

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

April 14, 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

I am happily celebrating longer days and warmer weather but at Prospect, we are still awaiting the bounties of the spring harvest to arrive after our cold and wet winter. But I am delighted to report that our chapter is in full swing! [Membership](#) is open on the website as well as our [scholarship application](#). Please nominate potential future dames and advise those you know who are continuing education and careers in hospitality to apply for our scholarships.

I would like to congratulate one of our San Francisco Chapters founding members, Sibella Kraus, on her 2023 Woman of Purpose nomination. If you don't already know her, she has been at the forefront of environmental sustainability, land stewardship, and food equity for multiple decades. Please take to time to follow [this link](#) and read about her many contributions and those of the other accomplished Dames nominated for this prestigious international award.

I will be thinking about trying a new wine at [DECANTsf](#) on Friday at our member meetup.

Looking forward to catching up with all of you. Thank you Cara for giving us the opportunity to gather.

As always with gratitude,

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.

There is still time to join this Friday's meetup! 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

Save these dates for upcoming events!

Thursday July 20: A special Tequila Tasting at Joanne Weir's San Francisco home, Thursday evening, July 20th. We'll taste and contrast a blanco, reposado, and añejo tequila from a top-shelf producer. Plus a bonus award-winning margarita and bites to complement from Copita, her tequileria. Stay tuned for more details and registration coming soon for this delicious fundraising event for our San Francisco Chapter!

Sunday May 7th Spring Fling in Sonoma - Valley restaurant and wine bar in Sonoma:

Dames from both the Sonoma and San Francisco chapters are invited to gather at the acclaimed Valley Restaurant on Sonoma's historic square for a festive al fresco brunch on Sunday, May 7, at 11:30 am. Watch your inbox for further information and registration details! Meanwhile, 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.

Fundraising

Our events have a new feature this year, and it is a great way to promote your brand, company, offerings!

This is your chance to support our chapter and get the word out about your business, product, service, or latest undertaking. We are actively seeking donations for raffles at our upcoming in-person events. 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

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.



Photo credit: Marcia Gagliardi

Member News

This week's **Meet a Member** featured Communications Committee chair,

Kimberly Noelle Charles, DipWSET, who started our Instagram channel, and who oversees our internal and external communications with a great team. She started this communique and serves as its editor-in-chief.



Photo courtesy: Kimberly Charles

To see the full feature on Kimberly, check out our Instagram feed: [@lesdamessf](#).

We'd love to share YOUR story with our Chapter! If you haven't yet, please fill out this [questionnaire](#) to be featured in an upcoming Meet a Member post.

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!

Instagram

Help us get to 1,000 followers. Our growth has been robust in the last 2 years, thanks to regular posting and the mad skills of Dame Maryam Ahmed. Please share the feed with those you think would want to hear about our good works! Cheers!



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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