

# The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

August 25, 2023

Dear Dames,

I would like to echo the recent letters from our LDEI National President Jennifer Goldman and share our sorrow at the news coming from Hawaii. As the tragedy continues to unfold, the need for aid continues to grow. One of our main missions as Dames is to support our communities and our members, and grassroots efforts are more critical now than ever. For those who want to donate here is the link to the [Hawaii chapter website](#). Our fellow Dames are working diligently to feed and supply those in need on Maui. Personally, having enjoyed the hospitality of the Islands on many occasions, a donation seems the least I can do to further the relief effort. I hope you agree.

This week's communique is full of chapter news and upcoming events. Induction is only a few weeks away and while we have limited space at Foreign Cinema, there are [still spaces available](#). We have another inspiring group of inductees this year, so we hope you will join us and help welcome them into our chapter on September 18<sup>th</sup>.

As our chapter grows, so does our need to strengthen and diversify the board. We have a fully functioning board but many current board members have supported the chapter in this role for quite a few years. For our chapter to continue

to expand in our philanthropy and programs we need to enrich the board with members who have not previously served. Please consider reaching out and becoming a board member. My time on the board, and as President of our chapter has enriched my life in so many ways.

Wishing you a restful and bountiful end to summer and maybe one last vacation,

Pam Mazzola  
Chapter President LDEI-SF

## *Events*

### **Benefit for Maui - Support our fellow chapter's work - August 26th at Compline in Napa**

6:00 pm-8:00 pm - Compline Restaurant and Wine Shop - 1300 First Street, Napa

Dame Jammir Gray of Compline Restaurant and Wine Shop in Napa, California is hosting a fundraiser for Maui to support the work of our sister chapter Les Dames d'Escoffier Hawaii (President Clare Bobo) this Saturday August 26th.

Chef Jammir is pitching in with some huli-huli skewers (chicken, tofu, and veggie), Scale Wine Group is pouring Odysée 319 "Grand Cru" Blanc de Blancs Champagne, and we are going to generate some positive vibes and support a much-needed relief effort in Maui. (Toque) hats off to Chef Jammir! As a member of Les Dames d'Escoffier San Francisco, she pointed us toward the good work their Honolulu Chapter is doing in Maui. These ladies are on the ground, cooking for survivors and rescue workers in the disaster area.

Compline Wine Shop is donating 50% of the ticket proceeds to Les Dames (Honolulu) and 10% off any retail bottles purchased from 6-8pm on Saturday night.

For more information please click [here!](#)



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

We are so excited for this weekend's event led by Sonoma Dame Tara Jasper, Founder of Sipsong Spirits. Tara 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 \$40 and limited to 20 people. Dames may bring a guest. We do have a few tickets remaining so reserve your spot now - registration closes tomorrow!

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

We're excited to announce that one of the two flights donated by Sonoma Dame Jasper as part of this event to raise funds for our chapter has been purchased by SF Dame Elaine Spitalny! Even better, she has generously offered to donate \$100 worth of her delicious Fairytale Brownies to the person who purchases the remaining flight. At \$500, that's a sweet deal! 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 courtesy: Sipsong Spirits

### **New Member Induction Dinner**

Don't forget to get your ticket to the New Member Induction Dinner and Annual Meeting! Space is filling up quickly!

Monday September 18, 2023 Foreign Cinema 5:30 PM reception followed by 6:30 PM dinner

The party's on for Induction 2023 when we'll be welcoming a record 18 new dames from the greater Bay Area to LDEI-SF in style at a favorite location - Dame Gayle Pirie's Foreign Cinema. The evening begins at 5:30 with a Domaine Carneros sparkling wine and martini reception at Laszlo Bar next door. During the reception, you can purchase tickets for great raffle prizes and support our chapter while making new friends and catching up with old ones. At 6:30, we'll move to Foreign Cinema for a seated, three-course dinner and our Induction program. We'll be announcing the 2023 Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship Recipient, conducting our annual business meeting and learning about the new business grant program. Tickets are \$100/pp and can be purchased [here!](#)

REMINDER - Please wear your LDEI pin to the event!



### **LDEI-SF Raffle: Promote Your Business + Support Our Chapter**

We all enjoy learning about and experiencing the many talents of our sister dames. Donating a raffle item that represents your business, product or service is a great way to spread the word. Right now, we're curating raffle items for our winter in person events. We'd love to feature your latest book, a gift certificate for your class or retail business, a consultation for your service and other in our event

communications. Please contact Events Committee Co-Chair Nancy Light ([nancyalight@gmail.com](mailto:nancyalight@gmail.com)) about contributing a raffle item.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

### **October 1, 2023 Screening of MFK Fisher film The Vogue Theater, San Francisco**

The long awaited documentary film about the life of M.F.K. Fisher, known affectionately as “A Poet of the Appetites” will premiere on October 1st at the Vogue Theater in San Francisco. We held a special event years ago to hear about the creation of the film and now it has come to life. Details about the screening and tickets will be forthcoming.

San Francisco film director Gregory Bezat created the film after meeting writer MFK Fisher in the 90’s. Bezat stated, “This is my dream project. As a filmmaker, I want to bring M.F.K. Fisher’s striking voice and powerful story to the screen. Her voice transcends food. It is ultimately about companionship, friendship, and a curiosity to understand others. We are exploring Fisher’s perspective on the profound indoctrination that fast food culture has imposed on America. As a filmmaker, the goal is not to pound the viewer with how horrible fast food is, but rather to leave the viewer with an overall feeling for a rich, vibrant American food culture.”



Photo courtesy of NY Times

## **LDEI-SF Is Having Our 2nd Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Meeting plus Silver Penny Farm Lunch**

**Monday, October 9, 9:30 am- 2 p.m. PT in Petaluma**

LDEI-SF will build on the DEI Day we held last year with an amazing day of food, strategy, and fellowship at Silver Penny Farm. We'll be featuring Maryam Ahmed, Danielle Fiala, Tanya Holland, and Maria Hunt speaking about mentorship within our group and the food and wine industry as a whole, and how mentorship affects DEI. We'll also follow up on how things have changed within our chapter since last year and how we plan to affect change this upcoming year.

Please join us this Indigenous People's Day for an event that promises to inspire your soul and feed your tummy!

Keep your eyes on your inbox and our website, full invitation to come!

## Member Meetups

We currently don't have any meet ups scheduled, however, keep an eye out on Instagram for sister chapter Sonoma Dames as they have regular meetups, helpful for our North Bay members. We are looking to reschedule Wahpepah Kitchen as our next event. Stay tuned here!

## Membership

Thank you so much to the 74% of Dames who renewed before the August 18th deadline! This helps our chapter stay organized and on top of national guidelines. If you have not renewed yet, please do so by September 1st by logging on to your profile on [lesdamessf.org](https://lesdamessf.org). Note dues have increased to \$200 for those who did not make the first deadline. Please don't hesitate to reach out to AnneMarie ([lesdamessf@gmail.com](mailto:lesdamessf@gmail.com)) if you have any questions!

## Scholarship

Seeking Mentors!!!

We are proud and thrilled to support two incredible women on their paths to greatness and are looking for mentors to work with our 2023 scholarship winners!

***Included with their financial award is mentorship by Les Dames members.*** Alma hopes to revolutionize gluten free baking by opening her own 100% Gluten Free and allergy friendly bakery, Sweet Almond Moon, which will be focused on making nutritionally balanced baked goods. *She is looking to be mentored by a woman who has owned her own bakery or has experience running a farmer's market.*

Ashton Rodenbug has dreamed of opening a restaurant since she was a child and now hopes to open an Eastern Mediterranean-inspired farm-to-table restaurant. In addition to having incredible food, she wants to prioritize excellent pairings of non-



alcoholic beverages in addition to a perfectly crafted beer and wine list. *For a mentor, Ashton is looking forward to working with a professional chef or restaurateur.*

Please reach out to Emily Luchetti ([emily@emilyluchetti.com](mailto:emily@emilyluchetti.com)) if you are interested in mentoring. We hope to pair several women up with each of them. It takes a village and we all know how important this support is.

Thank you so much to all who applied for a scholarship, spread the word, and continue to support our scholarship fund and work!

## *Fellowship*

We received many nominations this year of which nine candidates met the criteria; as a reminder, here is the criteria for eligibility:

The fellowship is given annually to a promising Bay Area woman and/or nonbinary food /wine journalist who:

- Exhibits a commitment to a career in food journalism\*
- Demonstrates excellence and a range of writing (either a variety of topics or broad coverage on a single subject)\*
- Shows relevance to today's food/wine/social justice landscape in her/their writing
- Has not more than ten years full-time in the field of food journalism
- Is not a Les Dames member

Confidential nominations came from our chapter members and also previous recipients. The review committee, which includes Dames Janet Fletcher and Margo True plus several of the fellows, are currently evaluating the candidates. We plan on announcing the 2023 Fellow at the General Member Meeting and New Member Induction on Monday, September 18 as well as in the accompanying chapter reports.

Many thanks to all of you who nominated and to those who made donations this year.

## *Business Grant*

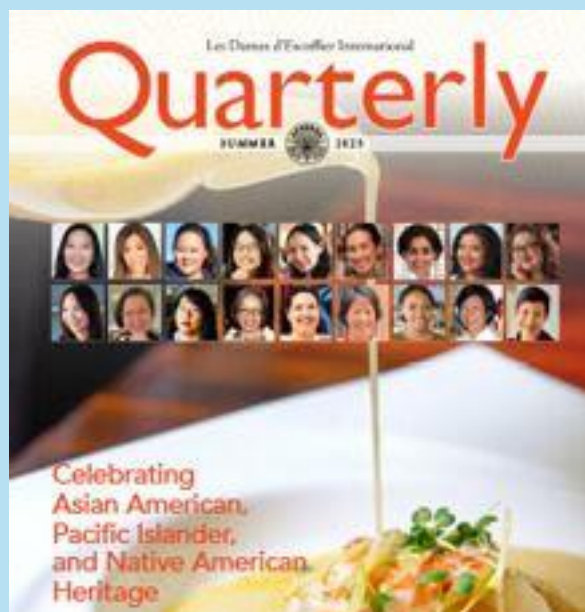
### **Mark your calendars! Applications open on September 1st for our first LDEI-SF Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship!**

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. Applications for the inaugural year's TWO grants will be accepted through our website September 1, 2023 - October 12, 2023. Please get the word out to business owners who fit the criteria and encourage them to apply online after the link goes live on September 1, 2023. More information can be accessed at the newly updated website link [here](#). For more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at [emily@emilyluchetti.com](mailto:emily@emilyluchetti.com).

The grant committee is also delighted to welcome its first corporate sponsor! The Mijenta Tequila Company, through an introduction from Dame Dominica Rice, has generously come on board to sponsor the entrepreneurship grant with \$5,000! We will be working together with the mostly female team at Mijenta to learn more about their tequila and their B-Corp status. What an exciting partnership and beginning of our push to get more corporate sponsors!

## LDEI Quarterly

We await the dates for the 2024 editorial calendar for the LDEI Quarterly. Please be sure to check out our coverage in the [summer issue](#) which was recently released. Our Table Talks program was featured in the Chapter Program section and four of our dames were profiled in the Member Milestones section. 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. Thank you Jodie!



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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