



# THE GALILEO OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of the  
Galileo Alumni Association



**“Communicate and Participate”**

**Vol. VII, No. 2**

**April 2009**

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**Letter from the Editor**

# **Volunteerism and GAA**

Over the past seven years, GAA has strived to increase its membership and participation. All Galileo alumni, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion or other factors, have been invited to join the organization and help achieve its goals. Sadly, the response has been disappointing. (Please see GAA president's letter which follows.)

We know alumni are busy with families, jobs, and travel; some are not available for health reasons. But for those who have a little extra time and energy, please consider attending a meeting, volunteering to help, or serving on the Board of Directors. One of our Board members drives 180 miles roundtrip to attend meetings. Others give up their evenings to plan ways to help Galileo and its students. The few alumni who have been involved have done so voluntarily with no remuneration; their motivation has been to give something back to the school that was the foundation of their adulthood. As Diane Wall-Cowart (1965) wrote to a critic, *"I would like to remind you and everyone that nothing happens unless there are enough people involved to make it happen."*

We appreciate input, but constant, unfounded criticism does not benefit alumni or our school. For example, there is no specific day on which this newsletter is published, but it frequently is criticized for not being available on the first of the month. Since the *Observer* is issued quarterly and the deadline for submission of articles is the first of January, April, July, and October, it seems obvious the newsletter will not be distributed until some time later in those months, in order to accommodate last minute submissions and staff availability.

We sincerely hope the future of GAA will be bright and more alumni from all walks of life will come forward to join and participate in GAA. The administration and staff, as well as PTSA, have backed GAA since its inception. We, in turn, will continue to support our school and trust you will help us.

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GALILEO ACADEMY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
1150 Francisco Street  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94109

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## President's Letter

**Hello Fellow Lions:**

This year's general meeting of the Galileo Alumni Association was held on January 8, 2009. The meeting was attended by nine board members, Galileo assistant principal Ms. Marilyn Hubbard, an alumna, an honorary member, and a potential board member. The next meeting was held on March 12, 2009, and the third meeting will be held on May 14, 2009, at 6:30 PM in Room 210 at Galileo. All alumni are invited to attend this meeting and all other meetings.

On our initial agenda, we addressed the need to increase our membership and to have all eras of alumni represented and involved in the functions of our association. We especially want to extend an appeal to the classes of the 1960's, '70's and '80's on up to the current graduating classes.

Now is the time to join or renew your membership. While we suggest a donation of \$25.00, there is no actual fee and any amount is appreciated, all of which is tax deductible.

Membership forms can be accessed on the website  
<http://galileoalumni.org/membership.html>.

Equally as important as membership are your participation and involvement - essentials for the success of the Association. With the resignation of Tora Minor Isi '54, we are seeking to add 4 members to the Board of Directors. We also need a chairperson for the Membership Committee; an editor for the quarterly newsletter; and contributors who will write articles about a remembrance, a get-together, a favorite faculty member, or anything interesting about growing up in The City for *The Observer*.

Interested in joining or participating? You can contact any board member through the web site <http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html> or contact me directly at [dmeleen\\_1@msn.com](mailto:dmeleen_1@msn.com). I am always open to questions, ideas, suggestions, and requests. Let me hear from you.

**Dennis Eleen**

**President, GAA**

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### **Assistant Principal Marilyn Hubbard**

**GAA is pleased to have Galileo's representative Ms. Marilyn Hubbard, assistant principal, in attendance at both Board meetings this year.**

**Ms. Hubbard went through the public school system in Chicago before moving to the Bay Area where she graduated from San Francisco State and is credentialed in secondary education. Galileo Academy has been her home since 2004, and she has served as the Dean for four years before becoming one of three interim assistant principals. Prior to Galileo, Marilyn served as a principal, assistant principal, dean, and a department head at middle schools Burbank, Denman and Francisco. Her teaching skills are vast, as evidenced by the many subjects she has taught, from home economics to U.S. history and math. A tireless worker, she counsels the chronically truant, advises a youth for employment and training program, coordinates student activities and has planned the conference "Woman To Woman – I Am My Sister's Keeper", addressing women of color and HIV.**

**When she has some free time, Marilyn relaxes by sewing and stays physically fit with a personal fitness regimen with that occasional trip to the spa. Traveling is also on top of her personal agenda. Her most recent trip was to South Africa with stops in Johannesburg, Soweto, Durban and Capetown.**

**The Alumni Association is happy to have a close relationship with the school, and we are thrilled to have Marilyn participate at our meetings. She is enthusiastic and willing to advise and suggest ways and means that will be beneficial to the school and the students, the future alumni. Thank you, Marilyn.**

***Submitted by Dennis Eleen***

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# 31th Bayview District Reunion

## Dinner/Dance

### April 18, 2009



Door Prizes



Live Dance Band

#### Peninsula Italian-American Social Club

100 North "B" Street, San Mateo

(Parking at Railway Station, 1/2 block South of Club)

**\$45.00 per person**

(Wine and dessert included)

**No-Host Cocktail Bar 5:00pm - 6:00pm / Dinner will be served promptly at 6:00pm**

*Bring any Bayview pictures for display. If you wish to sit with a group of your choice, you must send reservation with the names and choices of what they desire as an entree.*

**Make check payable to,  
send checks and reservation form to:**

Henry Sanchez: 15 De Monfort Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94112-1705  
Phone (415) 585-1721

*No Tickets will be mailed. Full funds will be given if you cancel within 48 hrs of the reunion.*

<b>Cut on dotted line</b>	
<b>Please check your choice of entree:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Cacciatore
<input type="checkbox"/> Salmon	
First Name _____	Last Name _____
Wife's maiden name if from Bayview District _____	
Address _____	
City _____	
State _____ Zip _____	
Phone No. (     ) _____	
<b>If you wish to sit in a group, an early response is recommended.</b>	

<b>Please check your choice of entree:</b>	
<input type="checkbox"/> Roast Beef	<input type="checkbox"/> Chicken Cacciatore
<input type="checkbox"/> Salmon	
First Name _____	Last Name _____
Wife's maiden name if from Bayview District _____	
Address _____	
City _____	
State _____ Zip _____	
Phone No. (     ) _____	
<b>Amount Enclosed \$ _____</b>	

## *Epur Si Mouve – And Yet It Does Move*

*Lives in Motion* is a collaborative work involving Galileo students and a West Hollywood playwright. The students in this performance will be performing, in their own words, thoughts on safety, the economy, motion, aspirations and Galileo the Scientist, among other topics. It will include visual effects on a large screen, sounds, and various physical movements. It is an experimental, *avant garde* effort by the students. The premiere

performance will be April 24, 2009 at 7:00 PM at Galileo Academy. Tickets are \$3.00 for students and \$5.00 for non-students. All proceeds will be going to a scholarship for a drama/performing arts graduating 2009 student and other drama class expenses. Please support our aspiring artists.

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## **DONATIONS Q & A**

**Q: How does GAA use my tax-free donation?**

**A: Funds are 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.**

**Q: Who gets money from GAA ?**

**A: Contributions are made to departments, classes, clubs, and teams at Galileo to benefit groups, rather than individual students.**

**Q: How are groups chosen to receive donations?**

**A: Helping unfunded or under-funded school programs is our priority. Galileo's principal or assistant principal attend GAA Board meetings, and the Associated Student Body advisor communicates with us frequently. From their input, we learn which groups need financial help because of program cuts and/or lack of funding. At times, we've asked about donating to a specific department, such as Music, and were told it didn't need money while some other group, such as *The Pendulum* or Athletics, did.**

**Q: Do students ask for donations?**

**A: Student leaders often make requests. For example, in January, four members of the Dragon Boat Team made a compelling presentation to the Board. Because their club receives no funds from the school, they rely entirely on donations and money earned through fundraising events, such as car washes, food sales, and raffles, in order to compete with other high schools.**

**Q: Can I donate to a program of my choosing?**

**A: Yes. Jerome Solari's generous endowment has a stipulation that the money be used at the discretion of Galileo's principal when funds are needed.**

The Reno Reunion committee donated \$6,500 to be used for new furniture and other capital equipment. Dick Bechelli issued two challenges to alumni to support the Athletic Department, often the first to be cut during a budget crisis, and raised \$6,430. Last year, when the *Observer* announced upcoming gifts to the school, alumni donated an additional \$8,050 specifically designated to those programs.

**Q: How can I help individual students?**

**A: The SUMMERFUND is one program we know of that raises money to help individuals. For more information, contact Karen Cancino or Cathy Kornblith, advisors, at Galileo.**

**Q: Can I recommend where funds should be spent?**

**A: You can email Board members with your suggestions <http://galileoalumni.org/committee.html>, but remember our goal is to benefit groups, not individuals, and to support areas of need identified by staff and students. If your suggestion doesn't match these criteria, you can support Galileo Academy by sending a tax-deductible donation to GAA, specifying where you would like the money to go. If you prefer, you can mail a donation directly to Galileo Academy of Science and Technology, Vicki Pesek, Principal, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.**

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*Ed. note: The lead article in the July 2006 Observer <http://galileoalumni.org/news/news200607.html> also provides information about donations.*

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## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

While we have your email address, it doesn't mean we have other contact information. If you haven't done so this year, 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.

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## Galileo Tile Drive 3 Deadline **Extended** to April 30, 2009

The Galileo Tile Drive 3 deadline has been extended to April 30, 2009. This is the final phase of the drive. There are only approximately 56 tile spaces left in the Galileo courtyard.

\$100 per tile installed. First come, first served.

For a revised order form, click the link: <http://galileoweb.org/ptsa>

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## Through The Telescope. . .



by Sisvan Der Harootunian

Spring has sprung, but April showers are still on the way. California: “. . . it’s cold and it’s damp” (*The Lady is a Tramp* by Rodgers and Hart).

Star bright: The planet Venus has been shining in the early Western night sky for the past few months as it does every year at this time. It is all alone in the sky and is the third brightest object in the sky after the sun and the moon. For years it has been a guiding light for me, an object of inspiration and optimism, a shining jewel.

Where else can you have a perfect view of San Francisco Bay while taking care of Nature’s call? The restrooms at the Golden Gate Fields Turf Club.

Chocoholics rejoice! Dark chocolate can lower blood pressure and reduce the risk of diabetes. Just one to two ounces daily is enough.

127,000. That was the number of applicants to the University of California’s Fall semester. Wow! (My tuition fee in 1951 was \$51 a semester.)

Super price: At the recent Super Bowl, the highest priced ticket sold on Stub Hub was \$8,500. Back when Miami played Washington in the Rose Bowl, I paid the face value of \$40 for a ticket just 10 minutes before kickoff. The seat was located exactly (I mean *exactly*) on the 50 yard line. Best seat I ever had at any sporting event.

Good news: It looks like the school board is getting closer to approving JROTC.

Up and running: January 2009 marked the inauguration of a new President . . . of GAA. Another President was also inaugurated. The difference is that Dennis Eleen, the President of GAA, succeeded a pioneer, a person who resurrected the GAA and guided it for 7 years. Dennis inherits an organization that has its objectives in place and sights in view. His presidential mission is to implement the aims of GAA and to add his own unique contributions. GAA *can* and *will* move forward.



President Obama likes to play basketball. So did I. I once asked then State Senator George Moscone at Scoma's Restaurant if he shot some hoops in Sacramento. He said he didn't have much time with all his political duties. I hope Obama has some time in Washington. His brother-in-law is the basketball coach at Oregon State University.

I've called it "The Greatest Weekend in College Sports." I'm talking Final Four. And, once again, they proved it. What an exciting pair of semi-final games! The championship game, unfortunately, didn't match the excitement of the semis.

Short takes: Charlie Farrugia's twice annual *Amici Vecchi* luncheon will be held on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at Caesar's Restaurant.

Former GAA Prez Jim Dresser, recovering from quadruple bypass surgery, is doing well. He and wife Jan attended the Giants spring training in Arizona last month.

*Angels and Demons*, the movie based on the book by Dan Brown, author of *The DaVinci Code*, opens in theaters on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. Can't wait.

If I'm not mistaken, the last three U. S. Presidents have been left-handed. Does that mean something?

Good to see a fellow Cal Blue, Jesse Figueroa, join the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame committee. He should contribute valuable help to Chairman Ron Sligar.

Tony Martin, 95, performed recently at the Razz Room. Remember when he was appearing at the Bal Tabarin (now Bimbo's) and Bill Dito, Bobbi McElroy and a group of Galileo Pendulum staff members interviewed him? That was over 55 years ago. I met Tony once, at the bar of the Bistro in Beverly Hills. He was with his late wife Cyd Charisse, Arlene Dahl, Fernando Lamas, and Esther Williams.

*Vive la France*: On a recent cable car ride, there were a group of French tourists that filled every inch of the car. There were more cameras than on a Hollywood lot. The conductor was the star; his photo was taken by everyone, and I mean *everyone*!

Robert M. Parker, Jr., the wine advocate, in giving 90 points to the Chateau Montelena 2007 Napa Valley Chardonnay, described it with "aromas of white peaches, apple skins, and crushed rocks presented in a fresh, medium-bodied, dry zesty format." Crushed rocks?

Wake me when it's over: OK, so I'm addicted . . . to two reality shows. Here are my "no brainer" picks for "American Idol" and "Dancing with the Stars": Idol – 1) Adam Lambert (has the looks and charisma of Elvis Presley and a voice to match); 2) Allison Iraheta (16 years old!); 3) Danny Gokey; 4) Lil Rounds. Dancing – 1) Gilles (the Frenchman with Antonio Banderas good looks); 2) Melissa; 3) Shawn. I picked Carrie Underwood to win Idol 4 years ago and look where she is today; just won "Entertainer of the Year" in country music.

*“Those were the days, my friend, We thought they’d never end. . .”* It was the mid-forties, the day before Christmas. We realized we hadn’t bought a Christmas tree. My mother sent me down to Weinstein’s on Polk Street. I bought a 6 foot tree for 99 cents and carried it home. We decorated it just in time for the holiday.

Wind: Wind is interesting. It is air in motion. Still air can be stagnant; not so with wind. The air on a recent Monday was anything but still. It blew down California Street. Walking against it, I was like a ship in a storm as I tried to negotiate the hill. Wind is important for sailors, pilots and football place kickers. I once asked an artist in Puerto Rico to draw me a picture of wind. I’m still waiting for it.

Between Iraq and a hard place: Are you good at saying “No”? Then take as many of those power-packed, pressure timeshare sales trips as you want. When the time comes to sign on the bottom line, just say “No.”

Twitter, Tweeter: Greta Garbo (“I just want to be left alone”) would never have used it. A hermit on a desert island wouldn’t know what it is. It’s the rage . . . Twitter, that is. In our view, the complete antithesis of privacy.

Pet peeves: 1) Marketers who call you between 6 and 7 PM when you’re preparing or having dinner; 2) People who walk on a moving escalator. Why not take the stairs? 3) People who cut in front of you – on the freeway, in the checkout line, and at the bank; 4) Rainy, windy, cold, overcast days.

When driving, stop to think how often you do not think to stop.

If you live each day as if it were your last, you will not make plans for the future. Live today as if it were the *first* day of your *new* life. --- SDH

Until we meet again in the good ol’ summertime . . .

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## **Announcements**

At their last meeting, the GAA Board of Directors approved a \$500 donation to the Galileo Dragon Boat Team. Good luck in your competitions!

High School Dragon Boat Races are scheduled for Saturday, April 18, 2009, from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM. at Lake Merced. Admission is free, so go out and cheer the Galileo Celestial Dragons on to victory.

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### **Song & Yell Contest**

The 65<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Song & Yell Contest will be held Friday, October 16, 2009. If you wish to be a

judge, please contact Mr. Wing  
[ishiwing@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ishiwing@sbcglobal.net) by September 1, 2009.

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## CLASS OF 1969 REUNION

Galileo's Spring Class of 1969 is planning their 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion at the Green Hills Country Club at the end of Ludeman Lane in Millbrae, CA, on October 3, 2009. Rose Wong Lee [rgee@pacbell.net](mailto:rgee@pacbell.net), Nancy Lee Warren [zerokool@pacbell.net](mailto:zerokool@pacbell.net) and Cathy Fong [cathfong@hotmail.com](mailto: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!

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## PLANNING A REUNION?

If you're 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*. If you're a member of GAA, 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](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com).

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["Seasoning," the new book by Tony Compagno \(Class of 1961\) is available for sale online through PublishAmerica as well as Amazon,](#)

[Barnes & Noble, Borders and others.](#)

### **Seasoning** Tony Compagno

**Tony Compagno's collection of reminiscences and reflections may not bring anything new to the table, but his special brand of "seasoning" makes the familiar and seemingly prosaic details of our little lives more palatable.**

**Working his way through the calendar year, the author offers vignettes revealing the rich interaction of husbands and wives, parents and children, teachers and students, people in general coming to terms with their vulnerability and humanness and sometimes stifled capacity for love.**

**Depending primarily on humor, Compagno explores events**

**surrounding traditional holidays such as Halloween and Christmas, and some obscure ones such as the birthday of Mickey Rooney or Sadie Hawkins Day. He looks at seasons of the year and what they add to (by extracting from) the human spirit.**

**The book is one big celebration of the times of our lives, a feast wherein the most mundane meal becomes ambrosia.**

Softcover [\$24.95]

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**SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The Sixth Annual San Francisco Native Jamboree will be held at The Sir Francis Drake Hotel, 450 Powell Street, San Francisco, CA 94102 on Friday, October 2, 2009 from 6:30 pm to 11:30 pm. The day has been proclaimed San Francisco Native Day by Mayor Gavin Newsom.**

**The San Francisco Native Jamboree is a unique event bringing together native San Franciscans who share the common bond of being born or raised in the most beautiful city in the world! Television personality, Greg Sherwood, fifth generation San Franciscan and son of the late popular radio personality, Don Sherwood, will be on hand as the Master of Ceremonies. Second generation San Francisco native and pianist, Sandy Cordoni, daughter of the late local big band bandleader, Johnny Cordoni, will provide dinner music. A delicious dinner will be finished off with San Francisco's old time favorite, "Blum's lemon crunch cake." There will also be a cocktail reception, dancing and entertainment.**

**The event's theme is "Playland at the Beach." With the assistance of the good folks at the Playland-Not-at the Beach Museum, there will be the opportunity to learn about the Whitney's Playland and the Sutro Baths or if you were someone lucky enough to have visited there, reminisce about your good times there.**

To give back to the community, the San Francisco Native Jamboree supports The San Francisco Conservation Corps which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year. Its mission is to help San Francisco's young people by providing education, training, and marketable job skills while addressing community needs through service work. The proceeds of a silent auction and a portion of the net profit will be donated to this deserving organization.

The event is produced by San Francisco Generations, Inc. and sponsored by Monroe Personnel Service LLC and Temptime, Hoogasian Flowers and Doorstep Photography.

For more information, visit the Website at [www.sfnativejamboree.com](http://www.sfnativejamboree.com). Email: [info@sfnativejamboree.com](mailto:info@sfnativejamboree.com) or call 415-732-7520 X 49. Contact: Debra Mugnani Monroe - [debra@sfnativejamboree.com](mailto:debra@sfnativejamboree.com)

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**On St. Patrick's Day,** I got up early , took a shower and dried myself with a green towel (a coincidence), wore a green jacket, green shorts and olive green trousers, checked the greenbacks in my wallet, drove to the office catching most of the green lights, made a reservation at Green's, accessed an item on the internet about the Greenbrier in West Virginia, remembered the USF Dons and Bill Russell and K. C. Jones, wondered what the greens fees are at Pebble Beach, listened to "Bein' Green," watched "The Green Grass of Wyoming," wondered where the Green Grocer went, paid homage to Kermit the Frog and his creator, Jim Henson, trusted the San Francisco Giants didn't sign any green players, hoped Greenpeace was doing some good, prepared a salad of greens, reminisced about my boyhood neighbors Mrs. Green and Dr. Greenhood, walked along the Marina Greens, recalled a memorable lunch at Tavern on the Green in The Big (Green) Apple, watered the green plants and checked my not-so-green lawn, plucked the green stems from red strawberries, ate corned beef and green cabbage, had some Mexican food later with *sa/sa verde*, listed to an aria by Giuseppe Verdi, roasted some green coffee beans, looked at red lobsters in Swan Oyster Depot's window, knowing they were green when they were alive, wished we still had the Chronicle's full green sheet, had an Irish coffee at the BV, drank no green beer,

admired the green trees in the Grove, and looked at my face in the mirror and noted that my normally green (hazel, actually) eyes were sort of bloodshot, and hailed St. Patrick.

Sisvan Der Harootunian

P. S. I'm not Irish.

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### **Alumni Profile**

## **Vince Gomez** (Class of 1952)

From kindergarten to college, Vincent Gomez will complete over five decades of teaching in California public schools at the end of the present school year. During his career he has conducted youth and professional music groups at prestigious venues such as Carnegie Hall in New York, Disney Hall in Los Angeles, the Rudolfinum in Prague, and the Cultural Center of the Philippines in Manila.

Mr. Gomez was born in San Francisco of Filipino parents and started violin lessons at the age of five. Public school education led to a diploma from Galileo High School where he earned a scholarship to University of the Pacific. At Pacific he majored in music with emphasis on violin performance but also found time to play college basketball. He played against such future stars of the Boston Celtics as Bill Russell and K. C. Jones. He graduated with honors from Pacific, gaining a Bachelor of Music degree and music teaching credential plus membership in the Phi Kappa Lambda Music Society.

His teaching career began in the Lowell Joint School District in Whittier in the late 50s. In 1964 he received the Master of arts degree in Music Education from the University of Hawaii. In 1990 he retired from Cabrillo College where he is a member of the emeritus faculty. His music teaching experiences have included assignments in public schools throughout California including Berkeley, San Carlos, Tracy, San Francisco, Willowbrook (Los Angeles) and U. C. Davis. During his tenure at Cabrillo College, he also conducted the Santa Cruz Youth Symphony and the Monterey Youth Orchestra.

Mr. Gomez has taught and conducted in Ecuador, Honduras, Brazil, and Costa Rica under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission. While on sabbatical from Cabrillo his project, "Western Symphonic Music in the Philippines" gave

him the opportunity to conduct the major symphony orchestras in Manila and to found an orchestra in Cebu, the country's second largest city.

His teaching career includes choral music as well as orchestral, and he has also instilled an appreciation of music in thousands of choral group members throughout his career. Professionally he has conducted the Sacramento Chorale, San Francisco Bay Area Chorale, and the Unitarian Choirs of Honolulu and San Jose, and the world famous Las Pinas Boys Choir of Manila. As a baritone, he has performed throughout Europe as a member of several professional choral groups.

His professional musician experiences as a violinist, violist, or bassist include symphonies throughout California and Honolulu. Jazz music jobs with groups in Los Angeles, Las Vegas, San Francisco, and Honolulu are also part of his resume. He is a life member of Local 478 and Local 6 of the American Federation of Musicians. He has performed with entertainers Dinah Shore and Victor Borge and jazz artists The Hi-Los, Jackie Cain and Roy Kral, and pianist Les McCann, among others.

Although formally retired, Mr. Gomez continues a rigorous schedule. He serves as an artist-in-residence of the San Jose Unified School District and an orchestra consultant for Santa Monica High School. He is a frequent guest conductor and adjudicator for vocal and instrumental groups throughout the country. He judges for the CMEA Festivals, the Heritage Festivals and the Gene Harris Jazz Festival in Boise, Idaho. As a music consultant, he spends countless hours in classrooms, working with music educators at every level.

He also continues to conduct high school groups at music camps, music festivals, regional and all state groups. During the summer seasons he performs as a bassist/vocalist with his jazz trio at the Stinson Beach Grill on the California coast north of San Francisco. A lifelong baseball fan, he serves as a "ball dude" for the San Francisco Giants baseball team and has served on the education committee of the Giants Community Fund Board of Directors, helping to instill participation and love of sports in young people throughout Northern California.

Mr. Gomez lists the following conductors as major influences of his work: In instrumental music, Dr. Denis de Coteau and Maestro John Koshak; and in choral music, Dr. Howard Swan and Dr. Albert McNeil. He has been an MENC member since 1956 and was the National Chairman of the Multi-Cultural Commission for several years. In 1996 he was named the Outstanding Music Educator of the Bay Section of CMEA.

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*Note: The above is from the program notes for the March 14, 2009, concert where Vince Gomez conducted the California All-State Orchestra at the California Music Educator Conference in Ontario, California.*

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# LETTERS

I read the January issue. I am always warmed by the mention of people I remember from the old days. Having had a sister at Gal ten years before I was there, I recognize many names I wouldn't otherwise have known. It's a good newsletter. Keep up the good work. Like you, I'm very fond of the old days, and my writing reflects that fondness. Thanks again for your help. I appreciate it.

Tony Compagno, Class of '61.

***Ed. Note:** Tony is the author of "A Remarkable Collection of Angels," a fictional reminiscence of 1954 San Francisco, and his new book, "Seasoning," a series of humorous essays.*

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RICHARD MCGUFFIN (DICK) ([DJMCG@SUREWEST.NET](mailto:DJMCG@SUREWEST.NET)) writes:

FRANK (ADDIEGO) AND I HAVE BEEN CLOSE FRIENDS SINCE 1941. WE HAVE TALKED ON THE PHONE MANY TIMES OVER THE YEARS AND MET AT OUR REUNIONS. HOWEVER, I TRIED TO CALL HIM AND HIS NUMBER HAS BEEN DISCONNECTED. DO YOU KNOW IF HE IS STILL WITH US OR HAS HE PASSED ON? IF HE IS STILL WITH US, I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHERE HE IS AND IF HE HAS A PHONE NUMBER. IF, HOWEVER, HE HAS PASSED, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. THANK YOU, DICK

***Ed. Note:** Anybody out there know? If so, please let Dick McGuffin know at the above email address.*

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I am trying to find out a number of things related to my recently deceased father, Ernest Elwood "Ernie" Poggi. I have thus far been unsuccessful in finding anyone who will respond, let alone provide me with information. I need to know how to determine:

1. What year my father graduated from Galileo (probably either 1943 or 1945);
2. What years he lettered in varsity baseball, and whether he lettered in any other sports;
3. What years Galileo won the city baseball championship while he was a member of the team;
4. Any honors he received or student activities in which he participated.

I would greatly appreciate any assistance or referrals you would be able to provide. I am quite surprised this information is not available online somewhere.

Is there somewhere (like a library) that would have all the Galileo yearbooks for the 1940s that I could peruse?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pietro G. Poggi

415 424 4344

[pietro@musiquetropique.com](mailto:pietro@musiquetropique.com)

***Ed. Note:** Pietro, please accept our condolences to you and your family on your father's passing. I suggest you contact Mark Huynh, journalism teacher at Galileo Academy who has an archive of past yearbooks that you can look through. Also, if any of our readers were classmates of Ernie Poggi or knew him while in school, please contact Pietro at the*



*phone number or email address above. From the description of your father's accomplishments in sports, it appears he could be a candidate for induction into the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame.*

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My sister Alisandra Yriarte, who graduated from Galileo in 1961, passed away on July 24, 2008 in her sleep. If you can post this on your website, my sister's school friends can post their thoughts of her on the website, <http://mem.com>. Just type her name Alisandra Yriarte Reed, date of death, July 24, 2008. Our family and her sons and husband would love to hear what all her friends thought of her and the good times they had. We lived in North Beach during the time she attended Francisco Junior High and Galileo High School. I am her sister, Jennie Parrilla, and my email address is [parrilla94064@yahoo.com](mailto:parrilla94064@yahoo.com). Hope to hear from you.

***Ed. Note:** Please accept our condolences. We do not post obituaries on our website, but this listing will reach the readers of The Observer.*

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NOTE: In an Editor's Note in the January issue, we referred to Ms. Bettie Grinnell erroneously as Assistant Principal. She is Assistant to the Principal. Sorry, Bettie.

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## **GAA BOARD OPENINGS**

**WANTED: Alumni to fill 4 openings on the GAA Board of Directors.**

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.**

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## **CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Dragon Boat Races, Lake Merced, 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Saturday, April 18, 2009**

**31<sup>st</sup> Bayview District Reunion Dinner/Dance, Peninsula Italian-American Social Club, San Mateo, April 18, 2009**

***Epur Si Mouve/Lives in Motion, Galileo Academy, 7:00 PM, Friday, April 24, 2009***

*Amici Vecchi* (Old Friends) Luncheon, Caesar's Restaurant, Noon, Saturday, May 2, 2009

GAA Board Meeting, Galileo Academy, 6:30 PM, Thursday May 14, 2009

Class of 1969 (40<sup>th</sup> Reunion) - Green Hills Country Club, Millbrae, Saturday, October 3, 2009

65<sup>th</sup> Homecoming Song & Yell Contest, Galileo Academy, Friday, October 16, 2009

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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.

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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 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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**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](mailto: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](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com), or by postal mail to: Galileo Observer, c/o Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

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

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