

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

September 22, 2023

Dear Dames,

This past Monday we welcomed our new members at a truly memorable Induction celebration at Foreign Cinema. Dame Gayle Pirie's generosity, graciousness and delicious food provided the perfect background for the evening. Read more about it in our recap below. We sold raffle tickets raising money for fire relief in Maui with our sister chapter in Hawaii. Thanks to all who bought tickets and congratulations to all who won prizes.

We moved to the restaurant's beautiful gallery room where the conversation flowed as did the commitment to our chapter and the goals of LDEI: philanthropy to support women in our communities, fundraising and mentorship. We are sending a separate Treasurer's report via email soon, so please keep your eye out for it from Dame Nancy Ash.

As the evening commenced Dame Roberta Klugman and Dame Jennifer Newens announced the Fellowship recipient, read more about it below and Mary Gassen shared more about our new Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship Program. The bilingual application for this \$5,000 grant is now [live](#) and we encourage everyone to share this with your community and potential candidates. As part of the Annual Meeting, the board was voted in and we are

delighted to announce two changes: Dame Tonya Pitts has stepped up to serve on the board this year Dame Frankie Whitman now serving as co-president.

We introduced our 18 new members and shared their bios. If you weren't able to attend the dinner, you can read about our new members [here](#). If you missed the email with our committees' annual reports, please contact AnneMarie Austin at lesdamessf@gmail.com.

Organizing a successful event like this takes a village of Dames! Thank you to all who made this year's induction an event to remember, including all the Dames who were able to attend. This is our 34th year as a chapter, we have a lot to celebrate and a lot more to accomplish. Dame Jerry di Vecchio, one of our chapter's founders, was at the dinner. She's a role model for all of us! So grateful to all of you!

Pam Mazzola
Chapter President LDEI-SF



Photo Credit - Amy Thompson Photography

Events

New Member Induction Dinner Monday September 18 Foreign Cinema

Monday September 18, 2023: Chapter Welcomes 18 New Dames at Sold-Out Foreign Cinema Dinner

The annual new-member induction and business meeting opened on a festive note at Laszlo, the intimate cocktail lounge adjacent to Foreign Cinema. Fortified with martinis and glasses of Domaine Carneros Brut Rosé Cuvée de la Pompadour, more than 60 members connected over delicious nibbles from the Foreign Cinema kitchen, including warm, two-bite arancini and crisp chick-pea panisses topped with caviar. The seated dinner in Foreign Cinema's Modernism West Gallery, a high-ceilinged private room decorated with vintage Ukrainian film posters, merged business with pleasure (although even the business was fun). The delicious meal was accompanied by Eco Terreno and Skylark wines.

Incoming co-president Frankie Whitman introduced the inductees not with their bios—provided in a handout and uniformly impressive—but with a lighthearted and fast-paced question round. What do you read for inspiration? How many nights a week do you cook at home? What changes have you implemented in your kitchen to be more sustainable? President Pam Mazzola introduced the nominees for the 2024 board of directors: co-presidents Dame Pam Mazzola and Dame Frankie Whitman, 2nd vice president Dame Emily Luchetti, vice president of Member Engagement Dame Kara Nielsen, treasurer Dame Nancy Ash, secretary Danielle Fiala and Tonya Pitts. Attendees approved the slate unanimously. Following a lovely and leisurely dinner, Dame Roberta Klugman and Dame Jennifer Newens announced the recipient of the Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship, a \$5,000 grant awarded this year to Teresa Cotsirilos, currently a staff reporter at the Food and Environment Reporting Network. Dame Mary Gassen announced that [applications are being accepted](#) until October 11 for the chapter's new Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship Program.

So many female entrepreneurs, achievers and risk takers in one room created an energy that was palpable. As Dame Mazzola remarked, the evening exemplified our Chapter's commitment to fostering inclusion and forging connections.



Photo Credit - Amy Thompson Photography

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

A big thank you to the chapter dames who generously donated to our Induction 2023 raffle and to all those who purchased tickets. We raised \$600 to be donated to the LDEI-Hawaii Chapter's Maui Relief Fund.

The raffle items, their donors and the lucky winners were:

- Cooking School Secrets for Real Life Cooks from Dame Linda Carucci (Author) - won by Dame Sue Conley
- One Hour Consult: Learn to Write a Winning Cookbook Proposal from Dame Jen Newens (Literary Agent) - won by Dame Iris Rowlee
- Magnum of 2017 Domaine Carneros Estate Brut Sparkling Wine from Dame Remi Cohen (CEO)
- Two Bottles of 2022 Oro di Milas Olive Oil from Dame Nancy Ash (President, Strictly Olive Oil) - won by Dame Alison Negrin

- Omnivore Books on Food Gift Certificate for \$100 from Dame Celia Sack (Proprietor) - won by Dame Kara Nielsen

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) about contributing a raffle item.

Sunday October 1, 2023 Screening of MFK Fisher film The Vogue Theater, San Francisco - Ticket link is LIVE!

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. Details about the screening and reception are available [here](#). 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.

Monday October 9, 2023 9:30 am- 2 p.m. PT at Dame Sue Conley’s Silver Penny Farm in Petaluma 2nd Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Meeting and Farm Lunch

With more than half of tickets sold already, the DEI Meeting is sure to be a hit! This year’s 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 Tanya Holland, Maria Hunt, Maryam Ahmed and Danielle Fiala speaking about mentorship within our group and the food and wine industry as a whole, and how mentorship affects DEI. The group will follow up on how things have changed within the chapter since last year and how they propose to effect change this upcoming year. Please join this Indigenous People’s Day for an event that promises to inspire your soul and feed your tummy!



Photo Credit - Silver Penny Farm

Sunday October 15, 2023 Pistachio Lunch and Book Launch 12:30 PM Lake Berryessa Winery

Celebrate the launch of Dame Georgeanne Brennan's newest book, *Pistachio*, with a lunch and book signing at Lake Berryessa Winery in Winters, CA. A collection of sweet and savory recipes photographed by Robert Holmes, this promises to be a lovely afternoon. A three course meal paired with Lake Berryessa wines and a signed book included for \$115 per person or \$185 per couple. More about the book in Member News.

Tickets and more info [here](#).



Photo Credit - Craig Lee

Save the Date! Wednesday October 25th, 2023 - Getting to Know LDEI-SF: Our Roots, Our Focus, Our Future

Please save Wednesday, October 25th, at 5 pm for a lively zoom meeting, Getting to Know LDEI-SF: Our Roots, Our Focus, Our Future. Open to all members, this program will feature some of our chapter's founders talking about our beginning years, voices from our board describing the different committees and the impact areas of our philanthropy, and an overview of the national organization and how we connect to it. Bring your favorite happy-hour drink and get to know your

chapter! New inductees and recent members are especially encouraged to join. Invitation coming soon.

Member Meetups

These open house, casual events are a great way to meet and network with fellow dames in a casual setting. We have often hosted these at dames businesses (wine bars, restaurants, shops) so if you have an idea for a meet up, please contact the events committee chairs Nancy Light or Sandra O'Day.

Member News

Doctorbird Market Opens in Pittsburg, CA

Dame & Board Secretary Danielle Fiala announces she and her husband have opened Doctorbird Market, a specialty food market located in Old Town Pittsburg. They will celebrate its Grand Opening from the 28th to the 30th of September, following a soft opening earlier this month that coincided with the return of the city's celebrated Seafood and Music Festival.

Husband-and-wife team Danielle and Zane Fiala have poured their hearts into creating a welcoming and warm atmosphere that fosters a sense of community and appreciation for food and drink. The market is intended to function as a corner store (albeit a fancy one) for Pittsburg residents who enjoy good food and cooking at home.

Customers of the market will be treated to an ever-evolving selection of wines, craft beer, freshly roasted coffee beans, as well as seasonal selections of high-quality snacks and pantry items—"ingredients people are excited to cook with." The products in the shop are thoughtfully sourced, with a focus on local producers, family-run businesses, and makers from underrepresented communities. Congratulations Danielle and Zen! More info [here](#)



Photo Credit - Doctorbird Market

New Cookbook Alert!

Dame Georgeanne Brennan shares her latest cookbook, *Pistachio; Savory & Sweet Recipes Inspired by World Cuisines*, celebrate the striking flavor of the jewel-like, delectable nut in ***PISTACHIO: Savory & Sweet Recipes Inspired by World Cuisines***. With over sixty recipes, authors Georgeanne Brennan and Barbara Bryant draw inspiration from the culinary traditions of Turkey, Iran, Afghanistan, North Africa, Italy, Greece, Spain, France, and the Middle East, giving the dishes a contemporary spin. From snacks and entrees, to side dishes and desserts, this stunning cookbook highlights the taste and flexibility of the pistachio, all deliciously photographed by food and travel photographer, Robert Holmes. Original recipes from author Georgeanne Brennan include Lime

Cheesecake with Pistachio Crust, Pistachio Hummus, Shrimp with Pistachio Paste, and so many more.

Georgeanne Brennan is the author of more than thirty cookbooks, including the James Beard Award–winning *The Food and Flavors of Haute Provence* and her bestselling food memoir, *A Pig in Provence*. She is also the co-founder of L'Aperoles Trois aperitif wines, which makes French farmhouse-style aperitifs, located in Winters, CA, where she lives

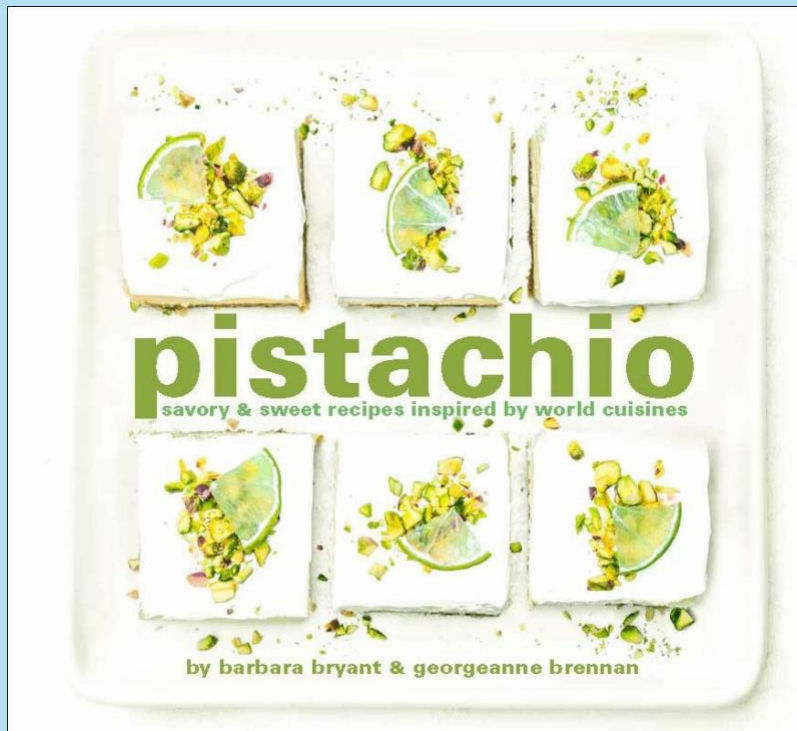


Photo Credit - Robert Holmes

Scholarship

Thank you so much to all who applied for a scholarship, spread the word, and continue to support our scholarship fund and work! We have also secured mentors for our two scholarship recipients: Alma Moon and Ashton Rodenberg. Many thanks!

Fellowship

The co-chairs of the Fellowship Committee, Roberta Klugman and Jennifer Newens, are pleased to announce that the 2023 recipient of the Karola Saekel Craib Excellence in Food Journalism Fellowship is Teresa Cotsirilos. The \$5,000 award is presented as an acknowledgement for good works, and as encouragement to keep writing, to stay in journalism.

Teresa Cotsirilos is an award-winning reporter and producer based in the Bay Area. Her work has been published in the New York Times, Reveal, NPR, Mother Jones, Snap Judgment, the California Report Magazine, the World and other outlets. Currently she is a staff reporter at the Food and Environment Reporting Network (FERN) where she covers labor rights and climate equity in both audio and print. Read more at teresamariacotsirilos.com.

The review committee, which includes Dames Janet Fletcher and Margo True plus several past recipients, evaluated nine impressive nominees. The nominees remain anonymous except to the committee and reviewers.

This spring at a dedicated Fellowship event, we will honor Teresa and previous recipients, celebrating the Fellowship and our 14 years of supporting Bay Area women journalists. Details pending! Visit <https://lesdamessf.org/Fellowship> for more details and read about the journalists the Fellowship has supported!



Photo Credit - Deborah Kwan

Business Grant

Applications opened September 1st for our first LDEI-SF Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship! Closes October 11th

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. Applications for the inaugural year's TWO grants will be accepted through our website September 1, 2023 - October 12, 2023. Please [help us get the word out with this press release link](#) to business owners who fit the criteria and encourage them to apply online [here](#). For more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at emily@emilyluchetti.com.

LDEI Quarterly

We still await 2024 deadlines for the LDEI Quarterly. For any updates on Membership Milestones and Chapter Programs, please contact Dame Jodie Chase at jodie@chase-ink.com. She will submit it to National.



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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