

# *The Communiqué*



**Les Dames d'Escoffier®**

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

September 10, 2023

Dear Dames,

We will soon be gathering together for our annual induction on September 18th. It will be a lively evening introducing our newest members, announcing our 2023 Karola Saekel Craib fellow, learning about our new business grant offering, and hearing highlights of our chapter's year. We have 9 spots remaining as there is limited space in the private dining room at Foreign Cinema. More details below on registration, and tickets will be available until September 12th.

Our national conference is coming up next month in Louisville, KY October 5-8th. Every year the conference is hosted by a different chapter, and the Louisville Dames have put together a great program. One really has the opportunity to appreciate the great works and talent of our organization across the country and around the world. Please consider attending if you can. More info [here](#).

We are seeking both established and new members to consider joining our board. Many current board members have supported the chapter in this role for quite a few years and in order for our chapter to continue to expand in our

philanthropy and programs we need to enrich the board with new perspectives. Please consider reaching out and becoming a board member.

See you, I hope on the 18th!

Pam Mazzola  
Chapter President LDEI-SF

## *Events*

### **RECAP Artisanal G & T Tasting with Dame Tara Jasper, SipSong Spirits August 27th**

Both San Francisco and Sonoma Dames enjoyed a fabulous afternoon at Sonoma Dame Tara Jasper's airplane hangar in Santa Rosa sampling her delicious Sipsong craft gins showcased in three cocktails prepared by Sonoma Dame Ziggy Eschliman (aka Ziggy the Wine Gal). Dame Jasper shared her story of moving from the culinary arts to distilling, inspired by her love of botanicals and treated the group to a tour of her vintage and modern planes, including a classic WWII fighter craft. Tasty appetizers were provided by Dames Peggy Fallon and Janet Fletcher including papadum with garden eggplant and tomato dip, two olive tapenade, goat cheese with cumin and mint and faux gras.

The event also raised funds for our chapter through Dame Jasper's generous donation of two flights in her beautiful, backcountry planes, one purchased by Dame Elaine Spitalny (who sweetened the deal with \$100 in Fairytale Brownies to whoever purchased the second flight) and one purchased together by Dames Kimberly Noelle Charles and Nancy Light who are the lucky brownie recipients.



**New Member Induction Dinner Monday September 18 Foreign Cinema 5:30 PM Reception next door at Lazslo and dinner at 6:30 PM**

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 Domaine Carneros sparkling wine and martini reception at Lazslo Bar next door. During the reception, you can purchase tickets for great raffle prizes, which will benefit the Maui Wildfire cause our [sister chapter is supporting in Maui](#). 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 can be purchased [here](#)!

REMINDER - Please wear your LDEI pin to the event!



Photo courtesy: Marcia Gagliardi

### **LDEI-SF Raffle: Promote Your Business + Support Our Chapter**

We all enjoy learning about and experiencing the many talents of our sister dames. Donating a raffle item that represents your business, product or service is a great way to spread the word. Right now, we're curating raffle items for our winter in person events. We'd love to feature your latest book, a gift certificate for your class or retail business, a consultation for your service and other in our event communications. Please contact Events Committee Co-Chair Nancy Light ([nancyalight@gmail.com](mailto:nancyalight@gmail.com)) about contributing a raffle item.

### **October 1, 2023 Screening of MFK Fisher film The Vogue Theater, San Francisco**

The long awaited [documentary film](#) about the life of M.F.K. Fisher, known affectionately as "A Poet of the Appetites" will premiere on October 1st at the Vogue Theater in San Francisco. We held a special event years ago to hear

about the creation of the film and now it has come to life. Details about the screening and tickets will be forthcoming.

San Francisco film director Gregory Bezat created the film after meeting writer MFK Fisher in the 90's. Bezat stated, "This is my dream project. As a filmmaker, I want to bring M.F.K. Fisher's striking voice and powerful story to the screen. Her voice transcends food. It is ultimately about companionship, friendship, and a curiosity to understand others. We are exploring Fisher's perspective on the profound indoctrination that fast food culture has imposed on America. As a filmmaker, the goal is not to pound the viewer with how horrible fast food is, but rather to leave the viewer with an overall feeling for a rich, vibrant American food culture."

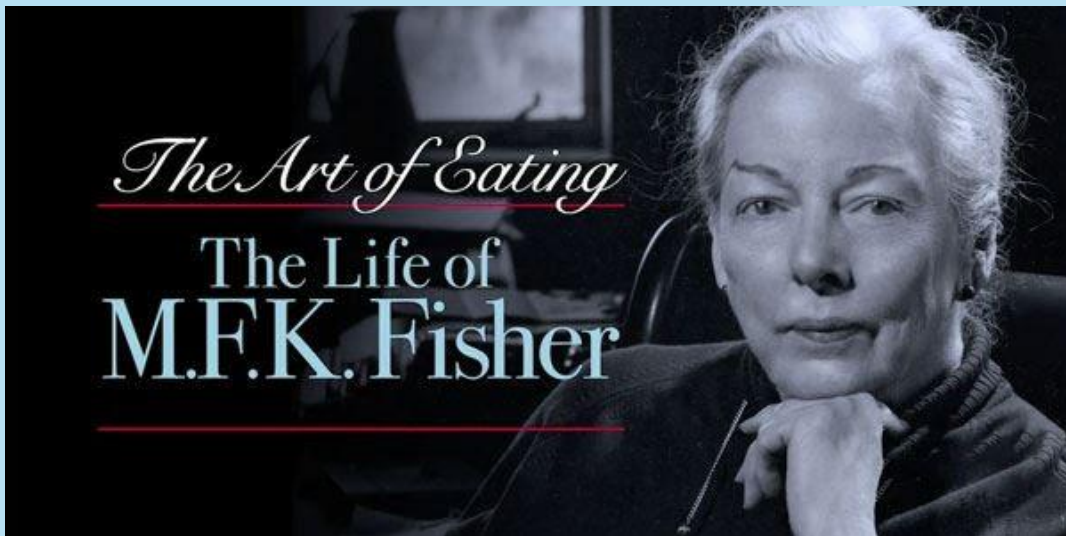


Photo courtesy: M.F.K. Fisher Literary Trust

**Monday, October 9, 9:30 am- 2 p.m. PT at Dame Sue Conley's Silver Penny Farm in Petaluma**

**2nd Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Meeting and Farm Lunch at Dame Sue Conley's Silver Penny Farm in Petaluma**

LDEI-SF will build on the DEI Day we held last year with an amazing day of food, strategy, and fellowship at Silver Penny Farm. We'll be featuring Tanya Holland, Maria Hunt, Maryam Ahmed and Danielle Fiala speaking about mentorship within

our group and the food and wine industry as a whole, and how mentorship affects DEI. The group will follow up on how things have changed within the chapter since last year and how they propose to effect change this upcoming year. Please join this Indigenous People's Day for an event that promises to inspire your soul and feed your tummy!

Keep your eyes on your inbox and the chapter website, full invitation to come!



### **Member Meetups**

These open house, casual events are a great way to meet and network with fellow dames in a casual setting. We have often hosted these at dames businesses (wine bars, restaurants, shops) so if you have an idea for a meet up, please contact the events committee chairs Nancy Light or Sandra O'Day.

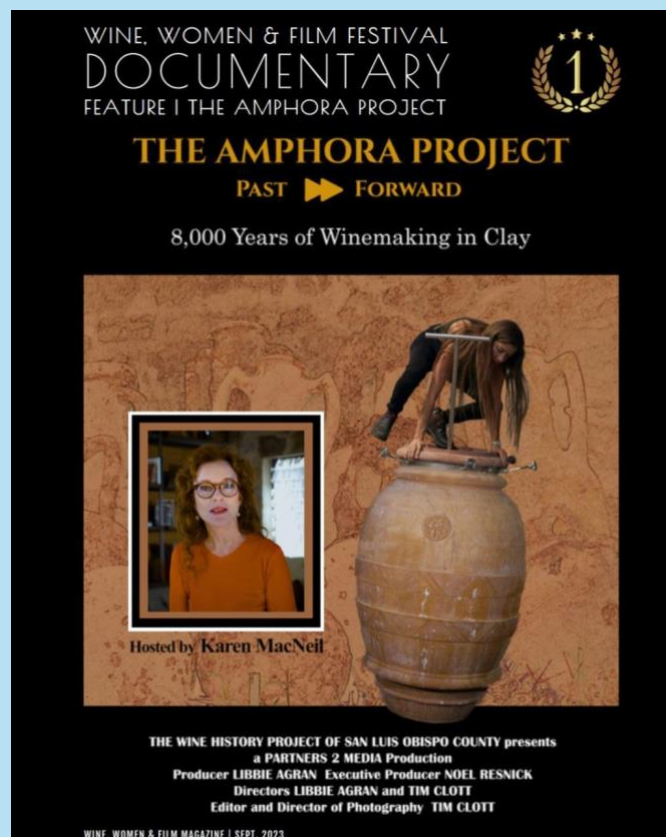
## *Membership*

74% of our Dames were renewed before the August 18th deadline, thank you! This helps our chapter stay organized and on top of national guidelines. If you have not renewed yet, please do so by logging on to your profile

on [lesdamessf.org](http://lesdamessf.org). Note dues have increased to \$200 for those who did not make the first deadline. Please don't hesitate to reach out to AnneMarie ([lesdamessf@gmail.com](mailto:lesdamessf@gmail.com)) if you have any questions!

## Member News

New Dame Karen MacNeil, who narrated and hosted the documentary film, The Amphora Project, announced that the film won Best Feature Documentary at the Wine, Women & Film Festival. You can find information about the September 23 Wine, Women & Film Festival and Screening here: <https://winewomenfilm.com/2023-live-event>. Congratulations Karen!



Dame Tanya Holland will be one of three panel members for Salt & Spine: The State of California Cuisine, a Conversation with Leading Cookbook authors on Friday September 15th at the Mill Valley Public Library from 7-9 PM. More information is [here](#).

## Scholarship

Seeking Mentors!!!

We are proud and thrilled to support two incredible women on their paths to greatness and are looking for mentors to work with our 2023 scholarship winners!

***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 Rodenbug 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](mailto: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*

We received many nominations this year of which nine candidates met the criteria. September 6th was the cut off date for nominations. As an aide-memoire, here is the criteria for eligibility:

The fellowship is given annually to a promising Bay Area woman and/or nonbinary food /wine journalist who:

- Exhibits a commitment to a career in food journalism
- Demonstrates excellence and a range of writing (either a variety of topics or broad coverage on a single subject)
- Shows relevance to today's food/wine/social justice landscape in her/their writing
- Has no more than ten years full-time in the field of food journalism
- Is not a Les Dames member

Confidential nominations came from our chapter members and also previous recipients. The review committee, which includes Dames Janet Fletcher and Margo True plus several of the fellows, are currently evaluating the candidates. We plan on announcing the 2023 Fellow at the General Member Meeting and New Member Induction on Monday, September 18th.

Many thanks to all of you who nominated and to those who made donations this year.

## *Business Grant*

Applications opened September 1st for our first LDEI-SF Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship!

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. Applications for the inaugural year's TWO grants will be accepted through our website September 1, 2023 - October 12, 2023. Please [help us get the word out with this press release link](#) to business owners who fit the criteria and encourage them to apply online [here](#). For more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at [emily@emilyluchetti.com](mailto:emily@emilyluchetti.com).

### **LDEI Quarterly**

We await the dates for the 2024 editorial calendar for the LDEI Quarterly. For any updates on Membership Milestones and Chapter Programs for the LDEI Quarterly, so please contact Dame Jodie Chase at [jodie@chase-ink.com](mailto:jodie@chase-ink.com). She will submit it to National.



We welcome you to submit any items for our biweekly communiqué to Communications Committee Chair Kimberly Noelle Charles at [kcharles@charlescomm.com](mailto: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](mailto:lesdamessf@gmail.com)

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