

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

April 29, 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

Since our last Communiqué I have spent some time with our chapter Dames. I attended the Member Meetup at Dame Cara Higgins' DECANTsf. Thank you Cara for your amazing wine selections and delicious platters. Your hospitality and generosity were truly appreciated, but getting to know you was even better. If you haven't been lucky enough to visit DECANTsf, it's a wonderful place to gather and a fantastic place to buy wine and other interesting libations and sundries.

On Earth Day, April 22, we wined and dined the \$5,000 donor from our December fundraiser at my house. Mary Gassen, Stevie Stacionis, and Denise St. Onge were all in attendance making the evening very memorable for the guests. Thank you all, and thank you Frankie for providing dessert. We spent some great moments in the kitchen talking about careers, business, families, and the balancing act of making it all happen. If you aren't participating in our events or connecting with other Dames in our chapter or other chapters, you are missing out on a resource that is generous, hospitable, and limitless. The more time I spend in the organization, the more I realize that our biggest assets are our members.

I also sat in on the Events Committee's monthly meeting and our monthly board meeting. Sandra O'Day is stepping up to co-chair the Events Committee with

Nancy Light. Kara Nielsen will act as board liaison. In addition to solidifying some future events, it was a productive meeting. From the board: we are moving forward with the new Business Grant and need to add a few of you to the committee. Membership and Scholarship applications are open, and we are financially solid. The board will have some openings in the fall. Reach out if you would like to serve the chapter and make an impact on the future of LDEI-SF.

My best to all of you,

Pam Mazzola
Chapter President LDEI-SF

Events

This Saturday April 29th Culinary Rummage Sale hosted by the Sonoma chapter



APRIL 29
9 AM - 2 PM

CULINARY RUMMAGE SALE

Spring cleaning with a twist!
Support the Sonoma County Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier at their first Culinary Rummage Sale. Culinary items that span all areas of our industries will be for sale to help raise money for our programs.

We will have baked goods for sale made by Sonoma County Chefs. Black Oak Coffee and other refreshments will also be for sale. Make a day of it by coming out and showing your support for women in hospitality.

Rummage Sale Location
Relish Culinary Adventures, 14 Matheson St,
Healdsburg



Sunday May 7th Spring Fling in Sonoma - Valley restaurant and wine bar in Sonoma: Five spaces left! Don't miss out on this very special gathering of Dames from both the Sonoma and San Francisco chapters at the acclaimed Valley Restaurant on Sonoma's historic square. A festive al fresco brunch is the order of the day on Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 am. Registration is [here](#), sign up to join the fun! Learn more about Valley at <https://www.valleybarandbottle.com/about1>. Recently, Eric Asimov of the New York Times named Valley as one of the top six food & wine destinations to go to now in Northern California wine country.



photo courtesy Emma Morris

Tuesday May 9th Dame Sue Conley will be joining Vivien Straus to discuss the Cheese Trail on Tuesday May 9 from 5:30-7 PM at the Petaluma Women's Club Event space. The "Trail" promotes artisan cheesemakers and family farmers, connecting cheese lovers to cheesemakers, cheesemaking classes, events, and tours throughout California. Tickets are \$15, Eventbrite link [here](#)

Recap: Fundraising Dinner

On Saturday, April 22, our Chapter hosted its first annual all-Dame "Dinner for 10" fundraising event. The dinner was hosted by our president, Chef Pam Mazzola from Prospect Restaurant (San Francisco) in her beautiful home, with the culinary talents of Pam and Chef Denise St. Onge from Sorella Restaurant (San Francisco). Stevie Stacionis provided the wines and entertaining wine education from Bay Grape (Napa and Oakland), and Mary Gassen provided a special cocktail called "A Dame's Night Out" (recipe below). Dessert was provided by Frankie Whitman from Starter Bakery (Oakland). This very special evening raised \$5000 for our chapter and will contribute to our philanthropic giving in 2023! A very big shout out to Eileen Spitalny of Fairytale Brownies (Phoenix) for purchasing this dinner. Eileen reports that a great time was had by all in attendance. We are already planning next year's dinner, so please reach out to Mary Gassen (maryg@noevalleybakery.com) if you would like to host or participate. We want to have the details of the next dinner finalized by the end of the summer and put it out for purchase by the public during this year's holiday season.

A Dame's Night Out

1.5 ounces Vodka
.75 ounces St. Germain
.75 ounces freshly squeezed lime juice
1 ounce freshly squeezed grapefruit juice
.5 ounces agave syrup (1:1 agave and water)

Add all ingredients to a cocktail shaker filled with ice. Shake and strain into a chilled coupe. Garnish with lime

Member Meetups

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.

DECANTsf

We had a lovely group of 10 Dames meetup at the very cool DECANTsf wine bar and shop on April 14th. Dame Cara Patricia Higgins hosted us with several of her

personal wine selections along with charcuterie and cheeses. Her shop, [co-founded with Simi Grewal](#) has a welcoming approach to learning about wine, encapsulated in her motto “Drink for Yourself.” Please check out the fun [events schedule](#) and field trips DECANTsf offers and be sure to support this dynamic, women-owned business in San Francisco’s SOMA neighborhood.



photo courtesy Dame Kimberly Charles

Save The Date

Thursday July 20: A special Tequila Tasting at Joanne Weir’s San Francisco home, Thursday July 20th at 6:00 pm. This intimate event will be open to 12 guests, who will have the chance to taste and contrast a blanco, reposado, and añejo tequila from a top-shelf producer. Bonuses will include an award-winning margarita; a copy of Joanne’s book *Tequila: A Guide to Types, Flights, Cocktails, and Bites*; and complementary tacos, salsa, and Oaxacan chocolate milkshakes from Copita, her tequileria. This event will be a fundraiser to support our chapter’s

philanthropic work. Stay tuned for more delicious details and registration coming soon!

Business Grant

The board of LDEI-SF has worked over the last several years to add a Business Grant to our philanthropic work. Now it's not only possible, but it's happening! Mary Gassen and Emily Luchetti will be co-chairs on the committee, and Sue Conley has signed on as a member. This is already a dynamic group, but we are looking for several more Dames to serve. Share your passion to promote women-owned businesses, and be part of the process! If you are interested in joining this new committee, please email Emily Luchetti at emily@emilyluchetti.com.

Membership

The past few years have been witness to a great influx of new members to our organization, totalling 13 in 2021 and 10 in 2022, representing a wide range of occupations, ages, and ethnicities. We are thrilled to see the infusion of energy and talent within the chapter, and we'd like to encourage you to think about and invite [qualified individuals](#) to apply. Our induction events are our biggest gathering of the year, and we'd love to see another strong roster this year. As a reminder, more background is here in our [press release](#), and please contact Membership chair Frankie Whitman at frankiewhitman@gmail.com for more information.

Member News

Former cookbook editor and publisher, Dame **Jennifer Newens**, joined Martin Literary Management as a senior literary agent in April. She represents authors

looking to publish books on food, drink, and health and wellness topics. She can be reached at hello@jennewens.com.

Last week, Dame **Stevie Stacionis** and her team at Bay Grape Napa received a Leadership Award from Napa Rise for creating more sustainable teams and helping diversify the wine industry. The Napa Rise Symposium was held on April 5-20 at Charles Krug Winery in St. Helena. Dames **Maryam Ahmed** and **Remi Cohen** were speakers at the symposium, as was Esther Mobley, the 2021 recipient of our Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship. Dame Stevie was also featured in a [San Francisco Chronicle article](#) published on April 21.

Dame Remi Cohen, CEO of Domaine Carneros, added to the company's green track record with a [Leadership Award](#) received on April 12th from Napa Rise, for outstanding waste prevention and the greening of its supply chain.

LDEI Quarterly

The deadline for the summer Quarterly is approaching on May 1st. 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](#). It features Dames Jeanette Ferrary and Andrea Nguyen. Be sure to share your key milestones so you don't miss out. We have several entries already for the May 1st edition and August 1st is the last deadline of this calendar year.

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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