

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

February 3 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

I know we are all still feeling the chill of winter. But for those of us who attended the New Member celebration at Eco Terreno on Tuesday, the night was filled with warmth and gratitude. Dame Dawn Agnew, along with Chef Joe Ball, pulled out all the stops to celebrate our newest members—thank you for a beautiful evening! It was great to see all of you. I always come away from our Chapter events feeling fulfilled after spending time in a room full of so many talented, generous, and supportive women. I encourage all of you to attend one of our Chapter's upcoming events. Dame Kara Nielsen spearheaded our first raffle, which ended the evening on a high note for those who took home the prizes! The Events Committee is organizing a series of casual gatherings; stay tuned for more information.

Warmly,

Pam Mazzola

Chapter President LDEI-SF



Pam with Chef Joe Ball of Eco Terreno and Lyon & Swan

Photo credit: Kimberly Charles

Events

February 9, 2023: Join our Sonoma Chapter Dames for their next **Julia's Table** at **Sigh Sonoma**, 120 W. Napa Street Sonoma, CA. No RSVP; stop by if you can. You purchase what you would like to drink.

Owner Jayme Powers and Dame Naomi Smith are our hosts for the evening. If you've not been to Sigh, it's a lovely jewel box of a wine bar dedicated to sparkling wine and champagne. As always, if you have a friend who is interested in learning more about our organization overall, this is a great event to learn more. If you have nominated an applicant from the winter review, this is an opportunity for her to meet members of our chapter and sister chapters.

Introducing Member Meetups, the San Francisco Chapter's new series of casual, no-host events around the Bay Area!

February 22, 2023: Join our inaugural Member Meetup, a casual gathering of fellow San Francisco-and-beyond Dames for a no-host lunch, drink, or dinner in locations rotating around the Bay Area, often affiliated with a fellow Dame. We ask members to register for free on our website for an estimated headcount.

We are launching with lunch at Dame Lesley Stiles' **Roxx on Main** restaurant in charming downtown Martinez in the East Bay on **Wednesday, February 22** at noon.

Dame Stiles has worked in the food industry for decades catering, teaching, and developing school gardens and programs for growing and eating sustainably. Her most recent project is [Roxx on Main](#). Lesley's dream to bring locally sourced, organic, and sustainable ingredients to a restaurant has been realized. The food is fresh and delicious, and features myriad herbs from Lesley's own vast garden. It is a destination place in the historic downtown of Martinez. From locals to those looking for a fun place to go, Roxx on Main provides delicious food, great service, and even live music on the weekends. Check out this ["Check Please" video](#) featuring Roxx on Main.

Where: Roxx on Main, 627 Main St., Martinez, CA. For questions, please contact Dame Lili Rollins at lilisfpfs@pacbell.net.

March 6, 2023: We will once again connect with two other women's groups, Dress for Success and the James Beard Foundation Women's Leadership Initiative, for a mixer at Madrigal in San Francisco, on Monday March 6th 5-8 PM. There are space limitations so we are focusing on Dames who live in the immediate vicinity of San Francisco, but if you have a strong desire to attend, please contact Dame Kimberly Noelle Charles at kcharles@charlescomm.com. Further details and an invitation are forthcoming in a separate email.

The Madrigal, 100 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA

Table Talks

Our Chapter's entry in the National chapter's month-long Table Talks series of virtual programs for the entire LDEI community will be held on Friday, March 10th, from 9-10:30 AM PST via Zoom (fee \$25). San Francisco-based food-trend expert and board member, Dame Kara Nielsen, will moderate an enlightening discussion on "New Frontiers in Meat & Dairy: Improving our Food System With Innovative Biotech."

This virtual panel aims to introduce you to the future in food, where visionary startups are producing exciting and delicious alternatives to conventional meat and dairy products using pioneering technologies in fermentation and cultivation.

The panel will feature women leaders of three California companies at the forefront of this emerging industry:

- Nicki Briggs, Vice President of Corporate Communications at [Perfect Day](#) (animal-free dairy)
- Joanna Bromley, Co-founder and EVP of Finance at [The Better Meat Co.](#) (mycoprotein meats)
- Amy Chen, Chief Executive Officer at [UPSIDE Foods](#) (cultivated chicken)

Look for your official invitation coming soon!



Photo courtesy: UPSIDE Foods

Event Recap

On Tuesday, January 31, we had the pleasure of toasting our newly inducted Dames at the **New Member Reception**, held at the beautiful Eco Terreno Wines' Urban Tasting Room and Lyon & Swan Supper Club in North Beach, San Francisco. Through donations and participation in the raffle, we raised \$1,280 for our general fund. Raffle prizes were generously donated by Mary Gassen for Noe Valley Bakery; Frankie Whitman for Starter Bakery; and Pam Mazzola for Prospect. The night's big winners were: Sue Conley - Noe Valley Bakery; Kara Nielsen - Starter Bakery; Eileen Spitalny - Prospect. Congratulations to the lucky winners, and thank you to our donors and everyone who participated.

...and an enthusiastic *thank you* to Dame Dawn Agnew for hosting a memorable evening filled with camaraderie, live music, delicious bites, and an elegant selection of Eco Terreno wines.



Chapter President Pam Mazzola, host Dame Dawn Agnew, 2nd VP Emily Luchetti, Immediate Past President Mary Gassen



Treasurer Nancy Ash, Dame Helen Roberts, Dame Tanya Holland



Dame Mary Margaret Sinnema, Dame Remi Cohen, 1st VP Frankie Whitman

Photos courtesy of Events Committee

Membership

Be sure your membership profile is up to date. You can edit your contact info directly in the membership directory and be sure to take advantage of our national network which has a Member Profile section [here](#). If you haven't entered or updated your info, be sure to do so!

Les Dames d'Escoffier International is now accepting applications for the **2023 Legacy Awards**. The Legacy Awards, supported by The Julia Child Foundation for Gastronomy and the Culinary Arts, were established in 2009 by Les Dames d'Escoffier International with one goal in mind: to provide targeted mentorship opportunities for professional women in the food, beverage, and hospitality

industries. Please note that this award is for women who are not members of Les Dames but have a minimum of four years' experience working in their industry.

The deadline for applications is **March 17, 2023**. For application criteria and more information about this award, please click [here](#).

LDEI is also seeking nominations for the **Woman of Purpose Award**. This award celebrates a visionary Dame who has made strides towards improving our food system. To qualify, a nominee must be an active member in good standing of Les Dames d'Escoffier International with a minimum of 3 years as a member.

The deadline for nominations for this award is also **March 17, 2023**. To learn more, or to nominate an outstanding Dame, follow [this link](#).

Scholarship

Les Dames SF is contemplating offering a Business Grant in the form of a cash stipend to help women business owners in the San Francisco Bay Area. We are looking for Dames to join an exploratory group to identify criteria and guidelines. If you are interested in joining this group, please email Emily Luchetti at emily@emilyluchetti.com.

Fellowship

This winter, the Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship received a generous donation from Karola's daughter, Anne Craib, which was matched by her employer, Visa. We'd like to extend our sincere gratitude to Anne for her continued support of the program. Thanks to her efforts, as well as the generosity of our membership, the Board has voted to increase the award amount from \$3,500 to \$5,000. This truly is a legacy for both Karola and our SF Chapter.

The Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship is awarded to a promising Bay Area woman food journalist (not a Les Dames member) each

year. We are actively seeking confidential nominations. Check out <https://lesdamessf.org/Fellowship> for the criteria and more information. Send any nominations to Fellowship Co-chairs:

Roberta Klugman rklugman@robertaklugman.com

Jennifer Newens jennifernewens@sbcglobal.net.

Member News

As reported earlier, Dame Tonya Pitts was named *Wine Enthusiast's* 2022 Sommelier of the Year and this Monday, January 30th she received her award at the glamorous Wine Star Awards event at the St. Francis Hotel. We are thrilled for her hard earned recognition! An extract from her speech that evening stated, "For every person who is recognized there are many many more quiet giants who are working diligently behind the scenes and it's those people we need to raise and support in order to create a more vibrant industry," she said. "This wine life is not a race, it's a marathon, and I am just hitting my stride."



Photos courtesy of Tonya Pitts

Click [here](#) to see the full list of winners, and [here](#) for the in-depth feature on Tonya.

This week's **Meet a Member** series featured distinguished Grande Dame and cofounder of our Chapter, Carolyn Wente Layton.



Photo courtesy: Carolyn Wente Layton

As the Board Chairman of Wente Vineyards, Carolyn is proud to be a steward for her family business and help the fifth and sixth generations carry the company into the future.

To see the full feature on Carolyn, check out our Instagram page: @lesdamessf.

The board of LDEI-SF is pleased to welcome Dame Danielle Fiala to the Board, serving as secretary. Danielle entered the hospitality industry after a career in engineering.

She currently serves on the Communications Committee. Her strong communication skills, passion for food, and motivation will be a great addition to the LDEI-SF board.

LDEI Quarterly

If you're not familiar with how to access our National Quarterly, it is on the ldei.org website and available archivally in addition to print. The current issue is [here](#). We had several SF Chapter dames singled out for Member Milestones in the current issue.

We have a **due date of May 1 for the summer issue of the Quarterly and August 1st for the fall issue, please mark the dates.** For any updates on Membership Milestones and Chapter Programs for the LDEI Quarterly, so please contact Dame Jodie Chase at jodie@chase-ink.com, she will submit it to national if you make the deadline!



We welcome you to submit any items for our biweekly communiqué to Communications Committee Chair Kimberly Noelle Charles at kcharles@charlescomm.com or committee member Danielle Fiala at daniellesfiala@gmail.com by 12 pm on Wednesdays for biweekly publication on Fridays. Please consider the categories of Events, Announcements, or Opportunities for Networking and Volunteering. Also, note that it is rare we would publicize fundraising events outside our own needs, but if a major, national, or significant event is happening with several Bay Area Dames, we want to know about it!



Email: lesdamessf@gmail.com

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