

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

March 3, 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

As grateful as we are to see the sun again, let's take a minute to acknowledge those who are struggling with this somewhat unprecedented weather, and offer help and encouragement to each other. Community, after all, is the heart of this organization.

As we march toward spring, the Board is refocusing its efforts on encouraging greater member participation, and building momentum that will keep our organization thriving well into the future. We are also formulating plans to expand our fundraising efforts so that we can do even more good for the wider community. Please reach out to me directly if you have any ideas you'd like to share.

We are proud that we have been able to reward hard working women in our industry through our Scholarship and Fellowship initiatives. But there is always more we can do! Please consider joining Emily Luchetti in her efforts to launch a Business Grant for entrepreneurs. Donating raffle items for upcoming events is also a wonderful way to support our chapter's mission.

Warmly,

Pam Mazzola
Chapter President LDEI-SF

Events

Event Recap:

Our **Member Meetups** are off to a great start! We encourage you to take advantage of these fun opportunities to informally interact with fellow Dames in a casual setting, and perhaps even to court prospective members.

Our first Meetup took place last Wednesday, February 22, at Dame Lesley Stiles' **Roxx on Main** in quaint downtown Martinez.



The cozy group tasted a range of dishes from Dame Lesley's beautiful menu, starting off with an appetizer of polenta topped with roasted mushrooms, cheese, and balsamic.

Lesley chatted with the group for a bit about the restaurant, and then introduced her part-time chef, Carissa Crater, who also is the Contra Costa County program manager for Loaves and Fishes.

Upcoming Events:

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 Hi Neighbor mixer at The Madrigal in San Francisco, this coming **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.

The Madrigal, 100 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA

April 13, 2023: The Sonoma Chapter is having a fundraiser at Valley Bar + Bottle in Sonoma. This event will be hosted by Dames Kimberly Belle and Doralice Handal, Sonoma Chapter President. More information to come—stay tuned!

Our next SF Chapter Member Meetup will be held at Dame Cara Higgins' DECANTsf, **Friday April 14, 5:30-7:30 pm**.



ICYMI, DECANTsf was mentioned in Wine Enthusiast's "Guide to Best Drinking and Dining Spots" published last spring. <https://www.winemag.com/2022/04/11/san-francisco-bars-restaurants/>

More details on this fun, casual event will be hitting your inboxes soon!

Table Talks

Our Chapter's webinar entry in the National month-long Table Talks series of virtual programs for the entire LDEI community will be 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 the concept of the future of 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)

Check out the whole series here: <https://www.tabletalkslesdames.com>

And click here to register: <https://lesdamessf.org/event-5137891>

If you know a qualified member of the media interested in a complimentary ticket, please contact Dame Kimberly Noelle Charles at kcharles@charlescomm.com.

Fundraising

The Raffle is On! This is your chance to support our chapter and get the word out about your business, product, service, or latest undertaking. We are actively seeking donations for raffles at our upcoming in-person events. Books, gift cards for meals, wine, experiences and more make great raffle prizes! And of course, they'll be greatly appreciated by winning Dames. Please email Nancy Light, Events Committee Co-Chair, at nancyalight@gmail.com with details about the

item you'd like to donate, and to receive instructions for shipping. We're collecting items now for our Spring in-person events.

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 accepting applications for the **2023 Legacy Awards** and only two weeks remain. 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](#).

Also from our National organization: the **M.F.K. Fisher Prize** is now accepting entries through **March 31, 2023**. Open to both Dames and non-members, the M.F.K. Fisher Prize recognizes excellent works in any media format, including print and electronic (audio, broadcast, television, podcast, and video) that broaden the understanding of the intersection of food, beverage, and culture. The three top

winners will receive cash prizes, and five additional works of distinction will be awarded.

For more information, visit the [LDEI website](#).

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.

Member News

Dames in the news...congratulations to our membership on some recent kudos in the press!

Dame [Maryam Ahmed](#) was included in Imbibe's 75 people making a difference in the drinks industry.

Congrats! <https://imbibemagazine.com/imbibe-75/>

Kudos to Communique Editor in Chief [Kimberly Noelle Charles](#) DipWSET for her [20th year in business](#) with her marketing agency Charles Communications Associates.

Dames Celia Sack and Tanya Holland were both mentioned in the February issue of Food & Wine Magazine.

<https://lesdamessf.org/sfdamesnews/13115157>

Dame Kim Alter's acclaimed restaurant, Nightbird, is thrilled to announce the launch of Nightbird Wine Collective, a membership club featuring a curated selection of wines from their cellar. The first collection will be delivered to members in San Francisco and Oakland March 15th. Click here to become a member or to support and experience Nightbird's exciting offerings:

https://table22.com/nightbird-2?mc_cid=465aaa0693&mc_eid=c3f3f15858

This week's **Meet a Member** series featured Dame Remi Cohen, CEO of Domaine Carneros and global dance enthusiast.



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

We are really pleased that more and more members are submitting news to us to cover for our social channels. Please remember we are a volunteer team, and we do have some caveats for making sure we have ample time to cover and that your info will look the best it can.

For Facebook and IG, please email both Dame Maryam Ahmed at m@maryamandcompany and Kimberly Charles kcharles@charlescomm.com with at least one week's notice. Before sending them your submission, kindly review the following guidelines:

Purpose of post

- Member news
- Promoting an external event (we will most likely promote this kind of event in our IG stories, but not on our permanent grid)

Please note, we work closely with the Events Committee on posting our chapter events on social media.

Photo requirements

- Clear and well-lit, high quality 150 dpi resolution photos
- Square format, or easily cropped into a square

Captions/copy

- Please include suggested copy that you would like in the post. We may edit it, but need accurate details at the least.
- If there are people in the photograph, please identify them. Include social media handles and event links, if available.
- If you are not the photographer, provide a photo credit.

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](#). Upcoming due dates for 2023 are:

Summer 2023: May 01, 2023

Fall 2023: August 01, 2023

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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