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Guinto-Peoro spent her career in food service. She owned restaurants in Vallejo and Benicia. On the day she retired, she took out her nomination papers.

If elected, she says she will give half of her salary back to the city.

Guinto-Peoro planned to run for supervisor in the last election, but sprained her leg. She is encouraged that she is the only challenger this time around.

In 1993, while living in Vallejo she ran for the city council. She came in fourth in a large field competing for three seats.

Public life may be in her genes. She retains Guinto in her name as a connection to her grandfather, Leon Guinto Sr., the first governor of Manila. A street in the Philippine capital is named for him. She lived for a time in Japan, where her father was serving as a diplomat. Her husband, 15 years her senior, served in the U.S. Navy, retiring as a Lt. Commander. She has been a widow for 24 years.

Guinto-Peoro said her husband worked with the Public Utilities Commission while her opponent's grandfather, Joe Alioto, was mayor. At that time she was acquainted with the family.

"I like Michela," she said. "She's a good kid."

Guinto-Peoro has a son and daughter, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The youngest, at 20 months, is a model for Macy's.

■ HIDDEN TREASURE

Smallest pub in town offers a big welcome

At the risk of never again squeezing into its dark recesses, I offer my very special spot in the 'hood: the Black Horse Pub at 1514 Union Street, near Van Ness.

I happened upon this West Coast version of "Cheers" less than a year ago, and I can safely say that it has morphed this sugar-rimmed cosmo-tini chick into a Belgian beer-hoisting regular.

At first, the steamed windows and the crowd out the door make it seem like the usual Marina meat market. Au contraire! I finally gathered the gumption to stick my head in the British phone booth-red door, only to be welcomed with hearty hellos by owners James King and J.J. Dillion, who cleared one of the eight bar stools for me, as they do for all ladies who enter the pub.

That is one of the pub's 10 chivalrous tenets that help maintain the polite and friendly neighborhood ambiance in what is known as San Francisco's smallest bar. It has a maximum capacity of 22 people.

After a rousing description of their beer selections — British style on tap and a variety of Belgian or German "champagne of beers" — the proprietors introduced me to 15 of my new best friends and I was instantly adopted. Now I bring all of my out-of-hood friends there as well.

I haven't had a cosmo craving since.

— CHERYL LURIE

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