



THE GALILEO OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of the
Galileo Alumni Association



“Communicate and Participate”

Vol. VII, No. 1

January 2009

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

By Jim Dresser '51

Although it was 2002, it seems like yesterday when several Galileans got together and decided it was time to revive the alumni association. The group's mission was to organize alumni into a cohesive unit to benefit all members of the high school community. From the start, school administration and staff supported GAA's efforts and identified student groups in need of funds.

Since then, bylaws were developed, and the Galileo Alumni Association was incorporated as a California public charity, exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, so donations would be tax-deductible. GAA established its website and newsletter, *The Galileo Observer*. Fifteen fundraising events were held - 2 Best of Broadway shows, 4 Belasco Theater productions, an alumni get-together at SFIAC, an evening at Beach Blanket Babylon, 4 dinners to honor Sports Hall of Fame inductees, and 3 dinner dances co-sponsored with PTSA.

Thanks to all of you who supported GAA by communicating, participating, and donating. Your contributions enabled the alumni association to present \$25,630 to school groups over the years. Special acknowledgement goes to Jerome Solari '46 for the endowment fund to be used at the discretion of the principal, Joe Borg '59 for his generous gift to GAA and specific Galileo student groups last year, and Dick Bechelli '51 for his matching funds challenges to benefit the Athletic Department.

I also want to thank the Board members, past and present, for their time, energy, and talents. Without them, the organization could not have succeeded.

It's been my honor and pleasure to serve as president for the past seven years, but now it's time for a new leader. Dennis Eleen '61 brings energy and enthusiasm to the job. Please give him your support by volunteering and participating in GAA.

INTRODUCING THE NEW PRESIDENT

Hello Fellow Lions!

This month I succeed Jim Dresser as president of the Galileo Alumni Association. Jim had graciously served as your president for the past seven years. It was upon his request that I joined the board of directors. I am grateful to him for his confidence which enables me to serve as his successor.

I am a native San Franciscan from the Bayview and now reside in San Jose with my life partner, Jeannie Noia. I attended Sacred Heart High School on Ellis and Franklin before transferring to Galileo in 1958. My graduating class was 1961.

I left Gal in 1960 to fulfill my military obligation and, upon returning, continued classes at Galileo in the evenings. I then attended City College of San Francisco and San Jose City College. I retired after 45 years in the retail grocery business with most of my career in some form of management.

I am on the retirees' advisory board for the United Food and Commercial Workers and a volunteer staff member for San Francisco Generations which produces The San Francisco Native Jamboree, an annual event that celebrates our City.

As president of GAA, it is my intention to increase membership and participation in the association. I hope to have a lively, energetic, and enthusiastic membership and want to continue a close relationship with our alma mater and the PTSA.

I am easily accessible through email (dmeleen_1@msn.com) and open to any input and all suggestions. A vibrant and healthy association is my goal. With enthusiastic participation and communication, GAA will be a successful benefactor to Galileo, its students, and the future.

Dennis M. Eleen '61



Dennis and Jeannie

From the Principal

THANK YOU

As principal of Galileo Academy of Science and Technology, I would like to thank and acknowledge Jim Dresser for his seven years of service as GAA president. Jim and his board have done so much for our school since reviving the Galileo Alumni Association in 2002. Since then, the GAA has given over \$25,000 to our clubs, sports teams, and classes.

It is gratifying to know that Jim will remain on the Board and be a guiding light for the new president. Thanks again, Jim, for all you have done for Galileo!

**Vicki Pesek
Principal**

3RD ANNUAL GALILEO DINNER/DANCE GALA

by Jeanne Yee, PTSA Grants Chair

We had 180 guests including alumni, teachers, staff, students, friends and parent volunteers at the delicious 9 course Chinese banquet at the New Asia Restaurant. Ron Sligar '52 made a welcoming speech on behalf of GAA.

Everyone had a chance to chat with former Principal Stanton Tong and walk through a bit of "memory lane" with a slide show of "Mr. Tong at Galileo" by Bruce Eng, MC for the event. The live auctioneer was Galileo's own dean Paul Robertson. He was professional and added his usual great humor and pizzazz to the auction. Guests went home with "real deals" from the huge selection of silent and live auction items.

Mr. Machtay and ASB President Jessica Wong did video interviews of guests. During dinner the guests enjoyed dance performances by ASB Executive Council officers led by Galileo student choreographer and hip hop dancer Kyle Belamide, and then guests were "wowed" by the CCSF "Hot Blood" swing dancers. Afterwards, everyone danced the night away to music spun by Galileo alumni Gordon & Wayne of Sound Innovations.

This evening could not have happened without the endless work of numerous parents and volunteers. Thanks to all of them and to you for supporting this annual event to benefit the students at Galileo. The gala raised over \$8,000!

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## **GALILEO STAG LUNCHEON**

The annual Galileo Christmas stag luncheon was held at Pompei's Grotto on Fisherman's Wharf on Tuesday, December 16, 2008. Nancy, daughter of Frank Pompei '38 and niece of Pete Pompei '51, greeted guests and made sure everything went smoothly for the 86 alumni from the classes of the '30's, '40's and the '50's who attended. Friendships were renewed and old stories rehashed. From the laughter heard throughout the dining rooms, everyone had a great time.

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# 1959-1964 CLASS REUNION

On November 8, 2008, a reunion for the Galileo classes of 1959-1964 was held at the South San Francisco Elks Lodge. Chief organizer, Lenore Fachner La Rocca '64, reported it was "fantastic". About 180 alumni attended this successful dinner dance. No-host cocktails, a buffet dinner, and '50's, '60's and '70's music by DJ Charlie Barker made this casually elegant event most memorable. With alumni like Lenore and her group, Lions' Pride is alive and thriving!

To see who was there, view photos, and read comments, go to <http://llenore46.googlepages.com/>.

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## CLASSES OF 1965 THROUGH 1969 REUNION

By Ellie Wong, Harvey Louie, Diane Wall-Cowart

On Saturday, October 18, 2008, the Galileo '60's Reunion Committee presented "*The Way You Look Tonight*," a theme for its 4<sup>th</sup> reunion for Classes of 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968, and 1969. This sold-out event was held at the historic Empress of China's Grand Ballroom. Approximately 500 people attended the nine-course dinner, which included lobster, longevity noodles, minced chicken lettuce wrap, Peking duck, quail, sticky rice chicken, and winter melon soup, just to name a few. Shortly following this delicious meal, coffee was served with a fabulous variety of customized desserts that included a mango cake, Princess cake, coffee crunch and lemon crunch cakes.

Jest Jammin', one of the Bay Area's most enduring and well-known bands, celebrated its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary by providing four decades of groovin' music for everyone to dance the night away. Band members included Galileo alumni Ed Toy '67, Brad Lum '68, and Norman Fong '69.

A photographer captured some joyous moments of people who have not seen each other in 40 years, along with those who have been seen frequently. Approximately a thousand pictures were filmed of people dancing, joking, laughing, talking, and just plain having fun. Individual class pictures were taken as well.

Happy memories of this gala will continue to live in the minds of all who attended. In 2009, the Galileo 60's Reunion Committee will distribute a DVD filled with these memorable pictures as a gift to all paid participants.

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## **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE**

It's a new year, and the annual membership drive again is underway. Anyone who attended Galileo or served on the staff or faculty and submitted a form is a member of GAA.

While we have your email address, it doesn't mean we have other contact information, so please take a minute to fill out a form today. Download an application <http://galileoalumni.org/membership.html> and mail it to GAA, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Personal information is given out only to alumni planning reunions.

Although an annual donation of \$25.00 is suggested, it's not necessary for membership. Any amount you can afford is appreciated and will help support activities at Galileo. Because GAA is a California public charity, exempt under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, your donation is fully tax deductible.

The success of GAA depends on your interest and involvement. Board meetings are open to all and dates are posted at <http://galileoalumni.org/home.html>. We hope you will join us and look forward to hearing from you.

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## **Galileo Tile Drive 3 Deadline: January 15, 2009**

**Galileo Tile Drive 3 Deadline: January 15, 2009. This is the final phase of the Galileo Tile Drive; there are only approximately 56 tile spaces left in the Galileo courtyard. First come, first served.**

**For order form, click the link below.**

**<http://galileoweb.org/ptsa/2008/09/13/99/>**

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# Through The Telescope. . .



**2009** – What will the New Year bring? More economic problems? More terrorism? More violence? More distrust of government? More disrespect of human rights? Or will the New Year bring an end to the war in Iraq, the trust and respect of one's fellow man and woman, a renewal of faith, and a return to prosperity? We hope the leaders of the world realize that we are all in this together, and we must solve our problems together and move on to bigger and better things. It all begins with love for one another and one nation for another and for one people for another, regardless of religious beliefs, shade of skin, age, gender and lifestyle. And so we welcome 2009 and hope it will be a year of restoration and peace.

Congratulations to Dennis Eleen '61, the new President of GAA. Dennis is involved in several local groups, notably the San Francisco Native Jamboree, and brings experience and enthusiasm to this leadership position. We wish him good luck and success.

And thank you to outgoing President Jim Dresser '51, who provided leadership and loyalty to Galileo alumni for the past 7 years. Jim will continue as a Director of GAA so we will benefit from his expertise and experience.

The Beach Blanket Babylon event in October was a smashing success. On a warm Thursday evening, many Lion alumni dined at North Beach restaurants prior to the show. Capps Corner and Joe DiMaggio's got their share of business. When I arrived at Club Fugazi, Fred Setting was standing outside talking to an Irish tourist. No wonder, it was plenty hot inside. I sat next to an alumnus for fifteen minutes before I realized it was Harry Underhill '51. I hadn't seen him in 57 years! Among other alumni present were the Lombardi clan (John, Mario, and Carmela), Vaughn Spurlin, Kay Michelis, Cordy Surdyka, Marion Gizzi, Joe Scafidi, Eleanor Clayton, Gloria Tornay, Dennis Eleen, John Monfredini, Jerome Solari, Yolanda Machi, Mauro Novara, Ping Demo, Nina and Frank Clima, Janet Spinale, Monica Kirkland, Pete Pompei, Tora Isi, Marie Gondolfo, Janet Neilsen, Ron Sligar, Fred Setting, Alan Seagrave, Dave Negherbon, and Yola Ferralis. All in all, 74 people attended on behalf of Galileo. The cast put on a terrific show with all the usual suspects making appearances. BBB has been running for a zillion years and never fails to amaze. Producer Steve Silver's vision is realized long after he passed on.

Great news that JROTC was given a vote of confidence by the voters of San Francisco. Now all the Board of Education has to do is reverse its decision to scrap the program.

Nick Reynolds, a founding member of The Kingston Trio, died this past October at 75. His first wife was Joan Harriss '51. They were married for 19 years and had 4 kids. Joan was on my Pendulum staff at Galileo.

When actor Van Johnson died last month at age 92, it brought back memories of the time in the 50's when I saw him live on the stage of the Warfield Theater along with Ava Gardner and Howard Duff, who were dating at the time, Walter Pidgeon and other Hollywood stars. Those were the days when you went to a movie and got to see a free stage show.



A Natural High: Returning from a brunch on a Saturday in December with Paul Lamphere '51 and Jim Dresser '51 at the new Balboa Café in Mill Valley, I drove across the Golden Gate Bridge. On my right was the end of the bay and beyond the open sea underneath a sun-filled sky. On my left was our beloved city, awash in sunshine and sparkling like a jewel. We are blessed to live in this marvelous place.

When I was a kid going to Spring Valley School, Marina Junior High, and then Galileo, I used to be a tourist in my hometown, walking the streets and stairways of Russian Hill, Nob Hill and Telegraph Hill. I would admire the views, check out the homes and gardens and fantasize about the early San Franciscans who lived there. I was a day dreamer who identified with the early pioneers of our city. Today San Francisco remains a great walking city.

Before *tapas* there was *dim sum*. Over the years I have eaten in over 50 *dim sum* restaurants all over the Bay Area. The other day I re-visited one of them out on Geary and 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the Mayflower Restaurant. I had mini Japanese octopus with seaweed, a delicacy not found in many other restaurants, steamed dumpling with minced pork (Shanghai style), deep fried seafood roll with mango, and my favorite *dim sum*, steamed meat and dried shrimp dumpling (*fun gor*). Mayflower makes the best *fun gor* in the city. I had a second plate of it.

*Lawrence of Arabia* is one of those enduring films that, like the novella, *The Old Man and the Sea*, should be looked at once a year.

Pet Peeve: Parents who say “my child” instead of “our child”. Doesn’t a child belong to *both* parents?

A thought for all seasons: “*We must accept finite disappointment, but we must never lose infinite hope.*” -- Martin Luther King, Jr.

SDH

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CLASS OF 1969 REUNION

Galileo's Spring Class of 1969 is planning their 40th Reunion at the Green Hills Country Club at the end of Ludeman Lane in Millbrae, CA, on October 3, 2009. Rose Wong Lee rlee@pacbell.net, Nancy Lee Warren zerokool@pacbell.net and Cathy Fong cathfong@hotmail.com are collecting emails and other contact information from members of the class. Please contact them so you can be kept informed of the gala!

PLANNING A REUNION?

If you're a member of GAA who's planning a class reunion, let us know. We'd like to announce your event on the website <http://www.galileoalumni.org/> and in the quarterly *Observer*. In addition, we'll send you a list of members and their contact information for the specific classes you're targeting. Send information to webmaster at <http://galileoalumni.org/contact.html> and/or galileoobserver@aol.com.

LETTERS

The classes of '89, '90, '91, '92, '93, '95, '96, and '97 did not have a 10 year reunion. The class of '94 had a small one on campus in 2005. Hopefully, a committee of alumni is interested in organizing a reunion for these classes. It could even be in the school cafeteria with a catered meal. One idea is to have the reunion at homecoming in Oct. 2009 or 2010 with some of the attendees acting as judges for the Song & Yell Contest.

Eugene Wing, ASB Advisor

I was wondering if there was anyway we could find out what happened to our past instructors.

Many years I have wanted to contact them but did not know how. Is there a way to find out where they went or to contact them or be referred to someone?

I graduated class of 1965 and wondered what happened to my basketball coach Stan Buchanan.

Thanks for your time.

Kenrick Dare, Class of 1965

Ed. Note: I refer you to Bettie Grinnell, Assistant Principal at Galileo. Tel. 415-749-3430, or write her at Galileo Academy of Science & Technology, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION Annual Financial Statement January 1, 2008 – December 31, 2008

BALANCE FORWARD	\$15,810.94
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INCOME

Membership Donations (New)	355.00
Membership Donations (Renewals)	3,685.00
Donation (Macy's)	50.00
Bank Interest	.60
Fund Raiser (Beach Blanket Babylon)	2,925.00
Donations (For school programs)	8,050.00

TOTAL INCOME	\$15,065.60
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EXPENSES

Office Supplies - Postage/Stationary	1,031.00
Awards Luncheon	443.47
Fund Raiser (Beach Blanket Babylon)	2,470.00
Web-site	144.99
Donation – Galileo Dragon Boat Team	1,500.00
Donation – Galileo Jr. ROTC	1,550.00
Donation – Galileo Pendulum	1,600.00
Donation – Galileo Athletic Department	9,390.00

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,129.46
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BALANCE as of 12/31/2008	\$12,747.08
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SOLARI ENDOWMENT FUND

Renewal date 06/06/2008	\$16,582.61	
Interest 06/06/2008 – 12/29/2008	309.92	
	CD Value as of 12/29/2008	\$16,892.53

Submitted by:
Joe Scafidi
Treasurer, GAA

GAA BOARD OPENINGS

WANTED: Alumni to fill several openings on the GAA Board for the 2009-2011 term of office. Everyone is welcome.

Anyone interested in becoming a member of the Board or wishing to nominate another Lion should email <http://galileoalumni.org/messagePres2.html> subject line: Board of Directors.

Please consider donating your time and talents to support Galileo alumni and students.



CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

GAA Board Meeting, Galileo Academy, 6:30 PM, Thursday January 8, 2009

Class of 1969 (40th Reunion) - Green Hills Country Club, Millbrae, October 3, 2009

When checking for upcoming events between issues of the *Observer*, please visit the web site <http://galileoalumni.org/home.html> for the most up-to-date listings.



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 who would like to receive a FREE emailed newsletter once every three months. We'd like to reach as wide a range of readers as possible. Send the email addresses to <http://galileoalumni.org/contact.html>.



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<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 <http://galileoalumni.org/contact.html>.

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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>**

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