Lynn Heublein realized that she was burned out—too many long hours were taking their toll. She decided that she wanted to try something completely different, to create a business where she could also spend time with child. Her ‘aha’ moment came while visiting friend and doctor Dean Vistnes at his practice in Palo Alto. “He floated the idea of how great it would be to combine medical-grade dermatology procedures in a spa-like setting.” Heublein had found her new calling. She put her MBA from Stanford to work focusing on the intricacies of building a brand and the nuts and bolts of a business while Vistnes provided the medical know-how.

People to Know



In 2003 they opened the doors to Skin-Spirit—a revolutionary medical day spa in Palo Alto (that now has branches in Walnut Creek and Mill Valley). Heublein thinks that their success has come from “a rigorous focus on quality and training for our staff and an overall emphasis not just on how our customers look, but how they feel.”

Today, Heublein’s son is 8 years old and she enjoys spending as much time with him as possible. “I was treasurer of the PTA this year. I love to be able to do that, and with this business I can,” she says.



Alicia
ESTERKAMP
ALLBIN

Alicia Esterkamp Allbin is making sure the City by the Bay lives up to its name. The principal with San Francisco’s Pacific Waterfront Partners is a driving force behind the rehabilitation of Piers 1.5, 3, and 5, and the emerging 8 Washington development, a planned luxury residential and commercial complex just steps from the Ferry Building. “San Francisco is known as a bay city, but for so long, the area along the bay wasn’t seen as one of its assets,” says the Mill Valley resident, who joined the real estate development firm in 2002 to pursue her passion for historic rehabilitation work. “One of the biggest challenges is that these buildings were designed for industrial uses—basically to keep people out. Now you’re turning them inside-out and encouraging people to come in.”

One look at the crowds inside restaurants La Mar, The Plant Café, and Lafitte, and you know Allbin and her colleagues have succeeded. 8 Washington, which will feature 150 condominiums, restaurants and shops, and large swaths of public open space, is scheduled to break ground next summer, pending final approval by the city.

Allbin, a Cincinnati native, has embraced life in the Bay Area and makes time to give back through her involvement with organizations such as SFMADE, Nancy Karp + Dancers, and the Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Network.

Nicole
NOLETTE
& Kathryn
FREDERICK

The world of high-end spirits has been, and in many ways still is, a man’s world. Enter Nicole Nolette and Kathryn Frederick. These dynamic women are spearheading one of the hottest gin brands on the market today as the CEO and CMO of San Francisco-based Distillery 209.



Nolette is a woman who likes a challenge. After attending the U.S. Naval Academy, she went on to graduate school at MIT Sloan with a focus in finance and then entered the investment banking world, joining Morgan Stanley. She was bitten by the entrepreneurial bug, though, and took on the CEO position at Distillery 209 with the goal of building it into an international brand. To help succeed in that venture, Nolette recruited fellow MIT Sloan grad Frederick to join the team. After earning degrees from Harvard and MIT, Frederick moved on to a career in marketing, first with Yahoo! and then with Modern Luxury Publishing. Her unique set of skills coalesce beautifully at Distillery 209, where she can leverage her relationships in the luxury marketing arena.

The two are proud that the brand has gained traction in the U.S., Great Britain, and Spain (interestingly, Spain is the largest consumer base of gin in the world).

Cheers, ladies! ♦