

THE GALILEO OBSERVER The Official Newsletter of the Galileo Alumni Association

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

<u>VOL. II, No. 8</u> _____ <u>September,</u> _____ September,

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A LETTER FROM THE GAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

September 9, 2004

To: Galileo Alumni

From: GAA Board of Directors

We would like to clarify the confusion regarding Phil Kaiser's *Lions' Pride* and GAA. Mr. Kaiser, a Galileo alumnus, produces a weekly email newsletter and maintains a website dedicated to classes from the '50's. While both of these reach Galileo alumni, they are not affiliated with the Galileo Alumni Association (GAA).

Because Galileo was the only high school in San Francisco without an alumni

association, GAA was created in 2002 to support the Galileo Academy of Science and Technology (formerly Galileo High School) and its alumni. The Galileo Alumni Association is a nonprofit organization whose Board members volunteer their time and receive no financial compensation.

The mission of GAA is to engage the alumni as a unified group to the benefit of all members of the high school community which include the alumni, students, faculty and staff. We feel this can be accomplished by working together in a cooperative, positive manner and communicating directly with you, the alumni and staff of Galileo.

GAA's monthly newsletter, *The Galileo Observer*, is our official method of communication. Recently a collaborative effort with Galileo's newspaper, *The Pendulum*, has been established. The articles we print reflect the spirit of Galileo. Many of you already have sent comments and memories that have been included. Your thoughts and ideas are important to us, so please email them to editorgalileoobserver@yahoo.com.

In the past, Mr. Kaiser's newsletter has acknowledged some, but not all, of the information sent by GAA Board members. At times, he has chosen to print selected sentences or passages. He often "misreads" between the lines, implying something that isn't there, so seeds of distrust in GAA are planted in readers' minds. We would like to have a more constructive connection with Mr. Kaiser and recognize freedom of speech is his prerogative.

GAA wants to make sure your concerns are addressed completely and honestly. For up-to-date information, we urge you to check the GAA website http://galileoalumni.org/home.html regularly. You'll find the next Board meeting date, the mission statement, minutes of Board meetings, and past issues of *The Galileo Observer*. Reunions and upcoming events are listed and contain the latest information available to us. If you are planning a class reunion, send the information to webmaster@galileoalumni.org to be posted.

In the future, we hope you will rely on *The Galileo Observer* and the website for accurate data about GAA and its activities. We encourage you to contact us with your questions or suggestions. You can email officers and committee chairpersons directly by going to http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html. If you prefer, you can write us at Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Our objectives are to renew old friendships and create new ones, share high school memories, and help our school achieve its present day goals. To accomplish these, we need the assistance, support, and participation of all alumni. If you look back on your high school years with fond memories, please join us in our efforts to make Galileo's alumni association as strong and cohesive as those of other high schools in San Francisco. Everyone who has attended, works at, or is a friend of Galileo is welcome. We look forward to hearing from you.

A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF GAA

To all Galileo Lions,

At the August GAA Board meeting, it was agreed that a change in membership contributions would become effective January 2005. Since GAA began in 2002, a one-time donation of \$5 was sought to defray operating costs.

The decision to request an annual donation of \$25 was made to raise more money to support activities at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology (formerly Galileo High School). Since the state has cut back funding to public schools, many of the activities we enjoyed at Galileo now require outside monies to maintain. To date, GAA has contributed to the school newspaper, sports program, and graduation site. With your help, we hope to do even more in the future.

Because of GAA's nonprofit status, your donations are tax deductible. When making a contribution, please use a check, rather than send cash, so you have a record. Your cancelled check acknowledges receipt by GAA.

Anyone who has ever attended Galileo is considered an alumnus/alumna. We also encourage staff of Galileo to join. If you can, please plan to make GAA one of the nonprofits you support annually. Board members receive no perks or financial compensation from the money you donate. The current students at Galileo are the ones who benefit from your generosity.

As always, a membership donation remains optional because GAA does not wish to exclude anyone with limited financial resources. We need all of you Lions in our database to receive our newsletter, *The Galileo Observer*, and to keep you informed of upcoming events.

Membership forms are available at http://galileoalumni.org/membership.html. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jim Dresser

President, GAA

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

As you have probably noticed, just below the masthead in this issue there is a slogan, "To Make GAA great... communicate and participate". The slogan was created by Mel Chiarenza, Board member and 1953 graduate. It will be used from now on to remind our readers that GAA is for all alumni and that we are all a part of the Galileo family. We thank Mel for his insightful contribution.

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GAA TO LAUNCH ALUMNI PAGE IN THE PENDULUM

Through a joint effort of The Pendulum, the monthly newspaper of the Galileo Academy of Science and Technology, and the Galileo Alumni Association, there will be a full page of alumni news and events in the October issue of the school publication and each issue thereafter. The text will be written and edited by The Galileo Observer staff and assembled by Galileo Pendulum staff. Observer Editor Sisvan Der Harootunian met with Mr. Mark Huynh, Faculty Advisor to The Pendulum, to finalize plans for the launch. The newspaper will be mailed to GAA members and will be distributed to students and faculty. Current Pendulum circulation is around 2,000 copies. With the additional of alumni who will receive the newspaper, circulation should increase by several hundred.

We Love a Parade!

The GAA will be represented in the annual Columbus Day parade in North Beach on Sunday, October 10th. Final approval was voted to move forward with this project, led by Mel Chiarenza. The Galileo alumni will have a convertible decked out in school colors and balloons. Further details were not available at time of emailing this newsletter. Come out and see your school take part in this great parade. Remember, "To make GAA great . . . communicate and participate!"

ANTENNA Partners With Galileo Academy to Create Theater Work

Experiential Performance Lets Audience Walk in Students' Shoes

Sausalito, CA — ANTENNA announced that it will partner with Galileo Academy of Science and Technology of San Francisco to create and perform an original, interactive theater piece this fall, unique to Galileo and its student population.

Says Allison Heskin, a language arts teacher at Galileo, whose students are primarily drawn from a low income, ethnically diverse population, "Sometimes the lack of resources shows me a somewhat negative view of society. This program taps into the students" self-expression and creativity. It gives me hope."

The collaboration with Galileo is part of ANTENNA's innovative outreach program, *The High School Project*, a series of residencies in Bay Area schools where students come together with the artists of ANTENNA to create an experiential theater work unique to each school.

The High School Project places the audience inside the heads of today's high school students, and literally lets them walk in their shoes. Participants journey through the school wearing a Walkman, listening to a soundtrack composed of student interviews layered with music and sound effects, interacting with student actors and experiencing he school environment from the point of view of the students.

"Too often, what we know about young people is the trouble they are getting into," said Laura Falk Scott, Project Director. "This project gives them the floor. The voices are the students', the turf their own, the actors home grown, the audience their community, and the potential for enhancing consciousness and communication enormous."

"At a time when arts and arts education budgets have been cut to the bone, we are delighted that young people have the opportunity to participate in *The High School Project*," declared ANTENNA Artistic Director Chris Hardman. The project recently received word that it has been awarded a grant by National Endowment for the Arts.

The collaborative work will be performed at Galileo Academy, 1150 Francisco Street in San Francisco, the weekends of October 22 through November 7, 2004.

ANTENNA, an award-winning audio-based theater headquartered in the Marin Headlands, has been creating site-specific performances for the past 24 years. Recent productions include "High School", created in collaboration with Tamalpais High in Mill Valley, The EUPHOR!UM at Crissy Field and London, England, and ... sands ... of ... time ... at Rodeo Beach.

For more information about ANTENNA and *The High School Project*, including details of how to get tickets for performances at Galileo this fall, visit www.antenna-theater.org.

The High School Project

a theatrical production about Galileo Academy, for the students, by the students, about the students!

SAVE THE DATES, BUY YOUR TICKETS, AND SEE WHO WE ARE

Premiere Weekend --- FREE PREMIERE WEEKEND ONLY

October 16 6-9:30PM

October 17 2-5:30pm

Performance Weekends --- October 22-November 7, 2004

Fridays - Saturdays 6-9:30PM

Sundays 1:30-5PM

Reservations required: local 415/332.9454 or toll free 877/316.0198

Ticket sales begin September 27th: \$15 adults \$7.50 students 18 and under

Each journey lasts 45 minutes. Wear comfortable shoes.

Public transportation recommended. Limited parking available at Fort Mason.

Produced by Antenna Theater, Bay Area's pioneer in the technologically advanced "walkmonology" method of performance, in collaboration with Galileo Academy. Directed by the highly acclaimed John Warren, of such theaters as Unconditional Theater, EXIT Theater, San Francisco Shakespeare Festival, Magic Theater, and Venue 9 among many others.

Links:

Antenna Theater, Walkmonology -- http://www.antenna-theater.org/theaterheadings.htm

Galileo High School Project -- http://www.antenna-theater.org/news.htm

http://www.galileoweb.org/highSchoolProject/

John Warren -- http://www.cac.ca.gov/ami/who/staff.cfm

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Through The Telescope...



From the November 8, 1950 issue of The Galileo Pendulum: "How about an alumni club? It's a wonder that with all the famous alumni that have gone to Galileo, the school doesn't activate its alumni club. A club of this sort would be the thing to bring back the old spirit of Galileo. It could hold class reunions, raise money for the school in various ways, and give every graduating senior something to look forward to. Although the idea of forming an alumni club at Galileo is very light, it would be a great step in the progress of the school." Fifty-four years later, we have the Galileo Alumni Association.

At September's meeting of the Board of Directors we had 23 people present. It was nice to see several guests who made presentations and alumni who were interested in the proceedings. It was a long meeting with a full agenda. Principal Margaret Chiu reported that in the last year the student body at Galileo has increased by 200, from 1,900 to 2,100 students. Steve Karass was introduced as the new Assistant Principal in charge of Building and Grounds and Safety.

While visiting Galileo this week, I saw a vintage photo sitting quietly on on a tall piece of furniture in the athletics office. It had the four coaches of an era long gone but not forgotten: Ras Johnson (football), Carl Spitzer (soccer), Tom DeNike (basketball), and Henry Lewis (swimming). On another wall in the same office was a picture of Coach Spitzer with his entire soccer team. Mr. Johnson later became Principal of Galileo.

On opening day I went to see "Sky Captain & The World of Tomorrow". I used to listen to Captain Midnight

and Flash Gordon on the radio and so this film, which was touted to be reminiscent of the 30s, appealed to me. It does hark back to the art deco era and is stylistic in its totally computerized sets. The actors are real, though, and Gwyneth Paltrow, Jude Law and Angelina Jolie provide some laughs and fast action including male-female repartee. The director gives equal time to both sexes. The music is evocative of the genre (like Star Wars), and there is a dynamite version of "Over the Rainbow", sung by a female during the credits. Special effects are in abundance, naturally, and the villain is a famous acting legend. Some action scenes are reminiscent of "Indiana Jones". I expected to see lots of kids in the audience, but either it was too late (7:05 pm) or they went to see other films in the multiplex theatre. Most of the audience was between 25 and 50 in my unscientific observation. Did I like the film? It was entertaining (I enjoyed Spiderman II more for the story and the authentic villain). The actors never really connected. If you go see it, pay attention to the last line in the movie.

The phrase "bringing home the bacon" is not very health-oriented. Skipping the fat, may we suggest "bringing home the veggies"?

Trump's Longevity: Who says they don't make products the way they used to? In 1987, I visited Trump Plaza, the Donald's casino in Atlantic City. I received a souvenir plastic deodorizer to hang in the bathroom. Up to a few months ago, it was still odor-full.

English lesson: An *alumnus* is a single male; an *alumna* a single female. *Alumni* are more than one. *Datum* is singular; *data* is plural. *Medium* is singular; *media* is plural. Got it? Now go out and use these words correctly. Please.

Spanish lesson: The word for butter in most Spanish-speaking countries is *mantequilla*, but in Argentina it is *manteca*. In Mexico, *manteca* is grease or fat. In most of the Latin world, the word for swimming pool is *piscina*, except in Mexico, where it is *alberca*. I never learned that in Mrs. McCormick's Spanish class at Galileo.

I read once someplace somewhere that there are more different words to mean earthworm than any other word. Roundworm and just plain worm are two of them.

Pet peeve: Standing in line anywhere – supermarket, movie theater, post office. At the U. S. post office near my office, there is a television, supposedly to entertain the patrons while they are standing in line. The video is always an animated cartoon. Who do they think they are appealing to? Maybe the cartoons are for the amusement of the postal employees.

Another pet peeve: Backpacks, especially on crowded public transportation. They take up too much space and bump into you.

The late Ben Dito (1933-2004) said: "We are all getting on in years, and we should get together more often with our friends". Words of wisdom. How about it, alumni?

The only true sunset: We have seen the sun go down over the Pacific when it turns from white to yellow to orange/red and finally disappears on the horizon. I have a friend in Denver who says the sunset over the Rockies is beautiful. Is this really a sunset? How can one really appreciate a sunset when mountains block the sight of the sun setting in the distant horizon? Palm Springs is another place where the Western mountains block the sun in the late afternoon. The best sunsets, in our view, are over the ocean and on a desert. What do you think?

If occasionally we seem to be writing for a certain generation or decade, it is not intentional. We want to appeal to a wide audience of alumni. Send in your items and we'll publish them here.

Thought of the Month: If you can dream it, you can do it. ---Walt Disney.

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The San Francisco History Center on the 6th floor of the Public Library Main Branch has Galileo Telescopes for reference only. The yearbooks they have are for the following years: June 1925, 1926, 1927, Dec. 1928, Dec. 1929, Dec. 1930, Dec. 1931, Dec. 1932, Dec. 1936, Dec. 1937, Dec. 1938, 1955, 1956, 1957, 1972, 1975, 1983, 1989. You can make photocopies if you wish, but cannot check out the yearbooks. For more information go to www.sfpl.org, and in the search window type Telescope (San Francisco, CA). The call number is 371.8T236.

Classes of '74 – 30th Year Reunion

Date: October 9, 2004, Saturday Time: 4:30 pm to 10:30 pm

Cost: \$45 per person if RSVP'd by 8/30/04

\$55 per person after 8/30/04

Location: Galileo High School "Dining Hall"

Who: Open to ALL CLASSES and their family and friends

Alumni, come back to Galileo for an exciting evening of fun and nostalgia... we'll have a catered buffet dinner, dancing, school tour, surprise entertainment, door prizes, and more...

We are requesting a high school and a current picture. Pictures will be returned at the reunion. If preferred, pictures may be emailed in .jpg format to <u>Galileo74@sbcglobal.net</u>.

Hardcopy invitations to be sent June 1, 2004. For information online, please see our webpage at: http://www.geocities.com/galileo74@sbcglobal.net/reunion2004.html.

Looking forward to seeing you! Class of 1974 Reunion Committee

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Classes of '54 and Jan. Feb. '55 – 50th Year Reunion

October 9, 2004, Saturday

Cost: To Be Announced

Location: Dominic's at Oyster Point in South San Francisco, CA.

Update! Jan-Feb Class of 1955 now included, as requested by Fred Basconcillo.

Believe it or not, we are approaching a special milestone! A few of us have gotten together to try to plan something for out 50th reunion and we need your help.

We are planning a reunion event for Saturday, October 9th, 2004 and hope to have a good turnout. Unfortunately, with the passage of time, many of us have lost contact and it is a challenge to try to find some of our classmates.

If you are interested in attending this special celebration, please complete the <u>Registration Form</u> and return it. We want to be sure we have correct names, addresses and e-mail so even if you have already provided this information, please confirm it to: Marie Pardini Noce, 776 Berkshire Drive, Millbrae, CA 94030

Most importantly, if you are in contact with any of our classmates from the class of June, 1954, PLEASE let us know by listing them on the form.

Thanks very much for your help. We hope to see you at our 50th!!

Josephine Dempsey Romine Marie Pardini Noce Carlo Noce Lillian Baiocchi Valli

Registration Form: http://galileohs50s.homestead.com/1954 Reunion.html

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FALL IS HERE

BUT

YOU CAN STILL ENJOY THE BAY AREA'S

INDIAN SUMMER

SUMMER SALAD

(with heirloom tomato & goat cheese)

Here's a recipe for a simple summer salad that's easy to prepare (less than 5 minutes) and delicious and refreshing during these warm Indian Summer days.

Put some Spring Mix greens (organic or other) in a deep salad bowl. Add a large heirloom tomato, cut in wedges. Sprinkle with crumbled goat cheese. Dress with Italian, raspberry vinaigrette, or olive oil & vinegar. Add freshly-ground pepper to taste. Toss the mixture well. Enjoy!

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SILVER LEGACY RENO SITE OF 50s REUNION

Hosted by members of the classes of the 1950s, any and all Galileo alumni from any class, their families and friends are welcome to attend. The Silver Legacy Hotel will be the location for the reunion from May 4-6, 2005.

A "Save The Date" card was recently mailed to all those who attended the reunion in 2000. It reads:

SAVE THE DATE

GALILEO HIGH SCHOOL

ALUMNI OF THE 50s

WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN IN RENO

MAY 4TH, 5TH & 6TH, 2005

Family & friends are welcome

Mailer for reservation is coming soon

More "Save the Date" cards will be mailed. This reunion is open to <u>ALL ALUMNI</u>, families and friends, all ages. The mailer for reservations will go out by regular mail to more than 500 alumni (as many as there are addresses for). At this time, the committee does not plan to do an invitation by email.

Registration, a no-host cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres will take place on Wednesday, May 4^{th} . On Thursday, May 5^{th} , golf starting times will be available for those interested, and a slot tournament with an entrance fee is being arranged with the hotel. Thursday night there will be a no-host cocktail hour, dinner (choice of beef or fish) and dancing to deejay Troy Fullmer.

A price has not been determined at this time. The mailer will include price per person, per couple, and for dinner and dancing only. Committee members are: Tamara Lee Chan, Alvin Joe, Dawson Lee, Jennie Lee, Kay Michelis, Ernie Russo, Cordy Surdyka, Tony Waiss, and Al Jeung.

Those who receive the card are requested to pass the word to their classmates. The reunion will be dedicated to the class of 1955 as this will be their 50th anniversary. If anyone wants to get on the mailing list, they can notify the GAA with their name (maiden name for women), address and year of graduation. Include your spouse's name if they are a graduate of Galileo.

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If you would like to promote your Galileo event on the GAA website

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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.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hi, my name is Vickie Van Winkle (Vickie Son, maiden name). I graduated from Gal in 1975. I have been interested in finding out about alumni activities for several years now. I called the school office one time a year or so ago and left my name, address and phone number, but never received a response. I only recently found out about the GAA through Mr. Kaiser's Lions Pride newsletter. Please include me on your mailing list. Suggestion: Maintain \$5 base membership and create different reward or honorary levels of memberships at \$10 & \$25 or more. Possible incentives for beyond basic membership... \$1.00 or \$2.00 discounts or 10% for GAA sponsored events, or a token GAA gift, or simply honorary membership.

Vickie Van Winkle (1975)

Ed. Note: Thank you for your interest in GAA and its activities. The Board is currently working on the membership issue. Results will be announced in this newsletter. We welcome you to attend Board meetings every second Thursday of the month in Room 210 at Galileo.

* * *

Hello, I'm searching for the yearbook for the class of 1969, mine was lost and I was wondering if the Galileo Alumni Association has some information on how to obtain a copy. A while back I contacted the school and was told that Galileo would have a website that I could download the book from. I can't seem to find any information on the website, however. Thank you in advance for your help.

Vickie Crivello

Ed. Note: I have forwarded your request to Mr. Mark Huynh at Galileo who might be able to help you. You might also try contacting the San Francisco History Center at the Public Library (see article above) although at last contact they did not have the 1969 yearbook.

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It has been great for me to be around the Galileo alumni and see and feel the strong "family" ties. I have realized that friendships started in grammar school of so many Galileans that has carried over to this day. When I was in Galileo I had good friends and when I see them today it's like time stood still (after I recognize them). When I went to the Belasco show in Walnut Creek I could see the spirit that has lasted so very long. Since I came from a broken family, just being around the Galileo energy is so great. I went to grammar and mid schools on the other side of town and those relationships are lost. It was a different kind of friendship there, good but not the special energy that Galileo has maintained over the years. Nina Clima had a fantastic luncheon for the Italian ladies months ago and the spirit was there also. I had no idea it would be so big so I was surprised when I got there. Nina does a great job in keeping that energy going. My hat goes off to her for a terrific luncheon and all the work she has done for Galileo.

Renee (Mau) Wade (1951)

Ed. Note: You've said it all, Renee. .

* * *

Hello.....I'm George Poppin's daughter, Nancy. My father has heard from several of his students. He is so pleased to hear they are doing well in life, that they have succeeded and that they hold values that make them who they are today. He is very proud of being a part of your education. I can hear him saying now....."Go Lions!". His birthday is August 31st; he'll be 86. Thank you.....Nancy Poppin Posey Class of '64 Mercy High School, SF; "Go Trojans!" My 40th reunion is in September; sadly I won't attend. I moved to Ocala Florida. We dodged a bullet when Hurricane Charley changed course 3 hours before it hit land. Two pictures are attached. You may post in your issue. I'm sure the alumni would like to see a picture of his family. The photos are 40 years apart.

(Click links below to see photos.)

- 1. 2000 Poppin family group picture Back row: Joan, Debbie, Nancy; Bottom row: Dad (George), Mom (Dottie), my brother Tom and his wife Lyndae
- 2. <u>1962 George Poppin</u>

My new email address is: heisable2@comcast.net

NOTE: Letters may be edited for length, spelling, grammar, or content.

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GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

1/1/04 - 7/14/04

INCOME

Membership dues \$140.00

Fundraiser (Flower Drum Song) 2,560.00

TOTAL INCOME \$2,700.00

EXPENSES

Belasco Theatre (Flower Drum Song) 1,833.00

Donation (Dragon Boat Races) 500.00

Donation (Galileo graduation table) 350.00

TOTAL EXPENSES \$2,683.00

BANK BALANCE 7/14/04 \$5,109.68

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CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

September 25 – GAA Social, S. F. Italian Athletic Club

September 25 – 20 Year Reunion, Class of 1984, Miyako Hotel, 6:30 – 11:30 pm

October (various dates) - The High School Project

October 9 – 30 Year Reunion, Classes of 1974, Galileo Dining Hall, 4:30 – 10:30 pm

October 9 – 50 Year Reunion, Classes of 1954 & Jan./Feb. 1955, Dominic's, South San Francisco

October 10 – Annual Columbus Day Parade, North Beach, San Francisco

October 14 – GAA Board Meeting, 6:30 pm, Room 210, Galileo Academy, Election of Officers.

October 15 – Song and Yell Contest, Galileo Football Field, 10 am – 12:30 pm

October 29 - Galileo Alumni Golf & Dinner Raffle.

(Additional information on these and other events at www.galileoalumni.org.)

IMPORTANT

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For all <u>EDITORIALLY-RELATED</u> comments or suggestions, please address your emails to <u>editorgalileoobserver@yahoo.com</u>.

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

Thank you.

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The Galileo Observer invites your letters, memories, inquiries and suggestions. All submissions are subject to editing. Send them by email to: editorgalileoobserver@yahoo.com, or by postal mail to: Galileo Observer, care of Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

GAA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION, VISIT THE GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION WEBSITE, WWW.GALILEOALUMNI.ORG.

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<u>Comments? Contact the Galileo Alumni webmaster</u> <u>last updated 25September2004</u>

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