

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

April 1, 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

Spring is in the air finally! Enjoy the upcoming holidays and spring break if you are lucky enough to have one!

The arrival of spring means that it's that time of year again—time to nominate the next cohort of dynamic, engaged, hardworking women to join our organization. We are especially interested in applications from young, diverse candidates eager to contribute their time and talent to grow within the chapter. Please read the Membership section below for more details.

ICYMI we have made several updates to our website. Please take a scroll through and admire the wonderful work our new site administrator, AnneMarie Austin, has been doing! Thank you AnneMarie.

Hope to see you at DECANTsf on April 14th.

Warmly,

Pam Mazzola
Chapter President LDEI-SF

Events

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 Friday April 14, 5:30-7:30 pm.

The second event in our Member Meetups series—casual, no-host events for chapter members around the Bay Area—will be at Dame Cara Patricia's SoMa wine bar, bottle shop, and education venue, DECANTsf on Friday evening, April 14 at 5:30 pm.

Dame Patricia, Advanced Sommelier, opened the doors to DECANTsf in 2019 with co-founder Simi Grewal, as a sustainable wine and craft beer bottle shop and bar combining hospitality, education, and curated selections for everyone. A graduate of DePaul University and The Culinary Institute of America, she is known for her relaxed style of wine education. Her motto is "Drink for Yourself," a reminder that regardless of trends and fads in the beverage world, what is most important is what makes YOU happy.

Dames will gather to enjoy drinks and light bites which can be pre-ordered. Invitation to follow. Please register on our [website](#).

DECANTsf is located at 1168 Folsom St., SF, CA. Please contact Dame Nancy Light at nancyalight@gmail.com with questions.



photo courtesy DECANTsf

Fundraising

The Raffle is On! Our last raffle at the New Member Reception was so well received, we'd like to make it a regular occurrence. Please consider donating items for raffles at our upcoming in-person events to support our chapter and get the word out about your business, product, service, or latest undertaking. 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

It's official! The San Francisco Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier is now accepting **New Member nominations and applications** for our 2023-2024 Induction.

Prospective members may be nominated by existing LDEI-SF chapter members or may self-nominate by [applying directly to the organization](#). In 2022, self-nomination was introduced nationally as an option for the new member applications in order to foster a more transparent process and to further the organization's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

Completed applications will be accepted through May 31, 2023. The Nominating Committee recommendation and the vote of the Board will determine membership acceptance.

Our [press release](#) will be made public on Monday, April 3. If you know a dynamic individual (or several!) who could make a valuable addition to our Chapter, please encourage them to apply. For questions regarding nominations or applications, please contact LDEI-SF Membership Chair Frankie Whitman at frankiewhitman@gmail.com.

Fellowship

If you haven't yet, please check out the impressive work of **Anne Marshall-Chalmers**, the 2022 recipient of our Karola Sekel Craib Excellence In Food Journalism Fellowship. Anne is a freelance writer and senior reporter with Civil Eats who reports on climate change, agriculture, school food, and public health. This was shared on our [Facebook page](#) so be sure to join it or check there for regular updates and postings.

Our website also features profiles of past winners who are continuing Karola's wonderful legacy. To read more about the awardees, criteria for nomination, and how you can contribute, please visit the [Fellowship](#) page on our website.

Member News

Last Thursday, March 23, SF Chapter Treasurer Dame Nancy Ash was at the Ritz Carlton in Fort Lauderdale (not for Spring break!), talking about all things olive oil with the Dames of the South Florida chapter. The comparative tasting included Seka Hills Estate Arbequina (California, contributed by Dame Roberta Klugman), Olio Piro (Tuscany, contributed by Florida Vice President Dame Marie-Charlotte Piro), and Oro di Milas (Turkiye, contributed by Nancy). It was a wonderful synergy of West and East Coast spirit, and since family connections bring Nancy to Florida a few times each year, she vowed to bring more tastings to this group.

The tasting was followed by a Prosecco toast and a lavish spread of meats, cheeses, salad, and of course bread, so the group could continue enjoying the oils with food.



Photo courtesy: Les Dames South Florida

This week's **Meet a Member** featured Dominica Rice-Cisneros, chef/owner of Bombera and ambassador for Chicana heritage cooking.



Photo, courtesy bomberaoakland.com

To see the full feature on Dominica, check out our Instagram feed: [@lesdamessf](https://www.instagram.com/@lesdamessf).

Tablehopper relaunch :: UPDATE :: Special discount link for Dames

After 17 years of assiduously and enthusiastically covering the San Francisco Bay Area dining and drinking scene through the best and worst of times, [tablehopper](http://tablehopper.com) founder and publisher Marcia Gagliardi has relaunched her groundbreaking insider newsletter and column with a new subscription model, now offering various tiers and insider benefits.

We inadvertently left this out in our last communique, but Marcia has generously offered our Dames a special discount of [\\$25 off an annual subscription](#). Known for being an inexhaustible source of the latest restaurant news, this new era will provide tablehopper readers with expanded content and even more access to Marcia's deeply supportive, on-the-ground reporting, and keen curation of SF's best amenities. [Subscribe](#) to see the major upgrade and discover why it's a must-read newsletter for anyone who lives to eat in SF.



photo, credit: Juliette Spirson

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 below. We have several entries already for the May 1st edition:

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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