

# *The Communiqué*



**Les Dames d'Escoffier®**

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

July 7, 2023

Summer is in full swing, and the year is half over. This is a very active time for our chapter; like the bounty of our summer farmers' markets, we have a full basket of updates! We have our 2023 cohort of new members to be announced and inducted, and scholarships and the Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism fellowship to be awarded for 2023. Our Business Grant chairs Mary Gassen, Emily Luchetti and the committee members have determined the criteria for this first-time grant opportunity, and we will begin accepting applications in a few weeks. I am very grateful to all the chairs and committee members who make these grants and awards possible along with the support of our events and communications committees. Also, a big thank you to all our LDEI-SF members who through their membership, donations and participation support all our chapter's philanthropic works.

It is time for our membership renewal dues drive, the timing has shifted slightly due to requirements from LDEI-International. We are asking you to please renew by August 18th this year. These dues are critical to our chapter and our national affiliation in terms of keeping the lights on. Help our treasurer Nancy Ash meet the deadline for National and get your membership dues in ASAP. We will be sending out a dedicated email next week but [here is the link](#) to renew. Please note this takes you to your profile where you click on the "Renew till Sunday

September 1, 2024” button to renew. Dues are \$190 if paid by August 18th and will be \$200 after that date.

On a national level, the program for the National Conference in Louisville, Kentucky has been finalized and [conference tickets](#) are now available. Temple Grandin is the keynote speaker for Day 1, so that gives you a sense of the caliber of this gathering. You will need to log in to your profile on the national web site to purchase the conference package (which took me a minute to figure out). I am looking forward to all the conference has to offer.

Hoping you all find the perfect peach!

Pam Mazzola  
Chapter President LDEI-SF

PS - We will not have a communique for the first time since publishing, on July 21 due to travel by Dame Kimberly Noelle Charles, editor. We will restart our bi-weekly schedule on July 28th, if you have anything to share.

## Events

### **Thursday July 20: A special Tequila Tasting at Joanne Weir’s San Francisco home 6-9 PM -SOLD OUT**

Exciting update to the sold-out At Home with Dame Joanne Weir Tequila Tasting event on July 20th. We are pleased to share that [Don Pilar](#) Tequila is providing the tequila for the tasting. We thank the [Don Pilar](#) family for their support and participation in this fundraiser.

Attendees will 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 is a fundraiser to support our chapter’s philanthropic work.

We thank the [Don Pilar](#) family for their support and participation in this fundraiser, and Dame Joanne Weir's Copita Tequileria y Comida in Sausalito for the food.



Photo courtesy: Joanne Weir

**Saturday July 29, 2023 A Special Limited Seating Luncheon 11- 2 PM with Alice Waters**

Audubon Canyon Ranch is thrilled to announce an **exclusive event** at M.F.K. Fisher's Last House on Bouverie Preserve: ***An Afternoon with Alice*** on Saturday, July 29, 2023. In celebration of food and community and to support its programs, Audubon Canyon Ranch has partnered with Alice Waters to create a delicious, seasonal, and locally sourced meal prepared by Chez Pansse staff.

During this intimate luncheon with Alice Waters and only 30 guests, you will enjoy the serene environs of Fisher's Last House while taking in sweeping views of Bouverie Preserve and the Sonoma Valley. The program includes a conversation

with Alice moderated by Clark Wolf, where she'll discuss her friendship with acclaimed writer M.F.K. Fisher, her connection to the work at Bouverie Preserve, how Fisher inspired her own career and Fisher's legacy.

An American chef, restaurateur, author, and pioneer for California cuisine, Alice is a leader in the farm-to-table movement and an advocate for sustainable and regenerative agricultural practices. Tickets are \$2,000 per person and [available here](#). Ticket purchase supports the mission of Audubon Canyon Ranch: *connecting nature, people, and science for a more resilient world.*



Photo courtesy: Alice Waters

### **July 31st 11 AM - 2 PM from the Les Dames Sonoma chapter - A Tour of Kathleen Thompson Hill Kitchen Memories Collection at Elizabeth Spencer Winery**

Join fellow Dames for a guided tour with culinary historian Dame Kathleen Thompson Hill whose collection now resides at Elizabeth Spencer Winery. Guests will enjoy an introductory sip of wine as they gather in the garden before they tour the collection.

Included in the ticket will be lunch, wine tasting, tour and conversation with Kathleen and special guest Katie Pratt.

A portion of ticket sales will benefit Les Dames Sonoma.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kitchen-memories-collection-tour-lunch-tickets-667725624317>

Address: 1165 Rutherford Road, Rutherford, CA



Photo credit: Kathleen Hill

**Artisanal G & T Tasting with Dame Tara Jasper, SipSong Spirits - Sunday, August 27th 2-4 PM**

Sonoma Dame Tara Jasper, Founder of SipSong Spirits, will host SF Dames for a tasting of the most diverse of all spirits, gin on Sunday, August 27th from 2-4 pm. She'll share her path to becoming a distiller and we'll taste SipSong's gins and build two delicious gin and tonics. Gather with us at SipSong's Spirits Hangar near the Pacific Coast Air Museum for a perfect August afternoon sipping G & T's with 100% female-made gins accompanied by finger foods prepared by SF Dames Janet Fletcher and Peggy Fallon. Proceeds from the event will go to our Chapter's

General Fund. [Registration is here](#). Cost is \$40 and limited to 20 people. Dames may bring a guest.

*Also, enjoy a ride over Sonoma in Tara's XCub Backcountry plane and support our chapter!*

Dame Jasper, a pilot, is also offering two, one-hour flights over Sonoma in her XCub Backcountry plane at \$500 each as a fundraiser for our chapter. Flights can take place prior to the tasting on 8/27 or scheduled for a later date. Email Events Committee co-chair Nancy Light [nancyalight@gmail.com](mailto:nancyalight@gmail.com) if you are interested in this thrilling opportunity to enjoy a birds eye view of Sonoma while supporting our chapter.



Photo credit: SipSong Spirits

**Mark Your Calendars! Monday September 18th:** We will host our Induction event on Monday September 18th in the evening. As always, it promises to be an exciting and energizing event. Stay tuned here for updates but hold the date!

## 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. For the time being, we have moved the Wapepah's Kitchen event originally slated for August to a Fall member meet up. The Events Committee will keep us apprised on next steps!

## Scholarship

Good news! Two recipients have been chosen and more information will be shared in a future communique!

## Fellowship

The Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship will be awarded this fall at the annual meeting September 18th. The recognition comes with \$5,000 and is awarded to a promising Bay Area woman and/or nonbinary food /wine journalist (not a Les Dames member) each year. We are actively seeking confidential nominations. Check out <https://lesdamessf.org/Fellowship> for the criteria and more information. Please send any nominations to Fellowship Co-chairs Roberta Klugman [rklugman@robertaklugman.com](mailto:rklugman@robertaklugman.com) and Jennifer Newens [jennifernewens@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jennifernewens@sbcglobal.net) by July 26.

## 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*

Our new members will be announced in the next communique! Excited to bring a new cohort on board!

## *Member News*

### **San Francisco Dames travel to New York for the Summer Fancy Food Show and Meet Up with the New York Chapter.**

Dame Roberta Klugman reports that while exhibiting at the recent Summer Fancy Food Show in New York, Roberta, who was representing the Extra Virgin Alliance, and Dame Nancy Ash (Oro de Milas) happily attended the New York Chapter's meet-up at The Kixby Hotel and their new rooftop bar, The Lookup, hosted by NY



Dames Pat Cobe and Bonnie Tandy Leblang. Thank you New York Chapter and The Kixby for the generous and gracious hospitality!



### **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.

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!

Additional due dates for 2024 are not yet published.



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)

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