



SHOW NOTES & TRANSCRIPT

EPISODE SHOW NOTES

Episode Title: Focus On: Date Night

Episode # & Date: Episode #15 – February 6, 2020

Episode Description: Our listeners help Judy with this episode by contributing their favorite San Mateo Date Night activities.

Episode Web Page: <https://sanmateofocus.com/date-night/>

EPISODE TRANSCRIPT

I'm Judy Gordon, and *this* is San Mateo Focus.

We're starting a recurring episode that's going to be called **Focus On:**, and this first one is Focus On: Date Night. Pretty soon, it will be February 14, Valentine's Day, one of the biggest date nights of the year. We asked our listeners through Facebook and Instagram, to share what they like to do when they go out in San Mateo. And, just for good measure, I put an email out to some local friends to get their input. I hit an immediate and unexpected bump in the road when I heard from someone that "date night" means a date when you are married and have kids, as opposed to just the word "date" which implies that you're not married. And then, the emails from my friends started coming in with phrases like, "Date night, I *wish!*" and "Frozen Trader Joe's pizza or Costco chicken and Netflix." This episode is going to be harder than I thought and requires some clarification. You can be married or unmarried; with, or without, children; and it doesn't even have to be night. All of the following ideas and suggestions will get you out of the house with a special person, enjoying something new in San Mateo. And, a link for everything that's mentioned here will be on our website at sanmateofocus.com.

One of the ideas that we got was to incorporate a walk into your date. Walking before or after you go to a restaurant or happy hour is a nice way to get to know someone and get to know the area, too. There are a lot of special places to walk in San Mateo. For an earlier start to your evening out, take a walk or bike ride on the [Sawyer Camp Trail](#). The South end of the trail has beautiful views, and there are markers every half mile. Afterwards, it's just a short drive on Crystal Springs and Polhemus to The Field Club, which is a bar/restaurant that is a good place to watch sports, too. Around downtown, there is Central Park, and if it's before 4:00 P.M. the Japanese Garden is always beautiful. Afterwards, you've got lots of choices. The Downtown San Mateo website has an updated and very good restaurant and bar list. Further south in San Mateo, explore the Bay Meadows neighborhood and end up with the locals there around a fire pit, or playing bocce ball afterwards at FieldWork Brewery.

Doing something together in a group can be lots of fun. There are some spots downtown to take cooking classes. Baking Arts on Third [Avenue] holds baking classes where you'll learn to bake cakes, scones, bread, and macaroons, among many other classes. Draegers has been hosting cooking and knife skills classes downtown for years. Their kitchen and classroom is a nice setting, and you usually get to enjoy the food you've cooked while you're there.



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The next two ideas came straight from our listeners. And, they say it better than I can. The first one is from **Eric**: “For date night, nothing beats an evening out at San Mateo's own Swingin’ Door Dueling Pianos on Friday and Saturday evenings. For nearly eight years now, my wife and I call a sitter, head on over to Vault 164 for dinner and then on to the Swingin’ Door. For a brief, but fun, couple of hours, we get to relive our pre-kid days and sing along to Neil Diamond without being judged.”

This one’s from **Bianca**: “Bell Mateo bowl is SO FUN on Fridays. The bartender is great, there’s karaoke, and of course, bowling. And honestly, I love the food there. I know it’s a bowling alley but it’s greasy and yummy.” And, thanks to **Spence** for letting us know about Wednesday night B Street Boogie at the Peninsula Social Club. It’s been going on for 20-plus years and includes West Coast Swing Lessons and Dancing. For \$12 you get both the lessons and dancing and they welcome singles and couples of all ages.

For something a little different, Check out **AirBnB Experiences**. It’s fairly new and allows people to create interesting experiences where they share their passions, and you can sign up for one without even having to travel. In San Mateo, I checked the AirBnB site and found Chef Dave, who will teach you to make wood-fired pizzas from start to finish in his custom made pizza oven in his backyard in San Mateo.

Our next suggestion takes some planning, and the weather has to be good. But, if you hit it right, you could really impress a date. On the first Saturday after the quarter moon, head up to the CSM Planetarium and on the 4th floor observatory you can look through their telescopes, ask questions, and listen to jazz piped in from KCSM, CSM’s very own jazz station.

And, one final idea: San Mateo is known in the Bay Area for its diverse food options. Even so, it’s easy go back to the same places. For a dating couple, create a challenge to try someplace new each time you go out. You’ll definitely continue to have something to look forward to as you make your way down the list, and you’ll learn something new each time you go out.

Hey...after I figured out the difference between ‘date’ and ‘date night’—and the great suggestions for leaving the house and doing something different in San Mateo started coming in—this turned out to be a fun episode to put together. I am sure we’ll do another one, so...**HERE’S THE DEAL:**

We liked your ideas for date or date nights, so please continue to send them to info@sanmateofocus.com. Keep listening, we’ll put out another episode in a few months!



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HELPFUL LINKS:

[San Mateo Focus Facebook Page](#)

[San Mateo Focus on Instagram](#)

[The definition of "Date Night"](#)

[Restaurant Guide from the Downtown San Mateo Association](#)

[Info on the Japanese Garden in Central Park](#)

[Yelp review of The Field Club](#)

[Fieldwork Brewing Website](#)

[Baking Arts Facebook Page](#)

[Draegers Cooking School Website](#)

[Vault 164 Restaurant Website](#)

[The Swinging' Door Website](#)

[BelMateo Bowl Website](#)

[B-Street Boogie Website](#)

[Pizza Cooking AirBnB Experience](#)

[Jazz Under The Stars Webpage](#)

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PODCAST SHOW NOTES

Podcast Name: San Mateo Focus



Description: Whether you're new to San Mateo, California, or a long time resident, the San Mateo Focus Podcast is the place to learn about local history, good eats, and things to do.

Website: <http://www.sanmateofocus.com>

Email: info@sanmateofocus.com

Host & Founder: Judy Gordon

Producer/Co-host: Peter Radsliff

Where to listen: [Apple Podcasts](#) | [Google Podcasts](#) | [Spotify Podcasts](#) | [Stitcher Podcasts](#) | [TuneIn Podcasts](#)

How to listen:

- 1) On the San Mateo Focus **website:** <http://www.sanmateofocus.com>
- 2) On your favorite **iPhone** or **Android** smartphone podcast app:
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