



THE GALILEO OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of the
Galileo Alumni Association



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

VOL. V, No. 2

April 2007

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Starting with this issue, the *Observer* will be delivered as a link to the Galileo Alumni Association website, instead of as an email attachment. This simplifies and speeds delivery of your email, while ensuring that everyone gets the same version of the newsletter. We will continue notifying everyone on the GAA email list when a new issue is published and will continue sending a printed edition to GAA members who do not have computer access. We hope you find this method more efficient, and we welcome your comments. Please send them to the Editor at galileoobserver@aol.com, or to the Webmaster at webmaster@galileoalumni.org. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP INCREASES

By Jim Dresser '51

Thanks to GAA members who responded generously to our annual request for donations. And thank you to the many new members who learned about the Association from other alumni, the email edition of the *Observer*, the recent mailing to alumni, and Classmates.com. If you haven't sent in your application yet, please do so today.

We urge you to take the next step and volunteer to work on one of our committees: <http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html>. We also are seeking new members on the Board of Directors. To show your interest, contact president@galileoalumni.org.

We welcome your questions, comments, and suggestions and hope you will attend the next Board meeting on June 7, 2007, at 6:30 PM in room 210 at Galileo.

GAA/PTSA DONATE PROFITS FROM DINNER DANCE/AUCTION

On Feb. 12, GAA hosted a luncheon for representatives of GAA and PTSA Boards and Galileo teachers, department chairs, and administrators. The purpose of the luncheon was to donate the proceeds from last fall's GAA/PTSA joint venture dinner dance/auction to the school.

Jim Dresser, GAA president, presented a check for \$1,500, the amount raised from the dinner dance and donations, to the school newspaper. Jeremy Lee, Faculty Advisor, accepted the check on behalf of the *Pendulum*.

Based on teachers' grant requests, Linda Lau, PTSA president, awarded funds raised from the auction and donations to the following programs: Special Education - \$645; English - \$457; GATE - \$350; Math/Hospitality - \$150; Wellness Program - \$431; Library - \$500; and Year Book - \$1500. Ms. Lau said the remainder raised at the event will be used for SAT Preparation workshops and newsletters to families.

REMINDER

Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Dinner April 28, 2007

Join Galileo alumni, friends, & staff to honor these inductees:

Rudi Behar '86, Lawrence Bravo '52, Terrence Carter '98, Brittany Clark '95, George De Long '55, James Ficken '32 (posthumous), Tom King '51, Don Papa (Coach), Frank Pompei '38 (posthumous), Bobby Shaw '93, Don Tonge '44, and Ethan Winterling (Coach); special category - Bettie Grinnell (Assistant to the Principal).

For more details, click on <http://galileoalumni.org/event-info/2007-HoF-flyer.doc>

Directions: <http://galileoalumni.org/event-info/2007-HoF-directions.doc>

Send in your reservation today! Deadline is April 15.

GALILEO'S CELESTIAL DRAGONS

At the luncheon at Galileo on Feb. 12, GAA presented a check for \$500 to the Dragon Boat Team. The donation was approved in response to requests from Eugene Wing, Associated Student Body Advisor, and Jeffrey Kwong, Student Captain of the Celestial Dragons. Mathew Jung, Dragon Boat Club Sponsor, accepted the donation with gratitude.

Because the students receive no funds from the school, they rely solely on donations and money earned through fundraising events to compete with other high schools. This year, the students held car washes, chocolate sales, raffles, a school food fest, and helped teachers at Galileo clean their rooms for donations. With the help of their coach, they also received sponsorship from nVidia, a video card company for computers. The team plans to hold a paddle-a-thon where they paddle continuously and ask friends, families and teachers to pledge money. Additional contributions are welcome and can be sent to Galileo c/o Mathew Jung.

GAA received the following from the club's student leader:

Thank you for your generous donation. It will help our team greatly, especially for paying for race registrations. Races will take place on April 21 at Lake Merced, 1 Harding Road, San Francisco. The races should go on from 9:00AM - 4:00 PM with a closing ceremony where the medals are passed out. The youth program of the California Dragon Boat Association (CDBA) is one of the largest in America, so this will be another big youth race. Last year we also had a youth team from Portland, Oregon, come down. This year there seems to be even more teams.

Last year, Galileo Celestial Dragons won 2nd place in Division B which was much better compared to years before. Galileo will have three crews registered to race this year. We would love to have alumni watch our Youth Race. It is a very exciting event with many people participating.

Thank you again.
Jeffrey Kwong

For more information about Dragon Boat racing, visit www.cdba.org.

CONGRATULATIONS

Despite adversity and inexperience, Galileo's wrestling team stepped up to win its third consecutive League and City Championships. For more details, see Coach Kane's letter: <http://galileoalumni.org/letters/wrestling%20update.doc>.

S.F. HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATIONS COUNCIL

By Joe Scafidi '50

On Feb. 28, 2007, representatives of San Francisco high school alumni associations met at the Beach Chalet to share ideas and concerns. Fundraising, membership, and communication were discussed. GAA is the only association to have its newsletter, the *Observer*, available online. The group is scheduled to meet again on May 23 and hopes to have additional schools represented at that time.

Participants:

³⁵₁₇ Balboa – Emily Powell
³⁵₁₇ Galileo - Augie Venezia, Joe Scafidi
³⁵₁₇ George Washington - Tammy Aramian
³⁵₁₇ Lincoln – Toni Alstad, Isabel (Is-e) Hogan, Jeff Stahl
³⁵₁₇ Lowell – Terry Abad



S.F. Alumni Associations Council

ASB AWARDS

By Eugene Wing, ASB Advisor

Every year since 1979, the Associated Student Body has presented two special awards to Galileo personnel whom they elect:

Golden Apple Award goes to a “Teacher of the Year” (counselors, deans, librarian, Principal, Assistant Principals, and teachers) who is dedicated, hardworking, warmhearted, and dependable.

Golden Lion Award is given to a “Staff Member of the Year” (secretaries, janitors, teacher aides, security aides, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers, community agent workers, and clerks) who supports and participates in Galileo Academy student activities.

The names of previous award winners are displayed on plaques in the case next to the Main Office. This year, the teacher and staff member will be recognized at the ASB Assembly on Friday, April 13, 2007.

Thanks to GAA for soliciting a dining certificate from Caesar’s Italian Restaurant, Bay & Powell, for one of the deserving winners. And thanks to Caesar’s for the generous gift.

Through The Telescope. . .



SPRING is here, and with it the flowers and fresh morning showers. The birds are singing and the bells are ringing. The sun is shining and alumni are priming for this summer's reunions.

The Sports Hall of Fame committee has done a remarkable job of selecting several outstanding athletes for the annual dinner presentation on April 28th at the Elks Lodge in South San Francisco. There is a list of the honorees elsewhere in this publication.

Diane Cowart writes that there is a monthly luncheon for San Francisco high school alumni, and many Gal alumni attend. Luncheons take place at the Sizzler, J. J. North Grand Buffet, and even at the Cache Creek Resort Casino. Mr. Billy Blanchard (Polytechnic High) is the President of San Francisco Alumni, and his contact number is (415) 879-0333 for anyone interested in attending. Norm Thompson, a sixties graduate of Galileo, represents our school on the board. Remember, these get-together luncheons are for all San Francisco high school alumni.

Charlie Farrugia (1951) has two annual luncheons at Caesar's Restaurant for Galileans and North Beachers. He usually fills up the restaurant. The next one is on Saturday, April 28th, at noon.

Guys whose faces never seem to change: Ernie Russo, Fred Tooker, Rich Cozzarin, Vince Gomez, Bill Dito.

CD recommendation: Barry Manilow's album, "The Greatest Hits of the 50s". It's a hit!

Musings . . .

Will movie theaters ever show serials again?

Why doesn't Galileo open its observatory to the public?

My favorite judge on American Idol is Simon Cowell. He tells it like he sees it and hears it, and he's usually right.

Will Indian summer ever return? We missed it in 2006.

The reason kids don't learn correct English is because they watch television instead of reading books.

I saw "Zodiac", the movie recently. Mark Ruffalo plays Dave Toschi (Galileo, 1951) who was the inspector on the case. His wife, Carol Bacigalupi (1951), is also portrayed in the film in a brief scene.

Congratulations to Dan Yee, George Washington High School Alumni Association Director and Dragon Boat Team Sponsor, who was inducted into the GWHS Athletic Hall of Fame (special recognition) on March 23rd.

Inflation! A ticket to the first Super Bowl cost \$6. The Dolphins-Redskins Super Bowl at the Rose Bowl (I was there) had a ticket price of \$40. The most recent Super Bowl where the Colts defeated the Bears was a whopping \$600!

Contrary to an unfounded rumor, GAA is alive and well and has no intention of disbanding.

Food Note: Next time you make French toast, skip the syrup and sprinkle with brown sugar and cinnamon.

Sad Notes: We regret to report the passing of two former Galileans, Louis Raggio (1951) and Ben Vanni (1948).

Lou, called "Cappy" by his friends, played lightweight basketball at Marina Junior High School and at Galileo. I played on those same teams with him. He had a nice soft underhanded layup shot. Lou was a member of many clubs at Gal, including the Block G Society. In private life, he was a retired Vice President of the Bank of America.

Emanuele Benito "Ben" Vanni, a past member of the GAA Board of Directors, passed away on February 7, 2007. He was a native San Franciscan who grew up in the North Beach area and kept in touch with many of his old time friends. He is survived by three sons and two grandchildren.

Pet Peeve: Misspelled words and bad grammar on restaurant menus, especially in ethnic restaurants. There is no excuse for poor English on restaurant menus. Some misspellings are hilarious, others mislead the diner. All it takes is a little attention paid to getting it correct. Years ago I was astonished to see that a very popular restaurant in Mexico City with an extensive menu had not a single error. The restaurant, Correo Espanol, was in an undesirable part of town, but people drove miles to savor its food.

Thought to live by: "No person was ever honored for what he received. Honor has been the reward for what he gave." -- Calvin Coolidge

MESSAGE TO CLASSES OF 1955 AND EARLIER

Did you know that as part of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, tax-free gifts from IRA accounts are permitted while you're alive? People over age 70½ can donate as much as \$100,000 a year from their IRAs to charity. The distributions are tax-free and count toward the required minimum distribution IRA holders in that age group must take from their accounts each year. However, this provision currently exists for calendar years 2006 and 2007.

How It Works

Instead of withdrawing money from your IRA and reporting it as taxable income, you transfer the gift directly to a charity, thus circumventing the tax bite. The donation must come from the holder of your IRA, so you have to notify them of your wishes and request the required paperwork. Then ask the charity receiving your gift to acknowledge receipt for income tax purposes.

Points to Remember

Donors cannot take a tax deduction for these donations. Gifts must go directly to charity rather than to a donor-advised fund or trust or to a private foundation. Donations must be made directly from your IRA to the charity. When in doubt, contact your tax professional.

Article based on recent Personal Finance columns from *The Wall Street Journal*

Ed. Note: Galileo Alumni Association qualifies as a charitable organization.

LETTERS

This email was sent to GAA Board Members:

Well boys and girls, it appears that none of you read my weekend newsletter and/or the Editorial in it for your group. At least I haven't heard from any of you yet! Letting you know "what" I see from afar. It does look suspicious, you have to admit! And it has raised questions among the readers of my newsletter. Some of them seem to know more that you think they would - normally. I was surprised by some of their comments.

So I'll ask the question direct. When you disband, what will you do with the funds you have in your bank account?

1. Will you give funds to various educational classes at Galileo?
2. Will you give funds to the students of Galileo?
3. Will you give the money to the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame?

As in my Editorial, I mention that the previous president of GAA did just that. Gave all their funds to GSHOF and then disbanded GAA.

1. Is GSHOF an Educational Class at Galileo?
2. Is GSHOF a student at Galileo?
3. Or because board members of GSHOF are board members of GAA will GSHOF benefit from the funds **INTENDED** for the students of Galileo?

Isn't that the **REASON** you gave the alumni - to get them to put their money in your organization? That **GALILEO** and/or the **STUDENTS** would **BENEFIT**?

With the amount of money you have in your GAA Bank Account you **COULD** do a lot of good for the students, their classes, and/or our school! **COULD!**

How about \$2,000.00 to 10 or so students wanting to go to a college, but just don't have enough money? Or - 10 new computers for the IT department. Would only cost about \$6,000.00. You'd still have money to give to other classes at Galileo. You would also leave with high regards of you and your group. People to be remembered. No one remembers the president of GAA that gave the GAA funds to GSHOF. Why should anyone? He didn't do any good for the students of our school Galileo. Don't let this happen to you and your group!

What I would love to see? A statement published on your web site and in your quarterly newsletter ***"Despite questions raised by Phil Kaiser in his weekly newsletter 'The Lions Pride' GAA will not give funds to GSHOF. Rather - all funds ARE designated for use by the students, classes and/or our school, Galileo. GAA is NOT disbanding and will continue to support our school and its students."*** That's all you have to say. It will put **ALL** questions to rest. Well - almost all. We'd still like to know **WHY** you've decided to have only 6 board meetings this year! I would have no further questions on this subject and would have to publish a retracting statement.

Think about it!
Phil Kaiser

Here's GAA's response:

To reassure alumni, there are no plans to disband GAA. In fact, two new members joined the Board in January 2007. (See <http://galileoalumni.org/news/news200701.doc>.) At our March meeting, GAA sent out a mass mailing to recruit new members.

The Sports Hall of Fame is a Standing Committee of the Galileo Alumni Association. (See <http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html>.) How could a nonprofit organization disband and then give the treasury to one of its committees? Just as the Public Relations Committee organized the fall dinner dance/auction with proceeds given to the *Pendulum*, the Sports Hall of Fame Committee is planning a dinner with proceeds to go to the Athletic Department.

No one on the Board has any knowledge of a previous GAA president giving funds to the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame. Unless you can provide us with names, we cannot look into your allegations.

The July 2006 *Observer* carried an article on how GAA decides on donations to Galileo. (Of course, if you wish to donate money to a specific school program, you can do so directly.) We encourage you to read the entire article (<http://galileoalumni.org/news/news200607.html>), but the following excerpts explain how requests are made and which **groups** (not individual students) the Board considers for funding.

... 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.

Galileo's Principal or Assistant Principal attend GAA Board meetings. The Associated Student Body Director communicates frequently with GAA, and we even hear from student leaders. We learn which groups need financial support due to program cuts and/or lack of funding. Since its inception in 2002, GAA has donated \$18,590 to school programs, and we plan to do more as needs arise.

As reported in articles in the October 2006 and January 2007 editions of the *Observer*, Board meetings now are scheduled 5 times a year. This allows sufficient time to conduct business and frees up time for committees. Additional meetings will be called if necessary.

GAA is recognized and supported by Galileo Academy. In addition, GAA works cooperatively with the Parent-Teacher-Student Association (PTSA) and is a charter member of the newly organized San Francisco Alumni Associations Council.

Jim Dresser '51
President, GAA

HOMECOMING SONG AND YELL CONTEST

By Eugene Wing, ASB Advisor

Galileo's 63rd Homecoming Song and Yell Contest will be held on Friday, October 12, 2007. The football game will be Washington vs. Galileo. Students have been impressed with the accomplishments of Galileo alumni who were judges in past years. We need to showcase alumni and keep up the tradition that Galileo Academy is the home of the mighty lions! If you are interested in serving as a judge at next fall's event, email me - ishiwing@sbcglobal.net.

CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**Additional information on these and other events at
<http://galileoalumni.org/home.html>.**

April 21, 2007 – Dragon Boat Races, Lake Merced

April 28, 2007 – Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, Elks Lodge, So. San Francisco

May 16, 2007 – Open House – Multicultural Night, Galileo Academy

June 8, 2007 - Galileo Graduation, Civic Auditorium

June 7, 2007 – GAA Board Meeting, Galileo Academy

October 12, 2007 – Homecoming Song & Yell Contest, Galileo Academy

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.

³⁵₁₇ **Web page templates**

³⁵₁₇ **Information architecture framework**

³⁵₁₇ **Content management, so nontechnical team members can publish web updates**

³⁵₁₇ **Membership database, available for remote updates by organization officers**

³⁵₁₇ **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 and/or 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. 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 EDITORIALY-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 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 2007, Galileo Alumni Association.

Last updated April 2007

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