

THE GALILEO OBSERVER The Official Newsletter of the Galileo Alumni Association



"To make GAA great... communicate and participate"

VOL. VI, No. 1 January, 2008

Welcome to 2008!

We wish all our alumni and their families a year full of hope, prosperity and happiness. In this election year we fervently hope that we will elect true and dedicated leaders to guide us through the conflicts and misunderstandings that exist in the world and lead us to universal harmony.

We pray that all of us, regardless of race, color, religion or nationality, will be able to live in and pass on to future generations a world of tolerance, joy, and *real peace*. *HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

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From the Editor

A Word of Clarification

In recent weeks a certain unofficial email publication has been criticizing the *Observer* for not being available on the Galileo Alumni web site or being sent out to its readers on the first day of each quarter. The publication goes on to say that this is not the way to communicate with alumni. Now, we believe in free speech, but when statements and assumptions are made that are not accurate, we must set the record straight. The *Observer* is issued quarterly during the months of January, April, July, and October and does not have a specific issue date (see the masthead of

this issue, January, 2008). We have never stated that the *Observer* would be issued on the first of the month (see the statement at the end of this newsletter).

As the official newsletter of the Galileo Alumni Association, we feel it is irresponsible to publish inaccurate and falsely misleading statements. The producer of the newsletter making the attacks on the *Observer* and GAA does not represent the Galileo Alumni Association and has a long-standing history of disseminating rumors and false accusations. For the record, we have never received a single criticism from any of our alumni. As we state in every issue of our newsletter, we welcome your comments and suggestions. This policy is still in force. We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

Message from the President:

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's a new year, and GAA's annual membership drive again is underway. A GAA member is anyone who attended Galileo for any period of time or served on the staff or faculty and has a completed membership form on file.

To keep information current, please download a membership application http://galileoalumni.org/membership.html and mail it to GAA, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Personal information is never given out except to alumni who are planning Galileo class reunions, so please take a minute to fill out a form today. Just because we have your email address doesn't mean we have other contact information for you, so please take a minute to fill out a form today.

Although an annual donation of \$25.00 is suggested, we don't exclude any alumni from membership. Any amount you can afford is appreciated and will help us support activities at Galileo. Because GAA is a California public charity, exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, your donation is fully tax deductible.

The success of GAA depends on your interest and involvement, and we cordially invite your participation. Board meetings are open to all alumni and dates are posted on the GAA website http://galileoalumni.org/home.html. We hope you will join us, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Dresser '51

FUNDRAISING FOR GALILEO ATHLETICS

In response to a challenge from **Dick Bechelli '51**, alumni surpassed last year's donations. At a luncheon on February 21st, Dick will present a check for \$4,390 to the Athletic Department which experienced additional budget cuts this year. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this effort to support student athletics!

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From Linda Lau, PTSA President

Thanks to our supporters and donors, Galileo's Dinner-Dance Gala on Nov. 9th was a resounding success! Read all about Galileo's Gala success and the raffle winners: http://www.galileoweb.org/ptsa/

Thank you to all the Galileo Alumni Association, sponsors and dedicated volunteers for making this event the BEST ever! Our sincere thanks to all the friends, families and supporters who participated in this event.

Best, PTSA Executive Board

INCOME FROM GAA/PTSA DINNER DANCE

PTSA reported an estimated profit of \$9,200 from the November Gala cosponsored with GAA. Money from this event will be used, along with other money raised by PTSA during the year, to fund a number of projects, including the following:

SAT Preparation Workshop for students	\$1,000
Teacher/Staff Appreciation Reception	\$1,500
Wellness Workshop (3) for parents & students	\$750
Academic Enrichment Grants for teachers (for classroom projects/materials)	\$10,000
Equipment & other material costs to implement Grab 'n Go Breakfast program at Galileo*	\$10,000
Total	\$23,250

*Grab 'n Go Breakfast program: simplifies and increases efficiency of distributing and serving breakfast to students by using the successful model demonstrated at 2 other SFUSD schools. Benefits of implementing this program are increased student participation in the breakfast program, improved nutrition, and enhanced learning in the classroom. To learn more go to: http://www.sfusdfood.org/pdfs/GnGad.pdf

A GALA EVENING

by Barbara Lombardi

The famous Grant Avenue, San Francisco, was the location of the 2nd Annual Dinner-Dance sponsored by the Galileo PTSA and Alumni Association. The Far East Café, in the heart of Chinatown, an area filled with excitement, set the mood for a very memorable event.

After climbing the stairs, adorned with the Galileo High School banner, to an inviting ballroom, guests were greeted by the friendly faces of alumni, teachers, parents and students. Kay Lazzari Michelis '53 was busy checking everyone in and informing them of their table assignments while Cordy Porter Surdyka '53 mingled and welcomed people as they arrived. Monica Parenti Kirkland '53 managed the GAA membership table, recruiting several new members.

John Lombardi '48 had found a comfortable seat at the restaurant bar when he thought he spotted Gavin Newsom and his entourage, but it turned out to be "look-a-like" Al Massucco '50 with Joyce Nicolai Massucco '52, Joe Martino '50 and Pola Massoni Martino '50. The special wine bar, run by the committee with net proceeds benefiting the school, offered free "munchies"!

Helpful volunteers, who would gladly fill in the stubs for buyers, sold raffle tickets. There were tables filled with a sea of cellophane wrapped baskets, jewelry, get-aways, various sports memorabilia and much, much more for the Silent Auction. Bids came in slowly at first, but the pace became fast and furious as the clock ticked away to the deadline.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, there was a bit of confusion on seating arrangements, so Angelo Ligi '48 and his wife had a romantic dinner for two downstairs. After going from one location to another, Pete Pompei '51 finally settled down at a table that included Joe Scafidi '50, Augie Venezia '53, and other friendly, familiar faces. It was now time for the program to start.

The energetic Linda Lau, Event Coordinator, and the Master of Ceremonies, Bruce Eng, sporting a red cummerbund, took the stage as special presentations were made. The PTSA made a tribute of a commemorative tile to former Superintendent Gwen Chan. The Galileo Alumni Association received a Certificate of Honor from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, which Jim Dresser '51 accepted from Margaret Chiu, Assistant

Superintendent, expressing his appreciation for the recognition of the organization.

A nine-course dinner followed. It was unbelievable!!! It started with a tasty Chicken Salad, followed by tangy Hot and Sour Soup, zesty Cashew Shrimp, flavorful Broccoli Beef, slightly sweet Peking Spareribs, fresh Bok Choy with Mushrooms, spicy Filet of Sole and sticky Steamed Rice. Chopsticks were a challenge to most, and, as each course progressed, it became apparent that in order to successfully finish, the fork would be the utensil of choice. The alumni's official photographer, Fred Setting '50, roamed around the room trying to catch people on camera devouring the excellent food. There are not enough adjectives to describe this meal!

The Live Auction started as dessert was served. The bidding was active and very successful for Mario Lombardi '50, who went for the entertainment packages, and Vince La Rocca '50 who walked off with the top item, two round trip tickets to anywhere on Southwest Airlines. The grand prize for the raffle was none other than the *Observer*'s Editor, Sisvan Der Harootunian '51, who won 2 nights for 4 at the Desert Rose Resort in Las Vegas plus \$100 in cash. Now he has to pick three companions to accompany him. He won't find that much of a problem.

Then came the Time Capsule that was placed in Galileo's courtyard by the class of 1982. Although moisture had damaged some of the contents, the spirits of the alumni participants from that class were not dampened as they displayed them with pride.

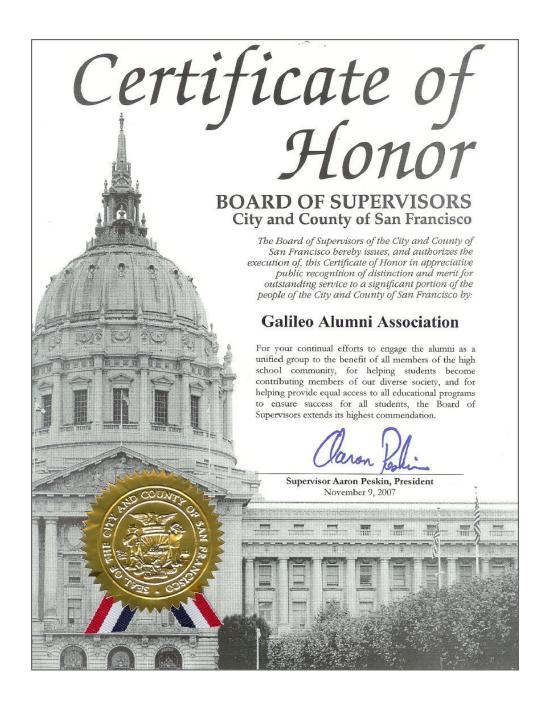
Singer, actor and DJ Ronnie Obregon provided the music. North Beach Idols, song stylist John Zuffo '50 sang his own special rendition of "All of Me" to Nina Pattini Clima '50 as she did a unique self-choreographed dance around him. Frank Clima '51 watched with amazement at their extraordinary performances. The City College of San Francisco Swing Dancers took the floor and did a routine that would rival any seen on "Dancing with the Stars". It was a different and distinctly lively production that got some of the audience anxious to take the center stage themselves. When the DJ played the Macarena, the floor filled with a diverse line-up of guests. Some did their own free style, others like Carmela Lombardi Hoffmann '51 were totally in sync with the steps and the movements. Everyone had a good time with it, and many continued dancing throughout the evening.

As the festivities came to an end, people gathered up their special purchases from the Silent Auction, and you could hear them saying things like "Give me a call!" "Let's get together soon!" After descending the stairs to the exit

of the restaurant and waiting a bit, LaVerne La Rocca Schultz '50 became concerned because Bill Dito '50 had lost track of his aunt, Eleanor Rinaldi Clayton. Just as he was about to climb back upstairs to find her, she appeared after taking a little extra time to say "Good Night".

Galileo Academy is fortunate to have active and dedicated PTSA and GAA organizations that generously donate their time, effort, and spirit to produce such a successful, fun-filled fundraiser. Congratulations!

PRESENTED TO GAA FROM S.F. BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



DONATIONS TO GALILEO STUDENT GROUPS

Representatives from *The Pendulum*, Celestial Dragons, and Junior ROTC attended the November GAA meeting. The young men and women, all model students, made their requests for funding. The GAA Board voted to donate \$600 to *The Pendulum* and \$500 each to the Celestial Dragons and Junior ROTC. The presentation will be made at a luncheon at the school on February 21st.

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GALILEO CELESTIAL DRAGONS FAMILY

The Galileo Dragon Boat team is one of the recently developing teams in San Francisco high schools today. A dragon boat is a long narrow boat that can accommodate twenty paddlers, a steersperson and a drummer. It is a team sport that can be closely tied with the concept of outrigger canoeing.

The Galileo Celestial Dragons (GCD) has grown a significant amount in the past few years. It has become in much demand by students over the past year, jumping from two boats to three boats, and we have several students on the waiting list to join the team. In addition to the growth in size, we have consistently placed in the top 3 in the upper divisions in all of our races. We compete annually at the San Francisco April Youth Race and Treasure Island Youth Division race.

We do numerous fundraising events and volunteer work because although dragon boat is a sport, we are considered a club by the school district. Therefore, we do not receive any funding to help aid us in paying off race fees that can be anywhere from \$200 to \$600.

Our team allows more students to get an opportunity to build character, leadership and lasting friendships. We consider ourselves a family because we paddle together, struggle together, and win together. "Twenty paddles, one heart!"

We thank you for all of your support and hope that you will come and watch GCD take gold this year!

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PENDULUM

The *Pendulum* is a student run newspaper that has been a voice for Galileo Academy since 1923. It continues to print issues about six times per year. Students of the *Pendulum* work hard to report, write, and edit articles for publication. Other responsibilities also include creating the paper's layout and managing finances. The publication prints 1,500 copies per issue, costing around \$400 every time it is printed. With the funding from the Alumni Association, the *Pendulum* is able to cover half the cost of printing the issues. Students raise money through advertisements and donations to pay for the remaining cost. The

Pendulum would like to thank the Galileo Alumni Association for their generous donation. Their support helps to maintain the school newspaper that has been in circulation for more than eighty years.

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GALILEO JUNIOR ROTC

Many people have the wrong perception of JROTC. Some have not even experienced or watched to judge what we do. On December 11, 2007, the School Board members decided to extend JROTC in San Francisco while still accepting freshmen. JROTC has given us a foundation of leadership. It helped us to build where we are today. Many of us participate in student government and other leadership positions. We hold different positions that relate to different stuff that happens in this world. We learn to lead groups and make decisions. We learn things that not all students our age may learn.

You can say that Galileo JROTC has the most school spirit. We are the ones participating in school wide events. When the student government asks us for help, like color guard for assemblies or drum corps, we start playing to grab the audience's attention. We are always willing to help and support Galileo. We go out in the public with the name of Galileo Academy. We want to be able to look outstanding and magnificent. With the funds we receive from the Alumni Association, we are going to spend the money to reward the cadets for not just supporting JROTC but also for supporting the school.

Ed. Note: For more information on the recent extension of the JROTC program, see San Francisco *Chronicle* article:

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-

bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/12/12/BAPFTSAS3.DTL&hw=San+Francisco+Unified+High+School+District&sn=003&sc=574

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JROTC Annual Competition

By Maggie Leung, JROTC S4

The annual Junior ROTC competition was held in November at the Lincoln High School Gymnasium. All SFUSD schools competed in this event, and the gymnasium was filled with spectators and supporters.

Teams were evaluated on the following:

Guidon: A Guidon is a long staff with a small flag on the top. It is carried by a cadet whom we also call "the guidon" who stands in front of a company or platoon of cadets, holding a flag that represents them.

Squad Drill: Squad drill is the competition with 6 cadets and 1 commander. All schools are given the same set of commands which the commander must memorize and teach the squad.

Color Guard: At almost all events that begin with the Pledge of Allegiance, the color guard is the team holding the California and U.S. flags.

Drum Corps: This is basically a drum team. They create their own beats, positioning, and pretty much everything. There are no drum teachers teaching them. Every year the old members teach the new.

This year, Galileo received honors in each category: **Guidon:** 1st place, **Squad Drill**: 3rd place, **Color Guard**: 3rd place (a huge disappointment because we had won 1st place for the past 3 years), and **Drum Corps:** 1st place. Over all, Galileo won 1st place in the competition.

Song & Yell Contest

by Eugene Wing, ASB Advisor

Because of the rain on October 12, 2007, we had to move the 63rd Song & Yell Contest into the Auditorium and hold two assemblies. Certain parts were shortened, but amazingly teachers and students felt it was the most spirited assembly. Judges were Pete Pompei '51, GAA Board of Directors; and Carlene Lew '82, Lily Toy '82, Devon Howland '82, and Wayne Huey '82, former class officers. In addition, Kimberly Merletti from Rotary Club served as a judge. The senior class came in first, followed very closely by the sophomore class. The junior class was 3rd and freshmen class finished last.



Old friends, new friends: When we are young we make new friends. When we are older we hold on to old friends. Old friends are like fine wine; they age gracefully and develop complexity and reliability. But at any age, it's always good to have friends who make you feel like you've known them for a long time. Sometimes you take old friends for granted, and they take you for granted. Not so with new friends. If it is a true friendship, both parties will be grateful for what they have in each other. And that is trust, loyalty and love.

The recent PTSA/GAA Dinner-Dance was such a great affair; we can't wait for the next one. The roomy setting at the Far East Café (it's really a large restaurant) and abundant food and large turnout made for a memorable evening. Kudos go to the organizers and many volunteers, especially to PTSA President Linda Lau, who master-minded the whole event.

I was so close to seeing Galileo Galilei's grave site during my recent visit to Italy. He is buried in Florence, and by the time our tour reached the piazza, it was too late to view the tomb. Michelangelo and Machiavelli are buried there, too. Speaking of Italy, the pizza, pasta and panini are the greatest. And I couldn't stop eating the gelato. Thanks to Frank Clima, Jim Dresser and Bill Dito, who generously gave me tips on restaurants and sights, this newgoer to Italy had a great time.

Galileo is known for producing some great sports figures, but what about Psychologist Harrison Brown, Politician Milton Marks, Ballet Master Michael Smuin, Restauranteurs Al Scoma and Larry Geraldi, and World War II hero John Orofino? Galileans, one and all!

Sibling Alumni: So many siblings have gone to Galileo, we started to list a few of them. If we missed some (and I'm sure we did), please write us. Here they are (in not any particular order): Joe & Pete Marino; Anton & Steve Tonkovich; Joe & Dick Bechelli; Joe & Seb Saia; Gene & Ed DeMartini; Al & Larry Bravo; Wilma & Lou Raggio; Vince & Jack LaRocca; Claudine & Jowanna Woeber; Diran & Sisvan Der Harootunian; Allyn, Arlen, and Don Bragg; John, Mario & Carmela Lombardi; and the all-time champs, Frank, Mario, George & Pete Pompei.

We're still awaiting news of the 155th anniversary celebration of Spring Valley School. Word should be coming soon from Principal Lonnie Chin as to when and where it will be held. And we'll announce it here.

It was just the other day (actually in 2006) that Fred O'Donnell (Class of 1949) was inducted into the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame. He was the first basketball player I met at Galileo in the late 40s. When we were both inducted into the Hall, it was the first time we had seen each other in over 50 years. Sad to say, Fred passed away on October 15, 2007. Read the complete obituary at http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/10/21/MNODONNELL34.DTL&hw=Fred+O%27Donnell&sn=002&sc=1000

The Washington Square Bar & Grill, AKA The Washbag, closed its doors a few days ago. Vince Gomez, '52, played bass there once a month. In its heyday, it was THE place to go for a pop and/or food.

Enriching Thoughts:

The most endangered species: Dedicated leaders
The most satisfying work: Helping others
The greatest "shot in the arm": Encouragement
The most contagious spirit: Enthusiasm
The greatest joy: Giving
The most beautiful attire: A smile
The most powerful force in life: Love
The greatest asset: Faith
The worst thing to be without: Hope
The world's most incredible composer: The brain
The most prized possession: Self-esteem
The two most power-filled words: "I can"
The most effective sleeping pill: Peace of mind

<u>CALENDER NOTE</u>: The annual Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Dinner has been moved to Saturday, October 18, 2008 at the South San Francisco Elks Club. Please mark this date.

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NEW DIRECTOR

Dennis Eleen (Class of 1960) has been appointed to the GAA Board of Directors.

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GALILEO 60'S REUNION COMMITTEE

THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR GALILEO 60'S REUNION COMMITTEE IS

http://hometown.aol.com/aleong01/galileo/galhigh.html

ALL OTHER WEBSITES HAVE NO AFFILIATION WITH THIS COMMITTEE

Galileo High School Reunion Class of 1965 through 1969

"THE WAY YOU LOOK TONIGHT"

Date:

Saturday, October 18, 2008

Time:

5 p.m. to 12 a.m.

Place:

Empress of China Restaurant

838 Grant Avenue (Between Washington and Clay Streets) San Francisco, CA 94108

Menu:

Chinese Banquet Dinner Music: Groovin' to the sounds of Jest Jammin'

Cost:

\$75 per person (postmarked by June 30, 2008) \$85 per person (postmarked after June 30, 2008)

Make Check Payable To:
Galileo 60's Reunion

Send Payment To: Ellie Wong P.O. Box 434

San Francisco, CA 94104

For information, please call Ellie Wong at (415) 601-5888 or e-mail Elliegal1968@yahoo.com
Harvey Louie at (415) 982-4778 or e-mail hlouie@farmersagent.com

Galileo 60's Reunion Committee

Names Class Year Names Class Year

Diane Cowart 1965 William Lew 1966

Dr. John Fong 1968 Harvey Louie (CoChairperson) 1968

David Gin 1967 Ellie Wong (Chairperson) 1968

Melanie Gin 1969 Harland Wong 1967

Dr. Allen Leong 1966 Hoyt L. Wong 1968

Warren Lew 1966

Allen Leong, PharmD - Class of 1966 - aleong01@aol.com

415 254-1357 cell

Diane Wall-Cowart - Class of 1965 - DJCowart@AOL.com

LETTERS

I am from the dark ages, having graduated in 1946. When I was at Galileo, my name was Pat McCarthy. I'd very much like to know if any of my classmates are still around. I lost all contacts in the Oakland firestorm. I look forward to hearing from friends.

Pat McCarthy Schwartz
patschwartz1@comcast.net
510-704-4477

GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Financial Statement January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007

BALANCE FORWAI	RI	I)
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\$12,215.83

INCOME

Membership donations (New members)	\$1,220.00
Membership donations (Renewals)	2,635.00
Bank interest	.60
Bechelli Challenge for Athletic Dept.	4,390.00

TOTAL INCOME \$ 8,245.60

EXPENSES

Office supplies – Stationery and postage stamps	\$1,998.05
Donation – Galileo Dragon Boat Team	500.00
Donation - The Pendulum	1,500.00
School Awards Luncheon	375.00
Website	144.99
PTSA Raffle Prize Donation	32.45
Engraved Courtyard Brick	100.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 4,650.49

BALANCE AS OF 12/31/07 \$15,810.94

SOLARI ENDOWMENT FUND

Fund balance 1/1/07 \$15,571.82

Interest 586.42

Endowment Value \$16,220.82

Submitted by: Joe Scafidi

GAA Treasurer

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Presentation of Funds Luncheon, Galileo Academy, 12 noon, February 21, 2008

GAA Board Meeting, Capurro's Restaurant, 11:30 AM, February 29, 2008

Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, Elks Club, So. S. F., October 18, 2008

40th Reunion Classes 1965 through 1969, October 18, 2008

(Additional information on these and other events at http://galileoalumni.org/home.html.)

More events will be listed as they become known.

Observer Staff

<u>Editor</u> Sisvan Der Harootunian

Assistant Editor (Mail Edition)

Jan Baumel

Contributors
Linda Lau
Maggie Leung
Barbara Lombardi
Eugene Wing

Production/Circulation (Email)

Vaughn Spurlin

Volunteer Help Wanted: Web Designer

The Galileo Alumni Association webmaster has big plans for the website http://galileoalumni.org/ and needs help. The webmaster, Yaughn Spurlin, is a highly experienced software engineer, with basic web design skills. As anyone can see, the GAA site could be lots snappier. But Yaughn's goals go way beyond that, towards an open source project that would look great on anyone's resume. Look around at other nonprofit websites, and you'll see a real need for better site building tools. Let's build up the GAA site, and use the experience to create a high quality package that can serve all the needs of small nonprofit organizations anywhere on the planet.

- Web page templates
- Information architecture framework
- Content management, so non-technical team members can publish web updates

- Membership database, available for remote updates by organization officers
- more ...

To explore this opportunity further, email the <u>Webmaster</u> and we'll talk about it.

WRITERS/REPORTERS WANTED!

For articles and stories on alumni, events, whereabouts of graduates for this newsletter. No mastery of English required, just your willingness to communicate and participate. Contact the Editor.

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If you would like to promote your Galileo event on the GAA website http://www.galileoalumni.org/, please send information to galileoalumni.org.

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The OBSERVER Is For All

Galileo alumni, family, friends, students, faculty . . . anybody and everybody, The Observer is for you. If you haven't already done so, send in the email addresses of anyone you know who would like to receive a FREE emailed newsletter every month or so. We'd like to reach as wide a range of readers as possible. Send the email addresses to: webmaster@galileoalumni.org.

BACK ISSUES OF THE GALILEO OBSERVER CAN BE VIEWED AT http://galileoalumni.org/news/newsletters.html

For all EDITORIALLY-RELATED comments or suggestions, please address your emails to galileoobserver@aol.com.

For all TECHNICAL problems (non-receipt of newsletter, etc.), address your emails to webmaster@galileoalumni.org.

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The Galileo Observer invites your articles, letters, memories, inquiries and suggestions. All submissions are subject to editing. Deadlines for submissions are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Send them by email (preferable) to galileoobserver@aol.com, or by postal mail to: Galileo Observer, c/o Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

GAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS & OFFICERS ARE LISTED AT http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html

The Galileo Observer is issued quarterly during the months of January, April, July and October by the Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Views expressed are strictly those of the Association and in no way reflect those of the Galileo Academy of Science and Technology, its students or faculty. James Dresser, President; Sisvan Der Harootunian, Editor; Vaughn Spurlin, Production Manager/Website Director. Copyright 2008, Galileo Alumni Association.

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