



# THE GALILEO OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of the  
Galileo Alumni Association

Circulation: 700 (email), 250 (mail)



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

VOL. IV, No. 3

2006

July,

A Message from the President

## YOUR DONATIONS TO GAA

No alumni who have donated money to GAA have ever questioned how it is spent. However, those of you who are considering such a tax-deductible gift should know where the money goes and why.

Money raised from membership donations and fundraisers is used to pay GAA operating costs, such as office supplies, printing, and postage, and to aid school programs and activities. Board members receive no financial compensation.

### *Beneficiaries*

In early discussions on how to assist Galileo Academy, the GAA Board decided contributions should be made to the school - departments, classes, clubs, and teams - to benefit *groups* of students, rather than individuals. Helping non-funded or under-funded school programs was made the priority.

GAA has responded to requests of staff, primarily the principal and student activities director, and student leaders for financial assistance. The entire Galileo staff has been invited to identify any specific financial need of a group and present it to the Board. While GAA may not be able to fund every request, all will be considered.

To date, GAA donations to the school are as follows: \$1,200 to the *Pendulum*, the school newspaper; \$1,500 to the Dragon Boat Club to participate in annual races; \$350 for the graduation of the class of 2004; and \$3,500 to the Athletic Department. The latter, along with Dick Bechelli's alumni challenge, helped to offset the state funding cutback of 20% to Galileo's athletic budget this year and was acknowledged by Ethan Winterling, Athletic Director  
<http://galileoalumni.org/letters/2006-Galileo-Athletic%20Director.pdf>.

### ***Gifts from Individual Alumni***

The generous endowment of more than \$15,000 by Jerome Solari '46 was made with the stipulation that the money be used for Galileo at the discretion of the principal. Ms. Chiu has asked GAA to maintain the funds until she identifies a specific need.

In addition, individuals may identify specific areas they would like to assist. For example, Dick Bechelli '51 challenged alumni to raise money for athletics and offered to match up to \$1,000. Alumni who wished to contribute did so. As a result, in February 2006, a check for \$2,040 was presented to the Galileo Athletic Department.

### ***Donations from Groups of Alumni***

Groups who plan events for alumni may give money to GAA with the agreement that it be passed on to Galileo for a specific use. This ensures the school will benefit from the full donation. Such was the case with the Reno Reunion committee's recent donation of \$6,500 that was presented to the school at the GAA Sports Hall of Fame Dinner. (See letter of appreciation from Margaret Chiu, principal.)

### ***Fundraisers***

Since its inception in 2002, GAA has raised funds at 2 variety shows, 4 Belasco productions, and 3 Sports Hall of Fame dinners and held an alumni get-together. While many alumni enjoy participating, only two have volunteered their time and energy to help organize activities. GAA would like to plan more alumni events and fundraisers, but the Board is limited in number and cannot take on more activities without additional help.

So we are pleased to announce a partnership with Galileo's Parent-Teacher-Student Association. On October 28, 2006, GAA will hold a dinner-dance fundraiser in association with PTSA. For more information, see the enclosed flyer, or check the GAA website <http://galileoalumni.org/events-future.html#GAA-din-dance>.

### ***Assistance to Individual Students***

Although GAA funds are not used for financial assistance to individual students, alumni can set up their own programs. The Joan Lucchesi Ertola '51 Scholarship Fund, established by Ron Ertola '49 to honor his deceased wife, is such an example. Alumni are invited to contribute to the program, and many have chosen to do so. Last year, scholarship awards of \$1,000 each were presented to three deserving Galileo seniors continuing on to college. This year, two scholarships were awarded.

### ***Support Galileo***

In the past, three alumni have suggested specific donations, but either they don't benefit a group or match areas of need identified by the school. However, if you have a special cause (such as the Princess Project), there is nothing to stop you from donating personally, offering a challenge to others, starting a special fund, or organizing a fundraiser (such as a sea cruise or other event). GAA will advertise the project and acknowledge the effort.

Your contributions to GAA support Galileo Academy and its students. However, if you prefer, you

can donate time or money directly to the school or initiate your own program of giving, such as alumni specifically mentioned. Either way, our alma mater greatly appreciates your assistance.

***Go Lions!***

**Jim Dresser '51**

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**An Excerpt from Principal Chiu's New Year's Message**  
*(taken from The Galileo Communicator)*

*We also want to thank our alumni for keeping Galileo in their hearts. Over the past five years, the Galileo Alumni Association (GAA) has established itself as a strong organization with a focus on building connections amongst Galileo alumni and supporting their alma mater. Most recently, Mr. Dick Bechelli (Class of 1951) has donated \$1,000 to the Galileo Athletic Department and his donation has been matched by GAA. Another alumnus, Mr. Jerome Solari (Class of 1946) has set up a \$15,000 endowment fund for the school. We appreciate their ongoing care and contributions to keep Galileo an excellent school in San Francisco.*

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**Galileo Alumni Association**  
&  
**Galileo Parent-Teacher-Student Association**

Fundraiser for Galileo Academy

**Dinner-Dance and Silent Auction**

Saturday, October 28, 2006

Italian Athletic Social Club  
25 Russia Street (at Mission)  
San Francisco, CA 94112

6:30 P.M. – No Host Cocktails

8:00 P.M. – Dinner

9:00 P.M. – Dancing to Music from 1950's - 2000

\$50 per person includes prime rib or salmon dinner, wine, tax, & tip

Reserve early. Seating is limited.

No new reservations or refunds after October 15, 2006

Complete the form below, make **check payable to GAA**, and mail both to:

**Galileo Alumni Association  
1150 Francisco Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109**

Questions? Contact: Cordy Porter Surdyka at 415-898-1119 or [jsirduke@comcast.net](mailto:jsirduke@comcast.net)  
Kay Lazzari Michelis at 415-397-3899 or [Lmichelis@aol.com](mailto:Lmichelis@aol.com)  
Linda Lau at 415-648-2858 or [linda0702@yahoo.com](mailto:linda0702@yahoo.com)

Reservation Form:

## **GAA & PTSA Dinner Dance and Silent Auction**

**Saturday, October 28, 2006**

Number of reservations \_\_\_\_\_ at \$50 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name of guest:

Choice of entrée:

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Groups of 8 or more may reserve a table.

## DONORS CHOOSE

During the month of May, in honor of Teacher Appreciation Month, GAA publicized efforts to raise money for projects submitted to Donors Choose by Galileo teachers. Most of the proposals met grant criteria (identified with an "apple" symbol next to the title). These projects received 50% of the funding request from Bank of America, the San Francisco Challenge partner.

As of June 1, 42 proposals were submitted by teachers, and 34 of them were fully funded for a total of \$17,085. These creative projects will benefit countless students and move Galileo further forward as an outstanding school!

Due to the huge media publicity at the Giants pre-game ceremony on May 9, more people have become aware of this program and are participating. Galileo's librarian, Patrick Delaney, was one of the teachers honored at the May 9th event. See highlights on Galileo's web site:

<http://www.galileoweb.org/teacherThankYou>.

Teachers may continue to submit projects/funding requests to Donors Choose. Since this program is year-round, new projects may be added at any time.

To find projects submitted by Galileo teachers, go to Donors Choose web site:

[www.donorschoose.org](http://www.donorschoose.org). On the left-hand side of the screen, under "Quick Search" type in "Galileo Academy", then hit "Go". It will bring up a list of proposals that still need funding.

If you haven't already done so, please consider helping a Galileo teacher and his/her students by making a tax-deductible donation to your favorite project.

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## **GAA Needs YOU!**

Currently, there is one open Board position for which we have been trying to recruit all year. In addition, 6 positions are up for re-election this fall.

After reviewing how often other alumni associations meet, the Board agreed to reduce the number of meetings to no more than 5 times a year. Meetings are held at Galileo and start at 6:30 PM. The Board needs more diversity and encourages new ideas. Please consider volunteering a little of your time and energy to benefit other alumni and Galileo Academy.

If you'd like to be nominated for the Board of Directors, know of someone interested, or have any questions about what is involved, please contact any Officer or Director by email <http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html> or write to Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco St., San Francisco, CA 94109. Better yet, join us at our next meeting on September 14, at which time the nominating committee will be appointed.

According to GAA Bylaws, nominees for the upcoming election will be accepted through September 30. All GAA members present at the November meeting will vote on the ballot for Board of Directors.

At that same meeting, Board members will elect a president and treasurer for the 2006-2008 term of office. The vice president and secretary are elected on alternate years.

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## **GAA MEMBERSHIP**

Did you know that less than half of you who receive this newsletter are members of GAA? Help us meet our goal of maintaining current contact information so we can keep you informed about Galileo and assist alumni who are planning reunions.

If you haven't yet registered, please download a membership application at <http://galileoalumni.org/membership.html>, complete it, and mail it in today. We will welcome you as a member of the Galileo Alumni Association whether or not you send any money. While a tax deductible donation is requested, it is optional.

If you have any questions, contact Diane Cowart '55, Membership Chairperson, at [membership@galileoalumni.org](mailto:membership@galileoalumni.org).

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## **GALILEO SPORTS HALL OF FAME DINNER**

**May 6, 2006**

From the comments of Galileo alumni and staff, this year's dinner was a success. The number of alumni, staff, and friends who attended exceeded past years. It was a pleasure to have so many young athletes there, thanks to Coach Kane. ([Photo](#))

### **ENTERTAINMENT**

**Vince Gomez '52** (bass/vocals) and John Houghton (piano) provided music in the cocktail lounge before dinner. **Vince Gomez '52** and **Vince LaRocca '50** (piano) continued the entertainment after dinner. ([Photo](#))

### **DONATION TO GALILEO**

On behalf of GAA, **Jim Dresser '51**, President, welcomed everyone. He introduced **Anthony Waiss '55**, dinner guest of the Alumni Association.

As chairman of the planning committee for the Decade of the '50's Reunions in Reno, **Waiss** presented a check for \$6,500 to **Margaret Chiu**, principal. ([Photo](#)) Ms. Chiu expressed thanks for the generous donation, especially in view of anticipated budget cuts for the 2006-07 school year. She said the money will be used for new furniture and other capital equipment.

**Nina Pattini Clima '50**, a committee member, acknowledged the commitment of all 25 alumni who participated on the 2000 and 2005 Reno Reunion committees. Special recognition was given to **Tamara Lee Chan '56**, **Alvin Joe '56**, **Jennie Wong Lee '55**, **Kay Lazzari Michelis '53**, **Lucy Lum Waiss '57**, and **Anthony Waiss '55**.

## SPECIAL GUESTS

**Nekeisha Maxie**, an 18 year old senior, and her mother, Patricia, dinner guests of GAA, were introduced. [\(Photo\)](#) Nekeisha, her parents, and two sisters were relocated from New Orleans, Louisiana, last fall because of Hurricane Katrina.

When her family moved to San Francisco last fall, Nekeisha brought her basketball skills from John F. Kennedy High School to Galileo Academy. As point guard or shooting guard, she led the Galileo girls' basketball team in points scored, averaging 18 points per game, and assists (too many to count).

After graduation, Nekeisha plans to attend City College and play basketball. Her goal is to transfer to a four year college and continue to play there. She hopes to get a degree in Business Management and work in the field of real estate some day.

## PRESENTATION OF HONOREES

**Ron Ertola '49**, chairman of the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Committee, presented this year's honorees and read the highlights of their achievements. [\(Photos 1, 2, 3, 4\)](#) Medals and certificates were given them by committee members **Pete Pompei '51** and **Bernard Valdez '49**. Bob Randall, Jr. accepted the award for his deceased father, **Bob Randall '31**.

## DONATION TO GALILEO ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

On behalf of the Galileo Alumni Association Sports Hall of Fame, **Ron Ertola '49** presented a check for \$2,500 to **Ethan Winterling**, Athletic Director for Galileo Academy of Science and Technology. Mr. Winterling thanked the Association for its continuing support. [\(Photo\)](#) Principal Margaret Chiu expressed gratitude for GAA's ongoing support and hope that younger alumni would follow the example set.

## RAFFLE

**Nekeisha Maxie '06** assisted with the raffle by drawing the winning tickets.

Three gift certificates for dining were awarded:

**Caesar's Restaurant**, 2299 Powell St. at Bay, San Francisco – Gary Ernst

**Pompei's Grotto**, 340 Jefferson Street, San Francisco - **Ron Sligar '52** (Galileo Sports Hall of Fame '05)

**Prime on the Avenue**, 1425 Burlingame Avenue, Burlingame - **Tim Phu '00** (Captain of the Galileo wrestling team that won the city championship) [\(Photo\)](#)

Other prizes:

Bay cruise - Jan Baumel

Case of red wine - **Lorin Scola '51** (Galileo Sports Hall of Fame '04)

Case of white wine - Jackie Brown

Grand prize (value over \$500):

Two-night stay in a deluxe king suite at **Carmel Country Inn**, Carmel, CA

[www.carmelcountryinn.com](http://www.carmelcountryinn.com) - **Augie Venezia '53** [\(Photo\)](#)

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thanks to the following people:

**Bettie Grinnell**, assistant to the principal at Galileo, for all of her hard work, including preparation of announcements and programs.

Barbara Lombardi for arranging table seating and making name tags.

**Tom Collins**, retired art teacher at Galileo, for the attractive GAA signs.

See <http://galileoalumni.org/event-sportsHallDin-2006-May.html> for photos from the Hall of Fame dinner.

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## 2006 GALILEO SPORTS HALL OF FAME HONOREES

### KEVIN ADAMS

#### COACH

Serramonte High, Daly City - Basketball, Baseball, Football, Track. Outstanding Senior Athlete 1972. All City Basketball

Skyline College – Track Team Captain. Inducted into Skyline College Hall of Fame. San Francisco State – NCAA Finalist 400 Relays 1975. Team Captain 1976. Coached 5 years Serramonte High School. Coached 2 years Skyline College. Coached 25 years Galileo High School.

1981-Present - Football Coach.

Basketball Coach – 1992-2005. 200 Wins Boys, 140 Wins Girls – Total 340 Wins.

Football – Championships 1996, 1998, 2001 (Undefeated 12 – 0)

Coached two NFL Players – Bobby Shaw and Lenny Wahls

Coach of the Year 1992 and 2005

### GEORGE ALVARADO

Baseball

1938

Basketball – First String 1935-38. All city 1937 & 38. Block G Society – Scholarship to University of San Francisco. Southern Air Force all League Team 1944. Organized Basketball Team for the Air Force in San Diego, Hawaii and Ensenal. Played in Southern California Industrial League. At age 16, beat the great Hank Luisetti in a half-court shoot out at Helen Wills Playground.

### JOHN BOLOGNA

Soccer - Football - Track Coach

1950

Soccer, Football, Track. Track—Member of All Star 100-120 Relays Track Team 1948. All City Shotput 1949. Soccer Champion Team 1946. Block G Society. San Francisco State Far Western Conference Shotput Champion 1955. Leading scorer on Soccer Team 1957-58.



32 years as teacher and coach  
2 Track Team Championships 1961 and 1962  
2 Cross Country Championships 1967 and 1968  
2 Wrestling Team Championships 1974 and 1976  
4 Fencing Team Championships  
ASA Wrestling Coach—produced 25 All City Wrestlers in 5

years

**GENE DE MARTINI**

Football

**1947**

Starting center on football Team – 1944-46. Block G Society. Football scholarship to University of San Francisco. Played on undefeated Frosh Team. During the Korean War he played defensive tackle for the Marine Corp Team. Went undefeated and untied winning 11 games. He played against Arizona State, San Diego State, Pepperdine, Camp Pendleton, El Toro Marines, and the Los Angeles Rams. Inducted into the North Beach - Marina Sports Hall of Fame 2005.

**SISVAN DER HAROOTUNIAN**

Special Recognition (Sports Editor, Analyst, Writer)

**1951**

Basketball – 120's -1949, 130's – 1950-51. Block G Society. Sports Editor of Galileo Telescope and Editor of Pendulum which was awarded Best High School Publication nationally. Recipient of Bank of America Achievement Award Life Member of California Scholarship Federation, Straight "A" Student. Valedictorian of Graduating class. Scholarship to University of California. Presently Editor of "The Galileo Observer," Galileo Alumni Association newsletter. Member of the Galileo Alumni Association Board.

**LAWRENCE KANE**

**COACH**

Penfiel High School, Columbia College and University Law School. New York State Freestyle Champion and National AAU Freestyle Champion. All-Ivy and All East Honors in Wrestling at Columbia. Presently Corporate Securities Attorney. Since 1993, Head Coach of the Galileo Wrestling Team.

Overall Record – 94 Wins, 21 Losses, 1 Tie  
2004-5 Team Placed first in SF AAU, SF City Championships and Berkeley Beehive Tournament.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Place at Marin Catholic Championships.  
League Round Robin Champs 1997, 98, 99, 2000 and 2001.  
City Champs 1998, 1999 and 2005

*San Francisco Chronicle* stated: "Galileo has gone from door mat to King of the Mats due to Kane's exuberance and commitment to helping mostly under-privileged kids learn a sport called wrestling. Kane does more than teach. He funnels his coaching salary back into the program to purchase shoes, head-gear, and other equipment. His law firm donates thousands of dollars to the Galileo athletic program each year."

**VINCE LA ROCCA**

Basketball - Track

**1950**

Basketball 3 years – 1950 Championship Team 130's. Team Captain 1950. All City (moved to Varsity City Championship Team 1950). Track – 100 Yard Dash in all city Finals. Block G Society. Played Basketball and Baseball for US Army 1952-54. Won Northern California 1<sup>st</sup> Class Handball Championship.

**FRED O'DONNELL**

Basketball - Track

**1949**

Track – 1949. Basketball – 3 years 130's All city and 2<sup>nd</sup> in League Scoring 1949. Block G Society. 1993 Inducted in North Beach - Marina Sports Hall of Fame. Captain in San Francisco Fire Department. Graduate of Department of Corrections Academy. Fire Chief Department of Corrections, San Quentin. Block G Society.

**BOB RANDALL (Deceased)**

Baseball – Basketball - Soccer

**1932**

Baseball – All City 2 years. Basketball – All City 2 years. Soccer – All City 1 year. Teams he played for came in 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> nine times. Received football scholarship to College of the Pacific (never played football at Galileo). Starred as halfback and line backer, also pitched for the baseball team and was leading scorer on the basketball team. Played professional basketball for YMI 1933-37.

**FRED TOOKER**

Swimming - Football

**1951**

Swimming – 2 years (one of two from Galileo to place in City Finals). Outstanding competitor in the Backstroke. Football – 2 years. Starting Offensive Tackle 1949-50. Starting Defensive End 1950-51. Block G Society, Member of Student Council senior year. Received offer of football scholarship from University of San Francisco (declined). Received Certificate of Honor for 45 years from the City and County of San Francisco as an Official Court Reporter.

**JOANNE WILTSHIRE**

Swimming

**1955**

Competed in swimming and synchronized swimming 1947-49. Represented Crystal Plunge Swim Club in North Beach. Received a Block G for swimming. Won Junior and Senior National Synchronized Championships in Florida, Los Angeles and Oakland – 1948-55. Turned professional and traveled on tours around the country. Taught and coached swimming in high schools throughout Marin County.

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## **NOMINATIONS FOR SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

The Galileo Sports Hall of Fame committee is seeking outstanding athletes in every sport – women and men of all ages – for induction in 2007. The criteria for nomination are listed on the form. Nominate an exceptional athlete by completing the form and mailing it in. After a nomination is received, the committee sends a letter to the nominee with a questionnaire and a request for documentation supporting his/her athletic accomplishments. So please make sure your favorite Galileo athlete is considered for this honor by nominating him/her today!

**GALILEO SPORTS HALL OF FAME**

## NOMINATION FORM

### CRITERIA

1. Nominee must have graduated from Galileo High School/Galileo Academy of Science and Technology in good standing at least 5 years prior to being nominated.
2. Nominee must have been an outstanding athlete. Examples: Member of a championship team, selected All City, hold a high school record, recipient of a specific individual or team award, considered by peers as worthy of being a member of the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame. (Consideration will be given for recognized athletic activities and/or accomplishments after graduation.)
3. Nominee may be an individual (faculty, coach, student) whose valued contributions to a specific sport or athletics in general at Galileo are worthy of consideration for this award.
4. Galileo alumni, faculty members, coaches, or a family member of a nominee, may nominate a candidate. All nominations will be reviewed and facts about qualified nominees will be verified by the Galileo Alumni Association Sports Hall of Fame Committee.
5. Nominee may be deceased; if selected, must be represented by a family member or recognized close friend.

I would like to nominate the following person for the Galileo Academy Sports Hall of Fame:

Name of Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring/Fall/Year

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street State/Zip  
Code

Nominator's  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Town/City State/Zip Code

Class of: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Spring/Fall/Year

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline: January 15**

**Mail to: Galileo Alumni Association  
Sports Hall of Fame Committee  
1150 Francisco Street  
San Francisco, CA 94109**

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## Thank you, thank you, thank you

Oh, wow! I don't know what to say! Thank you, Ron. I'm so nervous (*fidgeting around*). (*Looks at other honorees at head table*). To my fellow honorees, it is an honor and a pleasure to be in the same group with you.

Thanks to Fox, my coach at Galileo, who had faith in my meager talent and sports ability. To my teammates on all three teams, thanks for the honor of playing basketball with you and for all the good times, especially when we beat Lowell.

I want to thank Bill Dito for nominating me and to the committee for selecting me. Although I don't deserve this honor, I am overwhelmed to be listed among the legendary greats Hank Luisetti, Bruce Hale, Gino Cimoli and Don Bragg, and other true Hall of Famers. These athletes are really the ones who have established and continued the tradition of Galileo's excellence in sports.

Oh, I don't have much time; they are motioning me to get off (*takes out sheet of paper*). I want to thank all the bigger, taller and older boys at Helen Wills playground who let me play basketball with them. I want to thank my brother who went to Galileo before me and led the way. Thank you to my parents for having borne me in San Francisco so that I could attend Galileo. I want to thank Principal Margaret Chiu for being such a staunch supporter of Galileo athletics and of the alumni. And finally, I want to thank James Naismith for inventing the game of basketball, the fastest foot game on Earth. Oh, how I love this game! Thank you, thank you, thank you (*escorted off stage*).

*(This speech, never given in accordance with Hall of Fame rules, is a spoof on acceptance speeches and is intended to entertain rather than be taken seriously. However, it in no way diminishes the honor bestowed upon me which I sincerely appreciate.)*

(The following speech was given by Nina Pattini Clima at the Sports Hall of Fame dinner)

No, I'm not up here to receive an award. My only contribution to the athletic department was track. I ran chasing the guys, hoping they would catch me. Finally, Frank did.

In 1999, I received a phone call from Tony Waiss who told me a group of Galileo alumni were forming a committee to plan a reunion in Reno for the year 2000. The reunion would include the classes 1950 through 1959. He described some of the plans they were working on and as I listened, I thought, "This will never happen". They were hoping for each class to be represented in the planning and would I be willing to help. Well, I, along with several others, joined the team, and thank you, Tony, very much for including us. It was an honor to work with you and your amazing group.

It should also be acknowledged that a substantial donation was presented to Galileo after the 2000 reunion.

We all congratulate and thank Tony and Lucy Waiss who are representing the committee members who spent many hours of work to make the Galileo reunions in 2000 and 2005 a tremendous success.

*(The above shows what a dedicated, determined and focused group can do to plan and realize a successful reunion.)*

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## **The Recipients of the 2006 Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarships**

*At the June graduation of the Galileo Academy's Class of 2006, Mr. Ron Ertola presented two graduating seniors with the scholarships named in honor of his late wife. Below are the recipients' own words regarding their achievements and future plans.*

### **Therese Fong**

#### **Academic Achievement**

"During my sophomore year in high school, I took the initiative to join AACE Upward Bound, a program that helps prepare low-income, first generation students for college.

I had always wondered what college would be like. How hard would the classes be? How would I survive? As I attended classes at San Francisco State University, many of my questions were answered. Through the classes, I learned how to think more critically and write more thoughtfully. I took my writing to the next level, using my imagination and going beyond my boundaries. I discovered abilities I did not know I had. Writing was no longer a mystery to me as I wrote descriptive, narrative, and persuasive essays. I started to write not only for class, but for my own enjoyment. Then, during the summer, I took a leap and left home to live in a college dormitory, taking college preparatory courses at the same time. I grew more independent, more anxious, and more curious about college. I had gotten a glimpse of college, and it was not enough. Now I am more eager than ever to go to college. I want to learn more, to experience more, and to do more."

#### **Potential to Contribute**

"I entered high school inexperienced and naive, but through my years in high school, I found myself becoming a leader. I joined student government because I wanted to speak up, take charge, be a role model, and help make the school a better place.

As a class officer, I organized events such as dances, rallies, and fundraisers. In planning these events, I took time to listen to everyone's opinions and ideas. It is often hard to reach an agreement with so many different opinions, but I always make sure that our discussions are respectful and that our goals are clearly spoken. I always remember that I represent all the students at Galileo. I believe that each student contributes an important piece to the puzzle. If there were even one piece missing, then the puzzle would be incomplete. Therefore, I work hard at communicating with my peers, my teachers, and the administrators, as any good leader should.

I will leave high school with the knowledge gained through hands-on experience. I will then bring everything I learned to the University of California as a dedicated, responsible student leader who will be the voice of the future and also help others break from their inner shells to contribute.

Living in public housing, the 'projects', is not easy for my family of five. Our complex is crowded and noisy. It is always hard for me to find a quiet place to study and do homework. Every night when I study, I hear crying babies, loud arguments, and the sounds of violence. I study in an environment full of drugs, gangs and moral decay.

When I go home from school every day, I see many unpleasant things, things I would rather not see. What disturbs me most is seeing my childhood friends, most of whom have lost their way in life. They are no longer carefree and innocent kids I once played with. Somehow they ended up on the wrong path of life. They no longer have any goals, drugs and alcohol having taken over their lives mentally and physically. Some joined the wrong crowd and ended up in gangs. Others became pregnant and dropped out of school. They have truly 'fallen through the cracks of society'.

While I could have easily followed my friends on the wrong road in life, I did not. I did not get influenced by peer pressure due to the big support of my family, especially my father. My family gives me guidance, love and support. They motivate me to become the best person I can be. When I see what my friends and neighbors have become, I am encouraged to try and make a difference in my community.

In my junior year, I joined a youth leadership program called Asian Community Teens Organized for Neighborhood Empowerment (ACT ONE) because I wanted to help the people in my community. In ACT ONE I worked with other teens to identify problems in our community. Then we worked to solve these problems, creating and facilitating workshops in our neighborhood for teens and their parents. Last year we organized a conference for Asian and Pacific Islander youth all over the Bay Area.

Planning and organizing this year's event was not easy at all. For months we brainstormed ideas that would interest and benefit youths and adults alike. We searched the city for locations to hold the event, found sponsors, created an agenda, and developed different workshops, including ones on sex and health, drugs, family communications, and immigrants and culture. Our goal was to create an environment in which youths could learn from each other. We also wanted to motivate other youths to become leaders in their communities and to build strong and safe environments for others. Many teens left us with positive as well as helpful feedback. It was certainly a successful conference.

Through ACT ONE, I have become a leader, and I have helped improve my community. I have found a new purpose for my life through this program. In ACT ONE, I am able to represent my community. I can take action and help the people in my neighborhood climb back up to society.

My family provided me with the strength to resist the terrible influences around me, and ACT ONE gave me the opportunity to do something about it. Now I am motivated to go to the next level in life: to go to college and gain the skills needed to take further action. I want to set a good example for the youth in my neighborhood.

I want to show them how education can help them in the future. In college I will continue to volunteer at home as well as contribute to my new community. As my college adviser would say, 'If you believe you can achieve, then you will'."

\* \* \* \* \*

**Phu Truong**

## Academic Preparation

I consider my achievements remarkable because I have done them with serious effort. I have maintained a 3.70 average G.P.A. I could have stuck with regular classes or less honors classes, but I felt it was not enough to challenge myself academically. At times I feel that it is useless to take hard classes like AP because I am still undecided on what career path to take or what to do in my life in general. In the end, I got a 5 on the AP biology exam because I worked hard and diligent in that class and in all my classes. My joy of learning grows even if I won't use the things I learned again in my life.

What prepared me the most for college was taking AVID in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade. AVID made me realize the importance of studying hard and picking paths aligned to the college of my choice. I learned skills that are beneficial in college such as time management, making speeches in front of class, and research information for colleges that suit me.

## Potential to Contribute

Leadership is a role that I have struggled for in my life. I always thought leadership was in the hands of people like student government or club's officers. The voice, the respect, and the power of influences are what great leaders have. I believe I can contribute leadership to the university. One leadership role I have played is in my studies. I guide and set my educational life on a pace by creating goals and finding motivation to induce my efforts. Another leadership role I play a part in is helping other students in their studies. I help guide them in their studies and work in small groups with them. I was a leader and perhaps a role model to the children when I volunteered at this summer school where I learned some necessary skills to be a leader, especially communication and responsibility. As a growing and changing person, the experiences I gained from my school and community service will help me become the leader I hope to be.

All my life, I was a closed person and talking was hard for me in front of people. To change that I figured I needed to step up and find a way to open up. I thought to be like a leader or take on qualities of a leader would help me. When being a leader, I noticed a lot is demanded from you. To become I leader, I did some volunteer service and found it helps people on their road to becoming a leader.

The most important thing in being a leader and an important skill to have in life is taking initiative. It isn't an easy ability to pick up. I learned to use it when I was volunteering this summer at a church that provides a summer school for learning Chinese as well as other subjects. I had to supervise and to help children ranging from five to thirteen years old. There are times when you have to be the first to take action even if you are not alone. I had to step up and use my voice to help get certain jobs done. When supervising kids, I learned that you have to do more than watch them. At times, I would let things fly and unravel by themselves, but I realized that they are kids and I have a responsibility to ensure their safety. Another important feature I discovered in becoming a leader is to have excellent communication skills.

My commitment to community service started in the summer when I begin volunteering at the church. I realized I should have done it sooner because I felt I learned a lot of life skills, ones that you can't easily learn at school, such as communication and taking initiative which applies to things I will do in the future in jobs and interviews. I plan to do more in the future because it is a good use of my free time, and I am happy to meet new people.

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# ATTA GIRL, JOSIE!

By Barbara Lombardi

On June 14th, Josie arrived at the Civic Auditorium to be greeted not only by friends and family, but a sea of media people, local and national. There were video cameras, flashes going off from cameras and cell phones, and microphones coming at her from all sides. This petite 4'10", 98-year-old graduate was certainly the center of attention. And to add to the confusion, the Lincoln Class of 2006 was just exiting the building, so when **Bob Gilardi '50** arrived, he panicked thinking he was given the wrong time and had missed the big event.

**Josephine Germano Belasco**, mother of **Eddie Belasco '50** was close to reaching her goal of getting her high school diploma from Galileo. She made that long walk to the stage, leading the parade of students from the Class of 2006, wearing a big smile and waving her long stemmed flower to the crowd. She climbed the stairs, took her place in the front row, and sat like the perfect student she was 80 years ago. Then just before **Ron Ertola '49** came to the podium to present the Joan Lucchesi Ertola Memorial Scholarship Awards to **Therese Fong '06** and **Phu Chinh Truong '06**, the moment came. After a warm introduction by **Principal Margaret Chiu**, Josephine Belasco was presented with that piece of paper that completed her life long dream. The auditorium exploded with cheers.

Josie had dropped out of school in her last year to help the family when her sister became seriously ill. Sister **Angie Germano Vernarecci '34** survived, graduated from Galileo, is 90 years old and was there with her son **Alan Vernarecci '64** to see her older sister graduate. Through the years the Belasco house, especially her kitchen, was always open to all of her son Eddie's friends. Things are no different today. **Gino Del Prete, Mario '50** and **John Lombardi '48** frequently spent time and enjoyed many a good meal at her Hyde Street home. So naturally, they were anxious, along with their sister **Carmela Lombardi Hoffmann '51** who has always been close to Josie, to take part in her big day.

When her proud son Eddie and her adoring granddaughters, Shanti and Aura, escorted the new graduate into Caesar's for her celebration party she was again surrounded by the media. But she was glowing with energy and was more than willing to smile for the cameras and answer all their questions. Among the many guests were two people who had enjoyed Josie's hospitality over the years, prominent politician **John Burton** along with **Frank Brass** representing the City of San Francisco who presented her with a proclamation naming June 14, 2006 Josephine Belasco Day. After dinner Josie circled the room and thanked each person for coming, giving a little advice on life as she made her way around. And, of course, she was the last to leave her party, still filled with excitement and happiness.

What's next for Josie? As someone in the crowd said, maybe a driver's license!

(Ed. note: For more about Josie, see articles that appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on 6/14/06 <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/06/14/MNG8QJDSCF1.DTL&hw=Josephine+Belasco&sn=002&sc=543> and 6/15/06 - <http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2006/06/15/BAGP1JDT381.DTL&hw=Josephine+Belasco&sn=001&sc=1000>.)

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# **BELASCO THEATRE PRODUCTION**

**by Jan Baumel**

**On Saturday, June 3, Galileo alumni and family members enjoyed the Belasco Theatre production of the musical "Grease" at Del Valle Theater in Walnut Creek. In the opening credits, Ed Belasco dedicated the matinee performance to Galileo alumni in the audience.**

**The talented cast, aged 11-18, gave an exhilarating performance. The familiar songs, dances, and costumes brought back fond memories of a bygone era.**

**The May 21, 2006, *Contra Costa Times* carried an article about Ed Belasco (1950) and his nonprofit youth musical theater group. Ed was recognized for his 24 years of providing a comprehensive theater experience in which young people build self-confidence through the performing arts. Congratulations on a job well done, Ed!**

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## **A Dinner with Friends**

**by Monica Parenti Kirkland**

**On Saturday, May 13, the classes of January '53, June '53 and January '54 hosted a dinner with friends at Nick's Rockaway in Pacifica. All who attended Galileo were invited and welcome.**

**Ninety hale and hearty Galileans attended (spouses and guests were instantly inducted as "Galileans"). Many people had not seen each other since leaving Galileo, so warm greetings evidenced by much hugging, back-slapping, reminiscing and robust laughter permeated the room. It was heartwarming to see that the bond formed so many years ago came alive when we met again!**

**All agreed that we should not wait too long to host another dinner with friends. We are always eager to connect with any Galileans, so please send in any contact information for fellow alumni we may not have in our data base.**

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# **Biography**

## ***Galileo's Favorite Soprano***

***From 1948 to 1951, Giovanna di Tano (Jowanna Woeber, Class of 1951) thrilled Galileo audiences with her brilliant soprano voice. I was one who was enthralled and completely captivated by her talent. She was one of the reasons I cultivated a love for opera while still a teenager. Her favorite aria in those days was Puccini's "O Mio Babbino Caro" which she sang often at Galileo assemblies. Below is a brief biography of Galileo's (and my) favorite soprano.***

**Giovanna, a native Californian, started singing at a very early age. And who better to train and guide her than her own mother, Norma di Tano, an internationally respected teacher and vocal coach. Being exposed to the many legendary singers whom her mother coached encouraged Giovanna to pursue a singing career.**

**In Italy Giovanna sang in the opera houses of Florence, Milan and Brescia and was hailed by Italian critics for her "impressive sense of dramatic expression and the ability to sing with purity and passion". In the U. S., she sang with the San Francisco Opera and the Spring Opera.**

**Giovanna was forced to leave the operatic and concert stage when her husband died and she had the responsibility of taking care of her small children. Slowly she began singing in a few concerts and recitals and established new audiences. An extra asset was Giovanna's ability to sing in Italian, French, Spanish, Greek, Russian and Hebrew.**

**She soon became known as "Soprano Suprema" during her association with American President Lines. While aboard the S.S. President Cleveland, she met and married her present husband, Fred Gaskell, one of the ship's officers.**

**Preceding the wave of popularizing opera for the masses, Giovanna interpreted popular songs and ballads and performed in supper clubs and luxury hotels in New York City, Boston, Seattle, San Francisco and Honolulu. Her engagement at the Kahala Hilton in Honolulu won rave reviews.**

**The famous tenor Jan Peerce once said that Giovanna's talent would have impressed none other than Maestro Arturo Toscanini.**

**Giovanna sang at the Los Angeles Music Center's concert commemorating the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the premiere of Verdi's "Otello", and her performance was acclaimed by critics and audiences. Her repertoire included Puccini, Leoncavallo, Verdi and other composers.**

**Nowadays, Giovanna instills her love of opera and singing in the students she teaches just as her mother taught her. "Bringing to people the sound of the human voice with all the passion and joy that is singing" – this is the living legacy of Giovanna di Tano, Galileo graduate and its favorite soprano.**

## Through The Telescope. . .



Jerry Courtney, Assistant Principal, is becoming a regular visitor to the GAA board meetings. Recently he reported that Galileo is now the third largest high school in San Francisco, after Lowell and Lincoln.

Dominic DiMaggio, the "Little Professor", wrote the Sports Hall of Fame committee that he regrettably could not attend the annual dinner in May. Maybe next year, Dom?

Was that Dorothy Chow (1951) spotted recently on a California Street cable car?

In all the years I have lived in San Francisco and walked over its hills, I had never seen a person go in or out of the venerable and ultra-exclusive Pacific Union Club on Nob Hill . . . that is, until last month when I saw a suited gentleman exit the old brownstone mansion originally built and owned by early mining millionaire James Flood. And then the following day I saw the PUC's doorman standing outside the building.

A day at the ballpark: Recently renamed AT&T Park, home of the San Francisco Giants, has undergone yet more changes, designed to enhance the ballpark experience. A North Beach section had been added north of 3<sup>rd</sup> base, and it has concessions of Coppola wines, the U. S. Restaurant, The Stinking Rose (Ray Piccinini (1951) works at the one on Columbus Avenue), and Victoria Pastry – all North Beach mainstays. Plus there are large TV screens. Will anybody watch the actual game?

Nostalgia: Before "American Idol" there was Dick Contino, the fantastic accordion player who won contests week after week on the Horace Heidt radio show.

Speaking of "American Idol", I had correctly picked last year's winner, country singer Carrie Underwood, but this year my favorite, Kat McPhee, came in second to the "karaoke singer", Taylor Hicks. Of the judges, Simon Cowell is the wisest, Paula Abdul the most frivolous, and Randy Jackson the most pragmatic. The "Idol" has turned out to be a popularity contest, dependent on the the public's votes. In my opinion, it should be a true talent competition, in which case the judges should decide the winner.

Isn't it time San Francisco had another World's Fair. The last one was in 1939-41, the Golden Gate International Exposition, and was cut short by World War II. Every Sunday we'd go by ferry boat to Treasure Island, to see the Tower of the Sun, the statue of Pacific, the Cavalcade of America, and Billy Rose's Aquacade. There was an underground mine, a Coca-Cola bottling plant, and an elaborate Lionel train set. And Sally Rand did her famous "Fan Dance".

City of cities: In New York City, when a stranger asks for directions, he/she is met with silence. In Chicago, the answer is, "I don't know". In San Francisco, not only are the directions gladly given, but often a suggestion for a place to visit or a good restaurant is thrown in. Only in San Francisco. . .

So you complain of a long commute? Try this on for length: An engineer commutes daily from his home in Mariposa (at the entrance to Yosemite Valley) to San Jose, a distance of 186 miles each way. He spends 9 hours driving his car and logs 90,000 miles a year. True story.

There is another, larger *Observer*, the Charlotte (North Carolina) Observer.

Audience-defying performers: Two I've seen come to mind, Frank Sinatra (at the Sands, now gone) and Barbra Streisand (at the Winter Garden, NYC). More-for-your-money performers were Sammy Davis, Jr. and now Willie Nelson.

Vince Gomez told me that Chronicle sports writer Bruce Jenkins is the son of famed songwriter and arranger (for Frank Sinatra and others), Gordon Jenkins. Didn't know that, thanks Vince.

A movie I love: Woody Allen's "Match Point".

More nostalgia: Remember Cho Cho, the chocolate malt ice cream? It's no longer around. What's still around is "It's It".

The Chef as Artist: Recently I found myself taking a photo with my camera cell phone of a dish placed before me at Tablespoon on Polk Street. It was so artistically created and presented that I couldn't resist the snapshot. The manager said that others have done the same; indeed, the couple next to me also took a picture of their dish. The food tasted good, too.

Spice up your bland oatmeal! Add a little butter, honey, brown sugar and raisins. The best oatmeal I had was at La Posada in Santa Fe, New Mexico - they served Irish oatmeal with the above additions.

Question: Do you drink or eat soup? My answer: Mostly I drink it, especially broth. But, if it's a thick soup, such as minestrone or chicken noodle or beef barley, I eat it.

I recently ate at Tommy's Joynt, a San Francisco landmark and one of the first *hof braus* in the City. It reminded me of getting haircuts at the Fairmont Hotel's barbershop. Tommy Harris, the late founder of Tommy's Joynt, used to sit in Chair #1. Which in turn reminds me of those great Filipino barbers who ran a shop on O'Farrell, later in the Hilton Hotel. The owner worked at the legendary Andy's, the shop on Broadway where celebrities had their hair cut. Woody Herman, the jazz musician, was a regular on O'Farrell Street when he was playing in town.

OBSERVations: A white Hummer stretch limo outside the Mark Hopkins Hotel on the first day of summer. . .a Summer Hummer.

Members of the Sprinkler Fitters union striking on Van Ness Avenue (ah, yes, there is a union for everything).

The Brothers Four: Posing for a photo at the Sports Hall of Fame dinner were two sets of Galileo alumni brothers who graduated in the same year: Gene (1947) and Ed DeMartini (1951) and Diran (1947) and Sisvan Der Harootunian (1951).



Football Coach Kevin Adams (Hall of Fame 2006) coached wide receiver Bobby Shaw who later went to Cal and then on to the NFL. When I mentioned to Kevin that I had met Bobby at Cal's Photo Day a few years ago, he took out his cell phone and called Bobby and put me on the phone and we had a short chat. Instant communication.

Scenes from the Hall of Fame dinner: Augie Venezia winning the raffle grand prize. . . . Katrina victim and Gal basketball star, Nekeisha Maxie, pulling out the winning raffle tickets. . . . Vince Gomez playing during cocktails, later joined by Vince LaRocca on the piano, both Hall of Famers. . . . Mario Lombardi ("Mr. Personality"), up and about and in good shape. . . . the irrepressible Eddie Belasco, bubbling over and wanting desperately to be a Hall of Famer (maybe next year, Eddie). . . . Chairman Ron Ertola, always efficient and in total control. . . . Tom King after 50 years. . . . Soccer King Al Massucco. . . . "Little Joe" DiMaggio with the Yankee Clipper's famous profile. . . . Galileo Principal Margaret Chiu beaming at all the Galileo spirit and attention.

Thought for a lifetime: "Greatness is not always measured by points scored." ---SDH

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## Trans-Atlantic Cruising, a Step Back in Time

by Renee Mau Wade

No phones, no Internet, no TV reception, 23 hour days and nothing but blue skies and gentle breezes -- that was a Spring cruise going East across the Atlantic Ocean. No guarantee on the weather, but a Spring repositioning cruise can be a safe bet for great weather. For six plus days and nights I didn't see another ship or plane. We were going about 500 nautical miles a day with stabilizer fins on each side at mid ship to stay steady for a total of 3500 nautical miles. I started in Galveston with Morocco my first port.

If you suffer from jet lag, an ocean cruise will ease you into your final destination one hour at a time. To enjoy a 25-hour day, return to the U.S. by way of the North Atlantic to Iceland, Canada and then down the coast to see the autumn colors. Hurricane season is from June to November, and even though ships have sophisticated equipment to avoid bad weather, I would rather not tempt the fates by sailing the mid Atlantic during hurricane season. "Are we in the Bermuda Triangle?" I asked on a September mid Atlantic cruise when I lifted my head from my bunk. The weather can change in the blink of an eye and then change again. We had such a smooth voyage that passengers complained they couldn't feel the ship in the water. "Be careful what you wish for". We had six hours in the Mediterranean between Spain and France when a gale force 9 was tossing the ship with 120 MPH winds and spray up to deck 12. Now that was a thrill ride. There are more than double the hurricanes in the Western North Pacific Ocean than the mid Atlantic during the hurricane season.

I love to take long walks on the Promenade deck, smelling the clean air and watching the water for dolphins and whales. I even saw a small school of fish with a small hammerhead shark chasing them. There are so many things to do, I take the daily ship's newspaper in my pocket as it is the only way to keep track of all the activities. You can do nothing or there are Broadway type shows, lectures, art auctions, movies, classes from computer to dancing and lots of games.

Shopping is fun aboard a ship with new merchandise showing up all the time for those among us who can be seduced by the word "Sale". As the Euro gains in value over the dollar, finding bargains in Europe is not that good. If shopping is your sport of choice, check the currency exchange in your newspaper and go where you get more for your money.

The best part of any cruise is making new friends. After the first week, you really get to know some of the other passengers. I am still in contact with friends I made three years ago. There are so many interesting stories by fascinating people. One lady started cruising when she was 18 on the old steamers, and another was taking her 120th cruise that must have been the little old lady who lives aboard the ship because it is cheaper than a rest home. I asked many passengers what they liked best of our 21 days and nine ports and most said the crossing was by far their favorite part of the cruise. The more passengers on the ship the more crowded and impersonal it becomes so smaller is better but expect to pay more. Crystal and Regent are two deluxe lines with six star ratings that are fantastic, but there are ships for all tastes and budgets.

There are a number of cruise sites to get great deals. As a single cruiser I am always on the lookout for special single rates. Check out [www.VacationsToGo.com](http://www.VacationsToGo.com) for special discount rates, just one of many web sites. Special rates are available for "over 55", groups and singles. You can also check out the different cruise lines on their individual web sites.

Ed. Note: Renee Mau Wade is a regular contributor to *The Observer*.

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## Class of 2005!

Jennie Phan, Business Vice President, announces that in order for her to contact you in the future, she would like to know your address or some other way of contacting you for the reunion. So when you do move within the next 15 years, please either inform her or any of the 2005 officers so they can provide you with reunion information. Please contact Jennie at [jenphan@sfsu.edu](mailto:jenphan@sfsu.edu) or [xlildeviliousx@yahoo.com](mailto:xlildeviliousx@yahoo.com). Also, before you forget, now is a good time to join GAA.

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## Galileo High School Spring and Fall Classes of 1971 - 35th Year Reunion

Host: Galileo Reunion Planning Committee  
Location: Hs Lordships Restaurant  
199 Seawall Drive, Berkeley, CA  
When: Saturday, November 11, 2006 6:30 pm - midnight  
Contact: [galileo1971@pacbell.net](mailto:galileo1971@pacbell.net) or 650 754-0885

Calling all Mighty Lions from Galileo's spring and fall classes of 1971 to come celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> year reunion. This will be a momentous time to renew old friendships, relive memories and make new ones by spending a special evening together. Fabulous food, trips down memory lane via treasured pictures and

memorabilia, door prizes, fantastic live band and songs we love to dance to. Don't miss this "Evening to Remember!"

**Limited Capacity - one guest per alumnus**

**Early bird registration: \$80.00 per person, before July 31**

**\$100.00 per person Aug. 1 - Oct. 1**

**Final count due: Oct. 1**

**Checks to be made to: GALILEO CLASS of 1971**

**Send to: Galileo Reunion**

**c/o - Jeff Chow**

**305 Walnut St.**

**Redwood City, CA 94063**

**Can't come, but would like a Reunion yearbook? Order one for only \$20. You can also send in a picture of yourself to be included in the book. Send your check to the address listed for Jeff Chow. Check for an upcoming FAQs page on the GAA website [galileoalumni.org](http://galileoalumni.org).**

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## **1986/1987 CLASS REUNION**

**Casino Night...Come and celebrate an evening of reminiscing with old friends. Enjoy a dinner, dance, bar, game tables and an awesome fundraising raffle for our alma mater.**

**Saturday, October 21, 2006, 5:30PM-11:30PM**

### **VENUE:**

**ATRIUM Restaurant, 101 California Street, San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 788-4101. Parking will be confirmed on the confirmation notice.**

### **COST:**

**\$86.00 per ticket, if postmarked by July 31, 2006**

**\$96.00 per ticket, if postmarked by August 31, 2006**

**\$106.00 per ticket, if postmarked by September 30, 2006**

**(Tickets at the door are available only if space is available.)**

**A note from Leilani Spencer, Event Coordinator:** We have been approached by many graduates from the Class of 1987, so the committee has decided to include the Class of 1987 in our event. Our function is now known as Galileo High School Class Reunion for Classes of 1986 & 1987. Class of 1987 graduates can buy their tickets beginning July 1, 2006. Anyone interested please contact me at [Gal86@aol.com](mailto:Gal86@aol.com).

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## **A Letter from the Dragon Boat Team**

**Dear Alumni Association:**

**I am writing this letter on behalf of the Galileo Celestial Dragons Dragon Boat Team. I**



would like to first thank the Alumni Association for the generous support to our team; it was a great help and a big contributing factor to our team's this year success

Even though the school year is coming to an end, the dragon boating session is still going on as a few more races will take place throughout the summer. However, I would like to give the Alumni Association a quick summary of what happened in the past school year.

The Galileo Celestial Dragons has grown in size tremendously. The team started with eighteen members returning from last year and grew to the current size of fifty people. Not only did we send out two full crews to this year's Annual Youth Race at Lake Merced, which took place in April, we also sent one crew down to the Foster City area to compete in an adult race in May.

In the upcoming summer, we have planned to enter a sprint in the beginning of July in Fremont, a festival at the end of July in Long Beach and a festival at the end of September at Treasure Island. We also plan to expand the team's size to include approximately 75 members, resulting in three crews.

In the past Youth Race, both of our crews did very well. Both crews placed in Division B, which is the highest Galileo Celestial Dragons has ever placed in the past four years. Our so-called competitive crew also placed second in Division B.

In the recent race down at Paragon Point, Galileo Celestial Dragons placed first in Division C, beating 11 other adult teams. It was also the closest race we ever had. We beat one of Dragon Warriors (one of the most competitive adult teams in the Bay Area) crews by 0.04 seconds.

Thank you once again for the Alumni Association's continuous support of our team. Attached is a card signed by the members and a picture of our team as a little appreciation from us.

I personally will be graduating this year. However, I would encourage the Alumni Association to contact next year's Team Manager (president) Jeffrey Kwong if there are any questions or concerns.

Once again, thank you very much, and we appreciate all of the Alumni Association's support.

Sincerely,  


**Amos Fung**

*Ed. note: Congratulations to Amos Fung for winning the Milliken Award Outstanding Senior Male, a Certificate of Achievement in Science and Mathematics, the Rotary Club of Fisherman's Wharf award of \$1,000, and the Joshua Lawrence Chamberlin Scholarship worth \$180,000.*

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**Pat Sheehan (1931-2006)**

## **OBITUARY**

**Pat Sheehan, a statuesque blonde, who graduated from Galileo in 1949 and went on to become a top model and showgirl and married Dennis Crosby, passed away in Beverly Hills on January 14, 2006. Pat was born in San Francisco and grew up on Green Street near Van Ness Avenue. She attended Galileo and was crowned Miss San Francisco in 1950.**

**Pat was one of the earliest Playboy centerfolds and dated the likes of Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Howard Hughes and Rod Taylor. She also appeared on several magazine front covers and was Playmate of the Month for October, 1958. She appeared uncredited in the films "The French Line" (1954) and "Gigi" (1958). She is survived by three children, two siblings, two nephews and five great nephews.**

***As Editor of the Pendulum, I devoted an entire Lions Den column to the Miss San Francisco Pageant of 1950 and attended the finals at the Paramount Theater on Market Street. The person sitting next to me was Horsetrader Ed, the notorious used car dealer on Van Ness Avenue, noted for his flag pole sitter.***

***In a subsequent Lions Den column, I covered the Miss California contest and reported it as follows: "Pat Sheehan, Miss San Francisco of 1950, took honors in the Miss California contest at Santa Cruz last Friday. A '49 graduate of Galileo, Pat placed in the state-wide contest. On May 15, 1950, the 19-year-old everyday high school girl took first place in the local Miss San Francisco contest, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce. Her natural beauty coupled with her lovely figure, sweet smile, poise, and personality are what really impressed the judges, prominent San Franciscans. For her prize, Pat won a \$250 Gensler Lee diamond ring. The decision was based on beauty, talent, and personality. Pat did a monologue on the stage of the Paramount Theater. Popular columnist Herb Caen appeared briefly. Pan American Airlines sponsored her. Pat would like to further her modeling career. She is a sterling example of a successful Galileo graduate. In the space of one year, she has won the titles of Miss Milkmaid of 1949 and Miss San Francisco of 1950, besides receiving much publicity (Pat's name and picture have appeared in every S. F. newspaper, and she was guest on Jim Grady's KCBS show, "This Is San Francisco"). Two other ex-Galileans, Gloria Panucci and Connie Davis, were in the semi-final field of eighteen contestants."***

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# LETTERS

April 26, 2006

*To the Editor:*

*What a pleasant surprise to get your last publication. I had made several inquiries about the Alum activities but did not get any response so was very pleased to get such a well-written Newsletter.*

*I graduated in 1935 and went to U.C. Berkeley and from there went on to get a DDS degree from what is now University of Pacific. I did general and prosthetic dentistry as a captain in the Army Air Force in US and in the early occupation in Japan before setting up my practice in North Beach in 1946 from which I retired in 1991 .*

*Married, after returning from overseas, my "war souvenir" Helen, whom I met while stationed in Florida's McDill and Drew Field Air Bases in Tampa. We will be celebrating our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year and have three children, one of whom has taken over my practice in North Beach, and six grandchildren.*

*I am still healthy, walking, gardening and active in various commitments and would like to see any classmates still around. I live near Galileo so as I drive or walk by some times (even in the hallways) I reflect frequently on the great education and joys of my youth experienced there.*

*Keep those publications coming and let me know if you know if any '35ers are still around.*

**Frank A. Brucia, DDS**

**Ed. Note:** If any alumni of Class of 1935 are still around, please email us at [newsletter@galileoalumni.org](mailto:newsletter@galileoalumni.org), and we'll contact Frank Brucia.

**Looking for Classmates:**

*After graduating from Sherman School and Marina Junior High School, I enrolled at Galileo. My parents had divorced and Mother sent me to live with my father and stepmother in 1946-- the term before I would have graduated. Since I spent three-quarters of my high school years at Galileo, I'm interested in contacting any of my classmates who might still be around. Keeping my fingers crossed,*

*Sincerely, Marie Goff Clyde '47*

**Ed. Note:** If you were a classmate of Marie's, please contact her at [firthof@earthlink.net](mailto:firthof@earthlink.net)

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*Aloha. I graduated in June of 1959. Did any reunions occur since then and will there be one? Is it OK to go to Galileo to look at the yearbooks for 1957, 1958 and 1959? Mahalo for your help. Milton.*

**Ed. Note:** If any of you know about upcoming reunions for 1959, please contact Milton at [gatming1940@hawaiiantel.net](mailto:gatming1940@hawaiiantel.net). Yes, Milton, you can go to Galileo and look at the yearbooks. See Faculty Member Mark Huynh.

*I never realized when attending Galileo how deep the relations would be after graduation. My first job was with Boicelli, Adolph Jr. & Sr., on Jones and Jefferson Streets. My first assignment was to rebuild Joe DiMaggio's Chris Craft boat. I did meet Mr. DiMaggio, but never his girlfriend. After enlisting in the Navy and being stationed for training in Norman, OK, I met Doffner (first name unknown), a Galileo graduate. He asked to borrow \$5.00. Other shipmates told me I would never see the 5 again. On the next payday, Doffner paid back the loan. . . .Returning to Filbert and Octavia, the older Gal grads were still in the neighborhood. Zelim Pellegrini, Ivo Zepponi and Will Marchetti. If you fans of Will want to check out his theatrical career, rent "Cocoon: The Return" (he has a speaking part as an Air Force general). When I applied for a position with the post office in 1958, I went to Fillmore and Moulton. Many Gal grads made me welcome, including Frank Clima and Parisi. . . .While employed with the City & County of San Francisco at the Central shops, there were many Gal grads. I was teamed with Art Chin (Class of 1946). Ted Kauser was senior storekeeper. Another friend was "Tutti" Speranza of Local 38. Another Lion I connected with was Eddy Dearlini (Class of 1938), owner of the Deer Inn at 15<sup>th</sup> & Folsom. I also came in contact with Walt Marioni and Pete Pompei who became gardeners at Golden Gate Park. My instructors, John H. Lord, Frank Presoto, Mr. Deasy and Mr. Mills were all influential in a career in automotive maintenance and repair. While serving 30 years with the City of San Francisco, I came into contact with Mayors Joe Alioto and George Moscone. I was known as the "Godfather of the Muni". My interest now is enjoying each day here in the Sonoma Valley of the Moon. I still am competitive in the automotive world with annual trips to the Bonneville Salt Flats in Utah. It has produced land speed records and other team members have been inducted into the 200 mph Club. Andrew Cafasso (Class of January, 1953).*

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## **GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

### **Quarterly Financial Statement**

**April 1, 2006 – June 30, 2006**

**BALANCE FORWARD**  
**\$9,679.46**

#### **INCOME**

<b>Membership donations (New members)</b>	<b>\$550.00</b>
<b>Membership Donations (Renewals)</b>	<b>400.00</b>
<b>Fund Raiser (Grease)</b>	<b>780.00</b>

**TOTAL INCOME****\$1,730.00****EXPENSES****Postage Stamps & Supplies** **\$263.59****Fund Raiser (Grease)** **560.00****Sports Hall of Fame Dinner Comps.** **188.00****TOTAL EXPENSES****\$1,011.59****BALANCE****\$10,397.87****Solari Endowment Fund****FUND BALANCE** **April 1, 2006** **\$15,246.83****Interest** **97.83****BALANCE** **June, 2006** **\$15,344.66****Submitted By:**  
**Joe Scafidi**  
**Treasurer, GAA**

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**CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS****(Additional information on these and other events at [www.galileoalumni.org](http://www.galileoalumni.org).)****September 14 – GAA Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Room 210, Galileo****October 21 – 1986/1987 Class Reunion, Atrium Restaurant, S.F., 5:30 PM****October 28 – GAA/PTSA Dinner Dance & Silent Auction, Italian Athletic Social Club, S. F., 6:30 PM****November 11 – 1971 Class Reunion, Hs Lordships Restaurant, Berkeley, 6:30 PM**

### **Contributors**

Jan Baumel  
Nina Clima  
Bettie Grinnell  
Monica Kirkland  
Barbara Lombardi  
Renee Wade

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### **Volunteer Help Wanted: Web Designer**

The Galileo Alumni Association webmaster has big plans for the website <http://galileoalumni.org/> and needs help. The webmaster, Vaughn Spurlin, is a highly experienced software engineer, with basic web design skills. As anyone can see, the GAA site could be lots snappier. But Vaughn'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 nontechnical team members can publish web updates
- Membership database, available for remote updates by organization officers
- more ...

To explore this opportunity further, email the [Webmaster](#) and we'll talk about it.

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### **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 [galileoobserver@aol.com](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com) and/or [webmaster@galileoalumni.org](mailto:webmaster@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](mailto:webmaster@galileoalumni.org).

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*BACK ISSUES OF THE GALILEO OBSERVER CAN BE VIEWED AT  
[WWW.GALILEOALUMNI.ORG](http://WWW.GALILEOALUMNI.ORG).*

For all EDITORIALY-RELATED comments or suggestions, please address your emails to  
[galileoobserver@aol.com](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com).

For all TECHNICAL problems (non-receipt of newsletter, etc.), address your emails to  
[webmaster@galileoalumni.org](mailto: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](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com), or by postal mail to: Galileo Observer, care of Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.**

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#### **GAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**President:** Jim Dresser (1951)  
**Vice President :** Bernard Valdez (1949)  
**Secretary:** Janet Sullivan Neilsen (1953)  
**Treasurer:** Joe Scafidi (1950)

Frank Clima (1951)  
Diane Wall Cowart (1965)  
Ron Ertola (1949)  
Sisvan Der Harootunian (1951)  
Monica Parenti Kirkland (1953)  
Kay Lazzari Michelis (1953)  
Pete Pompeii (1951)  
Vaughn Spurlin (1960)  
Cordy Porter Surdyka (1953)  
Augie Venezia (1953)

#### **COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

**Public Relations:** Cordy Porter Surdyka (1953)  
**Membership:** Diane Wall-Cowart (1965)  
**Database:** Joe Scafidi (1950)  
**Newsletter Editor:** Sisvan Der Harootunian (1951)  
**Sports Hall of Fame:** Ron Ertola (1949)  
**Web Master:** Vaughn Spurlin (1960)

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**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, VISIT THE GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
WEBSITE, [WWW.GALILEOALUMNI.ORG](http://WWW.GALILEOALUMNI.ORG).**



**The Galileo Observer is a quarterly publication of 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 2006, Galileo Alumni Association.**

***Last updated 9 July 2006***

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