

NEWSLETTER

President's Message: New year, new challenges

Dearest Dames,

A very belated new year greeting to you! I apologize for not having written our first of the year message sooner, but I was not functioning for a few weeks due to a nasty case of Covid-19. I am fully recovered now and working to get back into the groove.

Our chapter enters the new year robust and healthy. Our newest members are getting involved, serving in a variety of ways – committee service, volunteering to help at our public-facing events, hosting gatherings. It's exciting to see so many ladies jumping into chapter service! We do need help in a few areas – particularly in fundraising. If you enjoy fundraising (soliciting donations and funders for the chapter or recruiting sponsors for various events), please reach out directly to me at rachaellevine@hotmail.com. We'd like to add a second fundraiser event with our community partner, Alchemist CDC, but in order to do so, we need a few more helping hands.

When you have a great idea or something you'd like a committee to consider or you just need to get an announcement out to the broad chapter, do you know who to contact? We have a list for you to reference:

Committee chairs and emails

Fundraising: Rachael Levine, rachaellevine@hotmail.com

Scholarship/Philanthropy: Marybeth Bizjak, Mbbizjak@aol.com

Membership: Jennifer Kaye, Jennifer_kaye@sbcglobal.net

Programs: Liz Mishler, bellabru.liz@gmail.com, and Amanda Frew, amanda.frew@fleishman.com

Green Tables (Village Feast): Randii MacNear, rmacnear@dcn.org

Communications: Elizabeth Smith, dame.elizabeth.smith@gmail.com

Social Secretary: Kate Washington, washington.kate@gmail.com

Newsletter: Debbie Arrington, debarrington17@gmail.com

The next event in our Speaker Series is "Women in Agriculture: Celebrating Sustainable Production." The speaker panel features three dames: Karen Stone of Yolo Land & Cattle Co., Lane Giguiere of Matchbook Wine Co., and Mary Kimball of the Center for Land-based Learning. Join us Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Milagro Center from 5:30 to 8 p.m. Tickets are available on Eventbrite. Be sure to share information about this event with 10 of your friends or colleagues. Let's fill the room!

Dame Tanya Azar's wonderful restaurant Kasbah was damaged in a fire (thank goodness no one was hurt). A Go Fund Me page was created to help Tanya raise funds to restore the restaurant. Please go to our community and/or private chapter Facebook or Instagram pages to locate the link. If you can, please contribute to the fund. Our hearts are with you, Tanya.

Rachael



WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE

Celebrating Sustainable Production

Join us for a fun evening of networking and a spirited, inspiring discussion with three Sacramento Dames about the people, principles, programs, and practices that support a more sustainable food system.



Dame Lane Giguere

*Owner, Matchbook
Wine Company
Dunigan Hills, CA*



Dame Mary Kimball

*CEO, Center for
Land-Based Learning
Woodland, CA*



Dame Karen Stone

*Manager, Yolo Land
& Cattle Company
Woodland, CA*

Wednesday, February 21, 2024

5:30 to 8:00 PM

Doors open at 5:30PM.

The program begins at 6PM.

Milagro Event Center

by Bella Bru

6241 Fair Oaks Blvd.
Carmichael, CA

BUY YOUR TICKET TODAY

at <https://bit.ly/3O5i9vh>

*Tickets include admission,
appetizers, and 1 drink ticket.*

Advance purchase \$50

At the door \$60

FOR MORE INFO:



*This is a public event designed to raise money for the Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI) Sacramento Chapter Scholarship Fund to benefit women in our community; \$35 of your ticket price is tax deductible. LDEI Sacramento's tax ID number is 81-4551864.

Don't miss this event!

An evening of networking and learning about sustainable agriculture from some of the inspirational women in the industry.

5:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21

Event Center by Bella Bru at the Milagro Centre

6241 Fair Oaks Blvd., Carmichael

Tickets: \$50 in advance, available via Eventbrite; \$60 at the door

Three members – Dames Lane Giguere, Mary Kimball and Karen Stone – will be our expert panelists sharing insights on the people, principles, programs and practices that contribute to a sustainable food system.

This is a public event designed to raise funds for our Scholarship & Philanthropy Fund. Invite colleagues, co-workers, employees, prospective Dames, neighbors, friends, etc. to join you at this event.

Save these dates: More on our Sacramento Speaker Series

Here's what we have planned for the rest of 2024:

Wednesday, May 15 – WOMEN IN WINE: Growing the Grapes, Growing a Brand

Wednesday, Aug. 21 – WOMEN IN BUSINESS: The Masters of Marketing & Brand Building

Wednesday, Nov. 20 – WOMEN IN WRITING: The Authors & Journalists Shaping Today's Food Conversations

If all goes well this year, we'll continue the series in 2025 and beyond. What will it take for it to “go well”? Your involvement & support!

Warm regards,

Amy Myrdal Miller

Speaker Series chair

You're invited!

Dames Night Out

5:30-8 p.m. Thursday,
March 21

Magpie Cafe

1601 16th St., Sacramento

Happy Hour pricing

D.J. starts at 6 p.m.

**Bring prospective members
as well as get to know
current Dames**





‘BEHIND THE APRON’ FILM FIRST LOOK & MISE-EN-PLACE GALLERY RECEPTION HOSTED BY PBS’S ROB STEWART

The Sofia-B Street Theatre
2700 Capitol Ave., Sacramento

Sunday, Feb. 25

Doors open at 6 p.m. Show starts at 6:20 p.m.

Reception to follow show with small bites provided by Mulvaney B&L.

Please join us for a first look of “Behind the Apron,” a joint film project between Sacramento Contemporary Dance Theatre and I Got Your Back. The project has been a labor of love and explores the true nature of working in the hospitality industry. There will also be a Q&A with the filmmakers and artists hosted by Rob Stewart, Host and Executive Producer of PBS’s Rob on the Road.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. and the show will begin promptly at 6:20. The reception will begin around 7 p.m. with small bites provided by Mulvaney’s B&L. Art will be available to purchase.

Please RSVP to Sophia Paz at office@mulvaneysbl.com



Help the Kasbah Lounge rebuild

After a devastating fire at The Kasbah Lounge, Chef Tanya Azar is doing what she can to keep her restaurant family together and get her restaurant reopened as soon as possible. The fire caused an estimated \$600,000 in damage, according to media reports. The restaurant may be closed up to a year as Tanya navigates the rebuilding process. To support Tanya and her efforts, you're invited to this special event:

“A Night at The Kasbah”

at Mulvaney's B&L

Family Meal Night

Monday, Feb. 26

6 p.m. drinks (no-host bar)

7 p.m. dinner

Tanya is planning a Moroccan menu with goat as the main course.

Belly dancers will provide entertainment.

Mulvaney's B&L is located at 1215 19th St, Sacramento.

Tickets are \$50 per person and seating is limited.

For reservations, call [\(916\) 441-6022](tel:9164416022).

Support The Kasbah Lounge online

Can't make "A Night at The Kasbah" dinner or want to show more love? The Kasbah Lounge also has a GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-kasbah-lounge-rebuild>.

Here's an excerpt from that page:

Spend one evening dining at beloved Sacramento mainstay The Kasbah Lounge and you will come away with the knowledge that there is nothing else like it. Chef Tanya Azar, who grew up in her family's restaurant kitchens and then perfected her international flavors while operating as a restaurateur in Palestine, is the dynamo behind such a unique, authentic experience, and she is a fusion of all the things that make this town special.

A Palestinian woman raised in Sacramento, she is a force multiplier who has given back to the city and community she loves in a thousand ways, from fostering local talent into the food and hospitality industry to hosting fundraising events for important causes. She is an avenue for unique cultural performing arts to uplift the lively culture on the J Street corridor, and she regularly offers people in dire need of aid the dignity and warmth of a free, delicious meal. She has provided a haven of culture and familiarity to people from around the world who miss the taste of home, and simultaneously invited the rest of the world in to celebrate and share in the beauty and thrill of a sumptuous evening in one of the most vivacious and unique venues one can find in our beautiful city.

Kasbah is a genuine melting pot for Sacramento, where people from every background sit elbow to elbow in an environment that is like something out of a dream. Its absence would be a tragic loss to every community in Sacramento that appreciates the authentic, intoxicating, and irreplaceable experience of enjoying a mouth watering meal offered with the care and love that can only come from someone filled with a passion for true hospitality that cannot be emulated.

This is why Kasbah, and all the hardworking people who are proud to operate it, need our help.

Early in the morning on January 23rd, **a fire broke out in the heart of Kasbah.** The fire department successfully halted the blaze before it could spread to adjacent buildings, and thankfully no one was injured, but **the damage caused by the inferno was unignorable.** The kitchen and much of the high-end culinary equipment it housed has been ruined, the food stores have been destroyed, and the gorgeous front room we are all so enchanted by has been tainted by smoke and water damage. After managing to successfully keep a woman owned, chef owned, Palestinian owned pillar of the Sacramento culinary and cultural community alive even through the pandemic lockdowns which shuttered so many beloved gathering places, *Kasbah and Tanya are facing their greatest challenge yet: rebuilding from the enormous setback caused by the burning of a Sacramento dream.*

This is where you come in. Tanya is no stranger to adversity or to hard work, but there are some lifts that require the hands of a whole community. We are asking all who love and value this enticing jewel of Sacramento nightlife to help rescue it from the ashes. If you agree that the magic of this establishment cannot be replaced, we ask for your generosity in the task of healing the physical and financial wounds that the fire has inflicted on Kasbah. Food and kitchen equipment needs replacing. Fire and water damaged items need to be deep cleaned, or replaced entirely. Structural elements must be repaired, reinforced, and refinished. The dedicated staff who are passionate about this one of a kind venue need to be able to put food on their tables and a roof over their heads while they rush to breathe life back into Kasbah.
Kasbah can be saved, if we act now.

Here is how you can help preserve Kasbah as a part of Sacramento life:

- 1) **GIVE** whatever you can.
- 2) **SHARE** this on social media with **#SaveKasbahLounge**.
- 3) **TELL YOUR COMMUNITY** in person, and direct them to our story.
- 4) **EMAIL** this page to the people in your network.
- 5) **REACH OUT** if you have the desire and ability to host a fundraising event, design or put up a flier, or engage in any services you think might help.

With your help, Kasbah Lounge can come back, stronger and richer and more exquisite than ever before. It is our hope that you find it in your heart to join us in rebuilding, and keeping this dream alive.

Gratefully,

Tanya Azar, The Kasbah Lounge, and all its staff: Aja, Sara, Reyna, Ezzie, Will, Oscar, Slade, and Morgan



Membership season coming soon

With spring comes our annual membership drive with recruitment of new members. Any Dame in good standing in our Chapter may nominate someone for membership.

Who would make a great new Dame? Women who...

- Have at least 5 years of professional experience in the food, beverage, agriculture or hospitality industry, and who have demonstrable career advancement and/or achievement
- Have a track record of active community or professional volunteerism
- Will participate actively in one or more committees, helping to advance the work of the Chapter
- Will attend Chapter events and be a part of our vibrant community

The Membership Committee and Program Committee will work together to schedule at least two Dames Nights Out between now and the application deadline of **May 17**. Your applicants are absolutely invited and encouraged to attend!

If you are nominating someone, you will need to write a letter of nomination for her. We encourage you to do that proactively so 1) your nominee doesn't need to ask you for it and 2) she has one required item for her application done right off the bat!

If you have questions about the nomination or application process, or would like to ask for a pre-screening for someone you'd like to nominate, please don't hesitate to reach out to us.

Thanks in advance for helping to grow our Sacramento Chapter!

Jennifer Kaye
Membership Committee Co-Chair
jennifer_kaye@sbcglobal.net

Kathie Griley
Membership Committee Co-Chair
kgriley@calrest.org



Les Dames d'Escoffier

INTERNATIONAL
Sacramento Chapter