

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

August 11, 2023

Dear Dames,

On behalf of the LDEI-San Francisco Board, our members, and the international organization representing 2,600 members in 38 American cities and five international countries we would like to welcome our 18 new members for 2023. We are fortunate to have a very diverse group of members joining us this year. This year we initiated some protocols to help our new members get more informed and involved in our chapter. All have been matched with a current member as their mentor for the year and all are already on committees. I know it will invigorate our chapter and fully immerse our newest members.

Another new initiative this year is that our annual committee and financial reports will be available in packets digitally on line prior to the Induction and Annual meeting for all members to access and won't be available at the event.

The invitation for Induction has been sent and I am looking forward to an evening of delicious food, wonderful wines, spirits and foremost meeting our new members and reconnecting with our chapter. I hope you can join us for the festivities at Foreign Cinema on September 18th.

Here is the link to sign up. Be forewarned: seating is limited and as our chapter is growing we will likely sell out so please reserve your spot quickly! For those who can't attend, we will be holding a Zoom call later in the month to further welcome our new members.

I hope you are all enjoying the bounty that summer provides in the Bay Area. I can't remember a better year for peaches!

Warmly,

Pam Mazzola
Chapter President LDEI-SF



Photo by LuAnn Hunt

Events

Artisanal G & T Tasting with Dame Tara Jasper, SipSong Spirits - Sunday, August 27th 2-4 PM

A reminder to register for this very special gathering led by Sonoma Dame Tara Jasper, Founder of Sipsong Spirits. Tara will host SF Dames for a tasting of the most diverse of all spirits, gin on Sunday, August 27th from 2-4 pm. She'll share her path to becoming a distiller and we'll taste Sipsong's gins and build two delicious gin and tonics. Gather with us at Sipsong's Spirits Hangar near the Pacific Coast Air Museum for a perfect August afternoon sipping G & T's with 100% female-made gins accompanied by finger foods prepared by SF Dames Janet Fletcher and Peggy Fallon. Proceeds from the event will go to our Chapter's General Fund. [Registration](#) is \$40 and limited to 20 people. Dames may bring a guest. We have 13 tickets left to sell, so jump on board!

Also, enjoy a ride over Sonoma in Tara's XCub Backcountry plane and support our chapter!

We're excited to announce that one of the two flights donated by Sonoma Dame Jasper as part of this event to raise funds for our chapter has been purchased by SF Dame Elaine Spitalny! Even better, she has generously offered to donate \$100 worth of her delicious Fairytale Brownies to the person who purchases the remaining flight. At \$500, that's a sweet deal! Email Events Committee co-chair Nancy Light nancyalight@gmail.com if you are interested in this thrilling opportunity to enjoy a birds eye view of Sonoma while supporting our chapter.



Photo courtesy: Sipsong Spirits

New Member Induction Dinner

Monday September 18, 2023 Foreign Cinema 5:30 PM reception followed by 6:30 PM dinner

The party's on for Induction 2023 when we'll be welcoming a record 18 new dames from the greater Bay Area to LDEI-SF in style at a favorite location - Dame Gayle Pirie's Foreign Cinema. The evening begins at 5:30 with a sparkling wine and martini reception at Laszlo Bar next door. During the reception, you can purchase tickets for great raffle prizes and support our chapter while making new friends and catching up with old ones. At 6:30, we'll move to Foreign Cinema for a seated, three-course dinner and our Induction program. We'll be announcing the 2023 Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship Recipient, conducting our annual business meeting and learning about the new business grant program. Tickets are \$100/pp and space is limited so act quickly.

Rescheduled! - A Tour of Kathleen Thompson Hill Kitchen Memories Collection at Elizabeth Spencer Winery

The guided tour with culinary historian Dame Kathleen Thompson Hill whose collection now resides at Elizabeth Spencer Winery is being rescheduled. We will keep you posted with a new date and information as it is available. Feel free to visit the collection any time you are in Rutherford in the Napa Valley.

Member Meetups

We currently don't have any meet ups scheduled, however, keep an eye out on Instagram for sister chapter Sonoma Dames as they have regular meetups, helpful for our North Bay members. We are looking to reschedule Wahpepah Kitchen this fall or early next year. Stay tuned here!

Business Grant

Dame Mary Gassen reports that the LDEI-SF Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship program aims to provide crucial support to female-owned businesses in the food, culinary and hospitality industry in the vibrant San Francisco Bay Area. Through cash awards of \$5,000 this initiative seeks to empower and propel these businesses forward by facilitating expansion and the enhancement of their operations. To be eligible for this grant, applicants must identify as women, be non-members of Les Dames d'Escoffier, and fulfill specific criteria. These requirements include having commenced business operations on or before January 1, 2022, being a female-owned establishment serving or located within the San Francisco Bay Area, and maintaining an annual revenue of less than \$1 million. Furthermore, applicants are expected to submit profit and loss statements for both 2022 and the year-to-date of 2023. Applications for the inaugural year's TWO grants will be accepted through our website September 1, 2023 - October 12, 2023. Please get the word out to business owners who fit the criteria and encourage them to apply online after the link goes live on September 1, 2023. More information can be accessed at the newly updated website link [here](#). For

more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at emily@emilyluchetti.com.

The grant committee is also delighted to welcome its first corporate sponsor! The Mijenta Tequila Company, through an introduction from Dame Dominica Rice, has generously come on board to sponsor the entrepreneurship grant with \$5,000! We will be working together with the mostly female team at Mijenta to learn more about their tequila and their B-Corp status. What an exciting partnership and beginning of our push to get more corporate sponsors!

Membership

We are so excited to welcome eighteen wonderful new members to our chapter!

- Adahalia Cole, Food and Beverage Photographer and Food Writer, Adahlia Cole Photography
- Alison Negrin, Professional Chef and Chef Consultant, Chefs for Seniors
- Andrea Lawson Gray, Founder, Private Chefs of the SF Bay Area and Executive Chef, Tres Señoritas Gourmet
- Carissa Crader, Executive Chef/Culinary Operations, Loaves and Fishes of Contra Costa
- Christine Farren, Executive Director, Foodwise Community
- Elizabeth Binder, Executive Chef, Hand-Crafted Catering
- Emily Hansen, Chef Emily Hansen, Private Chef
- Iris Rowlee, Beverage Director, Octavia and Frances Restaurants
- Jodi Liano, Founder, San Francisco Cooking School
- Juliana Colangelo, Vice President, Colangelo & Partners
- Karen MacNeil, President, Karen MacNeil & Company, Author of The Wine Bible
- Kristen Loken, Photographer and Author, Food People (Are the Best People)
- Laurie Mackenzie, Chef Instructor, City College of San Francisco
- Lee Ann Frahm Izzo, Director of Recruitment and Training, Hi Neighbor Hospitality Group
- Maria Hunt, Freelance Journalist, Author, Senior Copywriter, MH Media

- Meghan Zobeck, Winemaker and Winemaker/Owner, Burgess Cellars and M Zobeck Wines
- Melissa Smith, Founder, Enotrias and Former Pastry Chef, Wine Spectator Restaurant Greystone Restaurant
- Theodora Lee, Owner/Vintner of Theopolis Vineyards

Read our press release [here](#).

Reminder to please renew your membership before August 18th, 2023 by logging on to your profile on lesdamessf.org if you have not already! Thank you so much to the 54% of members who have already renewed. After August 18th, dues will increase to \$200. Invoices will be sent individually to those who have not renewed in the coming days.

Scholarship

We are proud and thrilled to announce our two new scholarship recipients, Alma Moon who currently attends The Culinary Arts Baking and Pastry Program at Laney College and Ashton Rodenburg who is attending The Culinary Institute of America at Greystone. Each of these remarkable women received a \$2500 award to use to promote their schooling.

Call to Action!

Included with their financial award is mentorship by Les Dames members. Alma hopes to revolutionize gluten free baking by opening her own 100% Gluten Free and allergy friendly bakery, Sweet Almond Moon, which will be focused on making nutritionally balanced baked goods. She is looking to be mentored by a woman who has owned her own bakery or has experience running a farmer's market.

Ashton Rodenburg has dreamed of opening a restaurant since she was a child and now hopes to open an Eastern Mediterranean-inspired farm-to-table restaurant. In addition to having incredible food, she wants to prioritize excellent pairings of non-alcoholic beverages in addition to a perfectly crafted beer and wine list. For a

mentor, Ashton is looking forward to working with a professional chef or restaurateur.

Please reach out to Emily Luchetti (emily@emilyluchetti.com) if you are interested in mentoring. We hope to pair several women up with each of them. It takes a village and we all know how important this support is.

Thank you so much to all who applied for a scholarship, spread the word, and continue to support our scholarship fund and work!

Fellowship

The Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship will be announced and awarded in person this fall at the annual meeting September 18th at Foreign Cinema. The recognition comes with \$5,000 and is awarded to a promising Bay Area woman and/or nonbinary food /wine journalist (not a Les Dames member) each year. Dame and committee co-chair Jennifer Newens reports that she is compiling the dossiers for the nominees and is getting them to the judges next week.

Member News

Four chapter members were highlighted in the summer issue of the [LDEI Quarterly](#) and our fabulous chapter program, Table Talks was also featured. Special thanks to Dame [Kara Nielsen](#) and the Events and Communications Committees for this great event held nationally in March. For more information on Table Talks visit tabletalkslesdames.com.

LDEI Quarterly

The next deadline for the summer Quarterly has been extended to Tuesday, August 15th from August 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. 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! Thank you Jodie!

We await the deadlines for the 2024 publishing calendar.



We welcome you to submit any items for our biweekly communiqué to Communications Committee Chair Kimberly Noelle Charles at kcharles@charlescomm.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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