

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

January 12, 2024

Dear Dames,

Welcome 2024! As we shared in our last communiqué, 2023 was a big year for our chapter. We launched our first Business Development Committee and have awarded our first two grants. In addition to providing funds for these two women-owned businesses, we are taking an ongoing mentoring role to help and support their businesses. In addition to launching this committee and awarding our first grants, institutionalizing this mentorship is a new strategy for us.



Wendy Lieu of Socola paid for a new sign with her business grant from LDES
Photo credit: Kimberly Charles

We inducted 18 new members into the chapter. This is the first year women could nominate themselves for membership, accompanied by a letter of recommendation from an existing member. We instituted two new strategies for welcoming new members. One is having the women who wrote their recommendations serve as initial mentors. We also asked each prospective member to identify which committee they would like to serve on. Getting members, new or old, involved is one of the most gratifying aspects of membership in Les Dames.

It's customary to make New Year's resolutions and one of our chapter's resolutions is organization sustainability. For us that means several things. One is to ensure there is a succession plan in place for our Board of Directors. While our Board Members work well together and enjoy serving the organization in this capacity, most have been serving in their positions more time than is really fair to them. It's time for new energy and the next generation to take over. We've asked previously but will continue to ask you to come forward and join our Board.

The other aspect of sustainability is financial. As a philanthropic organization, we need to generate income to provide funds for our various programs. We are excited and so appreciative to announce a very generous donation from Noe Valley Bakery, Mary and Michael Gassen. We are also excited that we have a corporate sponsor for our upcoming event on February 9, Tahitian Gold , which will honor our new scholarship and business development grantees.

Last year we received an initial anonymous grant that enabled us to launch the Business Development grants. We are fortunate to have funds for our annual Fellowship award. While we do not raise funds just to have money in our coffers, we believe it is important for every event we organize to at least break even. One way to do that is by obtaining corporate sponsors to help underwrite our events. We are developing a Fundraising Committee to help manage this process.

As women involved in the food, wine, and hospitality industries, you likely interact with other potential sponsors. We are a special group of women in the Bay Area in these industries and provide a great way for potential sponsors to get visibility within our membership. Please consider who might be good future sponsors and let our either Pam or Frankie know so they can follow up with them. Email is: presldeisf1@gmail.com.

We are off to a great start and to continue that momentum we need your involvement. We can only continue to reiterate how rewarding it has been for us and for all the women who have chosen to participate, so join the fun!

With gratitude and thanks,
Pam Mazzola
Co-Presidents LDEI-SF

Events

February 9, 2024 5:30 PM at Prospect SF

Celebrate LDEI-SF Award Winners Sponsored by Tahitian Gold Co.

Join us on Friday evening, February 9th at Prospect SF to celebrate the recipients of LDEI-SF's 2023 Female Entrepreneurship Grant and Mentorship program and L'Etoile d'Escoffier Culinary Scholarships. Enjoy wine and delicious apps at Dames Pam Mazzola and Kathy King's culinary hotspot in SOMA, mingle with friends, and meet these new and emerging Bay Area women culinary leaders: Stephanie de la Cruz of [De La Creamery](#) in Oakland and Wendy Lieu of [Socola Chocolatier](#) in San Francisco, are winners of the inaugural 2023 Female Entrepreneurship Grant and Mentorship program created to support female-owned businesses in the food, culinary, and hospitality industry with cash awards and mentorship to help them expand and enhance their business. [Mijenta Tequila](#) helped sponsor this year's awards.

Alma Moon, pursuing bakery and pastry with a specialty in gluten-free at Laney College, and Ashton Rodenburg, a recent graduate of CIA Greystone who is on her way to a career as a chef, are 2023 recipients of our chapter's L'Etoile scholarships initiated in 2019 and awarded to eight future culinary leaders to date. The scholarships support outstanding female students and recent graduates in achieving their professional aspirations.

We'll also sample some high-quality vanilla from event sponsor [Tahitian Gold Co.](#) and learn about it from the founder who is attending the evening. Plus a chance to win some great raffle prizes donated by SF Dames!

Open to SF Dames and their guests. Register [here](#).



Call for Program Concepts and Speakers 2024

The Events Committee is actively seeking program concepts and speakers to deliver them for our chapter's participation in the fourth annual LDEI Table Talk Series which takes place in March 2024. The series, organized by the International organization, celebrates Women's History Month throughout March with a variety of virtual events from chapters to educate and entertain. See the [news release](#) on the 2023 program for more information.

Chapter members with a compelling idea, which can range from a food, wine or hospitality issue or trend in the news to a cooking demo or wine tasting, are requested to send a brief note to Events Committee chairs Nancy Light nancyalight@gmail.com and Saundra O'Day saundrao@noevalleybakery.com by January 15. Please include the topic concept, why it's relevant or interesting, name(s) of suggested presenter, or presenters if it's a panel, and confirmation of their ability to organize the program. The Events and Communications Committees will provide support with liaison to LDEI, invitation, publicizing and supporting logistics at the event as needed.

Our chapter has participated in all three previous Table Talks: In [2023](#) with a panel on New Frontiers in Meat & Dairy, in [2022](#) with a panel on Food Waste & Upcycling and in [2021](#) with a bi-coastal conversation on Rethinking Fair Wages & the New Restaurant Paradigm. The events raise funds for our chapter and have typically been attended by 30-40 participants, mainly from our chapter.

Types of past Table Talks events throughout the country have included panel presentations, cooking demos, professional development, nutrition, DEI topics, cheese tasting, trend panel with guest speakers, kitchen design, culinary heritage/history, beverage trend experts, wine tasting, chef interview and marketing tips.

The deadline for submitting titles and ideas to LDEI is **January 22nd** so the events team would like to finalize the chapter Table Talk soon. Contact Nancy and Saundra above with any questions.

February 4, 2024 Monterey, CA 5:30 PM

Meet the Great Grandson of Auguste Escoffier - Michel Escoffier February 4,

2024

Presented by The Disciples Escoffier International USA & Les Dames d' Escoffier Monterey Chapter's Annual U.S. National Induction Dinner and Celebration

Shared by our Monterey chapter dames...Get fancy and head down to Monterey for ***An Evening in France!*** Hosted by the Monterey chapter and officiated by Michel Escoffier, Great Grandson of Auguste Escoffier of France, enjoy a fabulous French dinner by Chef Colin Moody.

When: February 4, 5:30pm-9:00pm

Where: The Pasadera Club in Monterey

Cost: \$175

Learn more by reviewing the [attached invitation](#). Alternatively, call Rachel Mueller with your credit card to reserve a seat at 831-625-3425.

Trip to Greece September 25- October 6, 2024 with Dame [Lisa Stavropoulos](#)

Join Dame Lisa Stavropoulos and an intimate group of dames from the Northern California chapters on an immersive culinary wine and food tour of Greece this fall. [A full itinerary is here](#), along with details on the travel and pricing. A portion of each ticket cost will benefit the chapter from which the dame who travels, originates. For more information, contact Lisa at lisa@greekgrapewinetours.com or 415-412-4524.

LDEI Quarterly

The most recent issue of the Quarterly is online [here](#). We still await 2024 deadlines for the LDEI Quarterly. For any updates on Membership Milestones and Chapter Programs, please contact Dame Jodie Chase at 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 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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