

# *The Communiqué*



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

June 26, 2023

Dear Bay Area Dames,

Summer is underway officially this week and much like the great bounty we're all enjoying from our farmer's markets, we've got a full basket of great initiatives and news from our chapter to share.

Several of our dames are at the Fancy Food Show in New York City, as I write this, and if your travels take you there, try to join up with our contingent. Details below.

We just had our board meeting and we are rocking and rolling with our business grant, twenty three applications (the most ever for our chapter) for new members, several special events this summer and solid financial footing. Proud of our collective accomplishments!

Best as always,

Pam Mazzola  
Chapter President LDEI-SF

*Events*

## **Fancy Food Show New York City June 25-27**

From Dame Nancy Ash - Are you coming into New York City for the Summer Fancy Food Show?

The New York Chapter of Les Dames d'Escoffier would like to welcome Dames from other chapters with a casual happy hour on Sunday, June 25 from 5 p.m.- 6:30 p.m.

We've arranged with The Lookup, a rooftop bar on top of the Kixby Hotel at 45 West 35 Street to set aside a space for us. They generously offered to kick off our get-together with complimentary glasses of Cava. After that, it's a cash bar.

## **Thursday July 20: A special Tequila Tasting at Joanne Weir's San Francisco home 6-9 PM - Only 4 spaces left**

This intimate event at the stunning Pacific Heights home of noted TV personality and author Joanne Weir, is only open to 12 guests and there are four remaining.. Taste and contrast a blanco, reposado, and añejo tequila from a top-shelf producer along with 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. Registration is [here](#).



Photo courtesy: Joanne Weir

**Save the Date: Dinner Event Tuesday August 8th, 6 pm (30 guest limit)**

Join us for an evening at Wahpepah's Kitchen, a Native American Cuisine restaurant in Oakland from James Beard Finalist Crystal Wahpepah, an enrolled member of the Kickapoo nation of Oklahoma. She and Head Chef Khalani Bagues will be serving a four course family style dinner that uses an Indigenous Food Sovereignty model and features Seka Hill wines. Registration will be coming soon. To learn more about this Oakland gem please visit [Wahpepah's Kitchen](#).



Photo courtesy: Wahpepah's Kitchen

**Save the Date: Reception Event Sunday, August 27th afternoon; 2-4 pm (20 people limit)**

Enjoy Gin & Tonics and learn the art of craft Gin with Sonoma Dame Tara Jasper, Owner and Distiller of SipSong Spirits at the Santa Rosa Airport Hangar (Charles Schultz Airport) \$40 includes G&T sampling and Dames-supplied nibbles. *Registration coming soon.* To learn more about this woman -owned and operated spirit production company based in Sonoma County, visit [here](#)



Photo credit: SipSong Spirits

**Mark Your Calendars! Monday September 18th:** Foreign Cinema will once again host our Induction event. As always, it promises to be exciting and energizing.



Photo credit: Foreign Cinema

### **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. Stay tuned for information on our next one.

October 5-8 National Conference in Louisville, KY If you haven't attended one before, it's a great way to meet other chapters and to learn more intrinsically about our mission and history. Always a fun way to see a town through epicurean eyes. More info [here](#).

## *Business Grant*

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. To be eligible for this grant, applicants must identify as women, be non-members of Les Dames d'Escoffier, and fulfill specific criteria. These requirements include having commenced business operations on or before January 1, 2022, being a female-owned establishment serving or located within the San Francisco Bay Area, and maintaining an annual revenue of less than \$1 million. Furthermore, applicants are expected to submit profit and loss statements for both 2022 and the year-to-date of 2023. Additionally, in either a concise essay of up to 500 words, or a video not exceeding 5 minutes, aspiring recipients must articulate their identity, describe the nature of their business, and outline how the grant funds would be utilized if their application is chosen.

Mary Gassen and Emily Luchetti are co-chairs on this 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! For more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at [emily@emilyluchetti.com](mailto:emily@emilyluchetti.com).

## *Membership*

Membership chair Dame Frankie Whitman reports we had 23 nominations for new members this year! Way to go SF Chapter! The committee's goal is to review nominations and forward recommendations to the Board by June 30. By the end of July the Board will have reviewed and approved recommendations. We hope to make formal announcements by mid August. If you nominated someone, please share this timeline with them.

**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](http://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](mailto: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](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)

Les Dames d'Escoffier International, San Francisco Chapter, is a 501 (c)(3) (EIN 20-5941764)  
Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law.

If you no longer wish to receive these emails, you can [unsubscribe](#) at any time