

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

May 12, 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

I can't believe how quickly the last two weeks have flown by! My to do lists: must do, can do, should do, want to do, no way am I going to do that and can I just do nothing, seem endless. The hospitality industry can drain you but can just as easily lift you up. As I heard from many of the attendees of the joint gathering with the Sonoma Chapter at Valley on Sunday the event certainly was enjoyed by all. That is why I try to attend as many events as possible, they always provide some moments of comradery, insight and support...just saying.

Since we are on the topic of events I am announcing a save the date for the New Member Induction dinner which will be held on Monday September 18th at Foreign Cinema. Dame Gayle Pirie has generously agreed to host and as always, I know it will be a wonderful evening. Please mark your calendars, the inside scoop is we will be welcoming some amazing new Dames to our chapter.

The Business Grant Committee had their first meeting on May 8th. I anticipate that we will be awarding our first grant in 2023. Thank you to the committee for your amazing work to date. I am very excited our chapter has committed to yet another way

to connect with the community and provide an opportunity for a woman-owned hospitality business to grow.

I am throwing out a “want to do” for a Dame in the chapter. The communique needs a co-pilot, Kimberly Charles built the communique over the last 18 months into a hub of information and celebration for our chapter and it has been a wonderful addition. Please reach out, I know one of the LDEI-SF Dames “can do”.

On to just doing nothing,

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.

Sunday June 4th Marin Farmers Market and Monk's Kettle

Registration is [here](#). Join our June Member Meetup in Marin, a casual no-host lunch at The Monk's Kettle in San Rafael, co-owned by Dame Alison Jordan, on Sunday, June 4th, at 12:30pm.

The Monk's Kettle Terra Linda is a family-friendly craft beer tavern, kitchen, and bottle shop, featuring local and sustainable food and beverages. Nestled in the Terra Linda community of San Rafael, it's the Marin version of the flagship and original Monk's Kettle San Francisco, a neighborhood craft beer tavern that's flourished in San Francisco's Mission District for nearly 15 years.

A true neighborhood gathering spot, The Monk's Kettle Terra Linda was recently featured on Check Please! Bay Area. Check out the episode [here](#) and visit their [website](#) for menus and more.

For Farmers' Market lovers, San Rafael has a fabulous Sunday Farmers' Market at San Rafael Civic Center nearby. Visit the market before coming to lunch and tell us about your favorite buy of the day.

Registration will be set up on the website soon. Dame René Matthew is the ambassador; please contact her for questions at rene.matthew@comcast.net.



photo courtesy: Monk's Kettle

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

Dame Kimberly Belle reports, "Our chapter joined with our sister dames in Sonoma on Sunday to co-host an al fresco brunch at Valley Bar + Bottle on Sonoma's historic town square. Twenty of us gathered to connect with other hospitality leaders and build community with like minded souls. Over seasonal spring fare, local wines and buzzy conversation, we left brunch with a greater sense of fellowship and belonging, sparking new friendships and projects between chapters." Sonoma Chapter President Doralice Handal shares, "We loved the family style brunch menu. We placed both chapter

members alternatively at the tables to encourage new connections. We brought a few prospective members as well. These meet ups are a great way to help with the membership campaign.”



SF and Sonoma chapter dames gather at Valley. Photo courtesy: Kimberly Belle

Save The Date

Thursday July 20: A special Tequila Tasting at Joanne Weir’s San Francisco home, Thursday July 20th at 6:00 pm. This intimate event will be open to 12 guests, who will have the chance to taste and contrast a blanco, reposado, and añejo tequila from a top-shelf producer. Bonuses will include an award-winning margarita; a copy of Joanne’s book *Tequila: A Guide to Types, Flights, Cocktails, and Bites*; and complementary tacos, salsa, and Oaxacan chocolate milkshakes from Copita, her tequileria. This event

will be a fundraiser to support our chapter's philanthropic work. Stay tuned for more delicious details and registration coming soon!



Photo courtesy: Joanne Weir

Monday September 18th: Foreign Cinema will once again host our Induction Dinner announces President Pam Mazzola. Mark your calendars for our biggest event all year.

Business Grant

The board of LDEI-SF has worked over the last several years to add a Business Grant to our philanthropic work. Now it's not only possible, but it's happening! Mary Gassen and Emily Luchetti will be co-chairs on the committee, and Sue Conley has signed on as a member. This is already a dynamic group, but we are looking for several more Dames to serve. Share your passion to promote women-owned businesses, and be part of the process! If you are interested in joining this new committee, please email Emily Luchetti at emily@emilyluchetti.com.

Membership

Just under 3 weeks remain for nominations for new members for this year. Dame Frankie Whitman reports we are receiving good applications and still await more. Our target is 10 new members for 2023. It is great to have a new 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 most significant 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.

Member News

This week's Meet a Member featured Dru Rivers

Meet the San Francisco Dames

Dru Rivers



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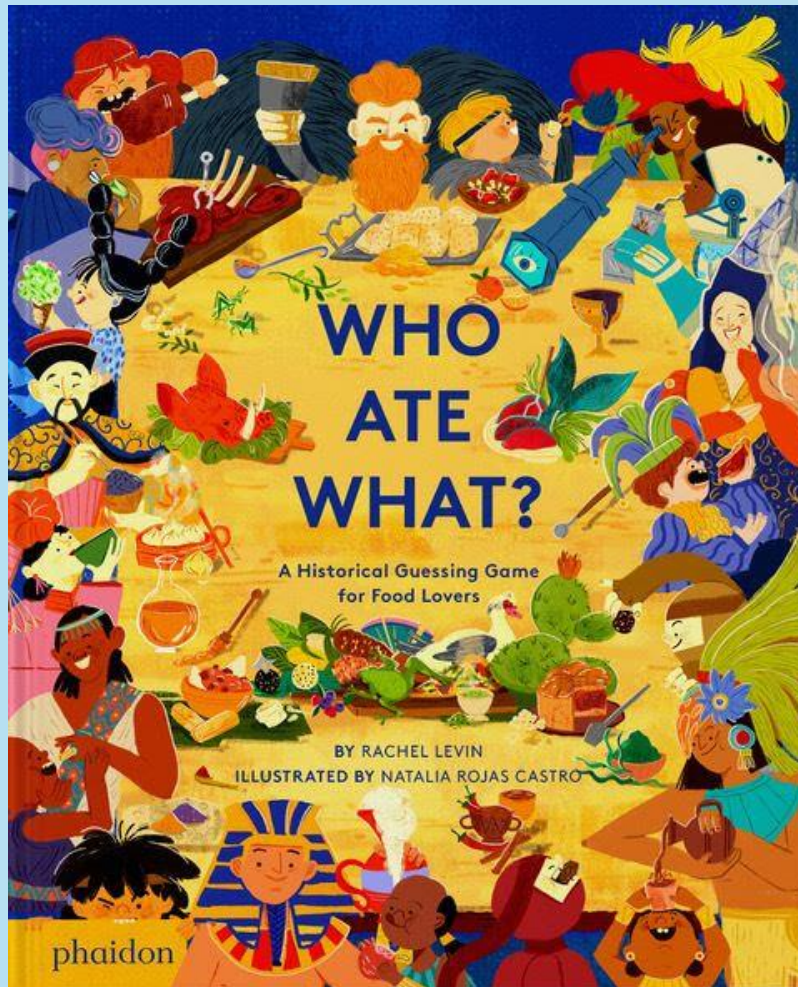
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

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

Dame Rachel Levin who also is a Karola Saekel Craib fellow, announces the publication of her first children's book, published by Phaidon. [WHO ATE WHAT?](#) offers kids an educational look at eating through the ages — from the cave days (acorns!) to astronauts (pizza but no potato chips, too many crumbs!) to tomorrow (more insects! more seaweed! maybe even one day cell-based meat for the masses...).

Plus 4 super easy recipes in the back. The illustrations— by Natalia Rojas Castro—are fabulous, and make it the kind of Richard Scarry-esque book, kids could mine forever and always find something new.



On May 25th, Dame Gayle Pirie celebrates 24 years of Foreign Cinema with a Moroccan and North African themed party, with dance, music, libations and great food, all benefiting local charities. 5:30 -10:30 PM, tickets are [here](#)



LDEI Quarterly

The next deadline for the summer Quarterly is 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. 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.

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 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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