

THE CURRENT TALK

success story in how I recovered. I needed to share my story of what recovery can look like.”

So he connected with documentarian and close friend Phillip “Phil” Baribeau. They had worked together in the past when submitting a show to the Food Network. They had actually had a meeting with the network eight days before the aforementioned hike in the mountains. Baribeau brought on Producer Dennis Aig, his former film teacher, who also served as a producer on Baribeau’s prior film, *Unbranded*. Then, Bay Area local Jan Katzoff hopped on board. “My wife saw the film’s Kickstarter funding page and told me to have a look,” Katzoff recalls. “We had previously made a small investment in *Unbranded*. So I flew up to Bozemen and met with both Eduardo and Phil. I loved their energy and that got me excited about the film.”

The team’s end product is a beautiful and rich story of love,



Producer Jan Katzoff, Jennifer Jane, Eduardo Garcia, and Director Phillip Baribeau

loyalty, and friendship. “When I saw it for the first time, in 2016—five years after my injury—I don’t think I breathed once,” Garcia shares. “It was incredibly emotional and very sobering.” Since 2017, *Charged* has made the festival rounds, winning the Audience Award at the San Francisco Documentary Festival. “Showing it to the San Francisco audience was one of the high points for me,” Katzoff says. “To preview it in my hometown—with a full theater—was so rewarding.” *Charged* is now available for purchase on iTunes and Amazon and has recently been picked up by Hulu.

Following the glow of this success, Garcia continues to focus on what brings him joy. His Instagram profile is a collage of cooking, hiking, exploration, and his growing organic seasoning company, Montana Mex. This summer, he will marry the love of his life, Becca Skinner. “When you know, you know,” Garcia adds. “And, with Becca, I knew. I look at her and I know she is the best thing to happen to me.” www.chargedfilm.com —EMILY HEITMANN



PATENT PENDING

Intellectual Property

Gentry catches up with acclaimed scientist, inventor, and philanthropist, Geeta Kadambi.

before Kadambi went on to win a pair of prestigious Space Act Awards for inventions as a Senior Technologist at Mountain View-based NASA Ames Research Center.

Kadambi subsequently worked as a patent examiner at the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and then established her own firm. She is the founder and principal of **Riddhi IP** (Riddhi is the Sanskrit definition for knowledge, good fortune, and prosperity).

Over the past several years, her boutique intellectual property company has won approximately 100 patents for some 70-plus clients in over half a dozen countries. Kadambi’s successful patent practice specializes in cutting-edge areas that include biopharmaceuticals, chemistry, and clean tech.

Kadambi is also a senior advisor at Palo Alto’s **Venture Capital Roundtable**, and her Riddhi IP provides advice to Silicon Valley startups. This woman of the world, fluent in four languages, clearly has a soft spot for the Bay Area and its spirit of entrepreneurship.

“Silicon Valley is a global magnet for people who aspire to be innovative,” Kadambi tells *Gentry*. “It is a wonderfully open ecosystem of like-minded individuals. Many of the local labs and incubators encourage small business to share space and provide important introductions to angel investors. Creative and out-of-the-box thinkers are inherently attracted to Northern California.”

However, Kadambi has never forgotten her homeland. She is actively involved →

The remarkable career of acclaimed scientist, inventor, and philanthropist, Dr. Geeta Kadambi has spanned two continents, and even outer space. After earning a biochemistry Ph.D. in India, Kadambi was awarded a coveted scholarship to do postdoctoral work at the University of Minnesota.

A postdoctoral fellow in the neonatology division at Stanford soon followed,

THE CURRENT TALK

in helping to provide eye care in India via the humanitarian organization **Rotary International**. “I joined Rotary having always been passionate about providing education, employment, and advancement opportunities to underprivileged people in rural areas worldwide,” she says. “Through the global grant process at Ro-

tary, I have been able to raise over \$90,000 towards conducting more than 1,500 free mobile surgical cataract operations in remote parts of the country. Working in tandem with Sankara Nethralaya of **Chennai**, a nonprofit missionary institution, our donated equipment has provided ophthalmic checkups for 10,000-plus patients.”

Kadambi has also been on the board of **Leading Women in Technology**, and is a valued mentor to young women who are considering making the STEM sector their vocation. The next generation of aspiring scientists, inventors, and innovators could not ask for a more inspirational role model. www.riddhiip.com —KAREN SALAMA



Yasmin Lukatz

PAY IT FORWARD

The Connector

Yasmin Lukatz bridges the start-up worlds between Silicon Valley and Israel.

In other words, people aren't asked to pay for any of our services. Instead, they are requested to help others within the community.”

Speakers who have participated at ICON events read like a Who's Who of high tech, and include YouTube CEO Susan Wojcicki, LinkedIn head Jeff Weiner, and WhatsApp founder Jan Koum. Noam Bardin, CEO of the traffic app Waze that originated in Israel before being bought by Google, has also attended ICON gatherings.

ICON's efforts at pairing Israel's celebrated “Start-up Nation” ingenuity with Silicon Valley's resources and infrastructure have yielded several impressive achievements. Lukatz explains, “We were the local entry point for Zohar Alon from Dome 9. He recently sold his startup to Checkpoint and credits us with some of his success. And Oudi Antebi sold his startup Redkix to Facebook, a deal which resulted from two meetings with Facebook executives at ICON events.”

The organization is funded through grants, sponsorships, and donations. These provide for a varied slate of programming that also includes a popular boot camp for Israeli startups in Silicon Valley and monthly meetings hosted for Israeli women in technology.

Looking ahead, next month ICON is organizing a conference in Israel where Silicon Valley mentors will be in attendance. September sees the return of its special Innovation Week in Palo Alto. For her part, Lukatz just joined the cast of Israel's *Shark Tank*. Summing up, she says, “I feel really lucky to be able to lead this amazing community at ICON.” For more information, please visit www.iconsv.org. ♦ —KAREN SALAMA

Silicon Valley and Tel Aviv may be next-door neighbors alphabetically, but they are separated by some 7,405 miles geographically. But thanks to **Yasmin Lukatz**, these two centers of innovation have never been closer. Lukatz is the Founder and Executive Director of **Israel Collaboration Network (ICON)**, a Palo Alto-based nonprofit she established in 2014 to help connect entrepreneurial Israeli startups with Bay Area angel investors and venture capitalists.

ICON is just the latest chapter in Lukatz's inspiring journey. After finishing high school, she worked as an operations room officer in a search-and-rescue helicopter squadron for the Israeli air force. Equally high-flying academically, Lukatz went on to earn a degree in law, accounting, and economics from Tel Aviv University before obtaining an MBA at Stanford.

Lukatz, a Bay Area resident for 15 years, says, “ICON represents a community, a home-away-from-home for Israelis, and a warm place to be for others. We are a ‘pay it forward’ organization.