



# THE GALILEO OBSERVER

The Official Newsletter of the  
Galileo Alumni Association



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

VOL. IV, No. 1

January, 2006

## Editor's Note

I welcome you to 2006 and the first issue of the New Year. The Observer is now a quarterly publication and will be issued in January, April, July and October. In between issues, any noteworthy news will be reported and posted on the Galileo website, [www.galileoalumni.org](http://www.galileoalumni.org). Please visit the website often for the latest news and events.

The issue leads off with an important message from GAA President Jim Dresser. This is followed by a brief biography of an extraordinary alumnus, Jerome Solari, and his generous donation to the Academy. The usual columns, "Through the Telescope" and "Mez Sez" are here as well as some nostalgia.

This month we start a new column called "The Hart of the Matter". Why "Hart" and not "Heart"? Because until the third grade, I spelled my last name as "Hart". Then one day Miss Kemp, my teacher, said, "It's about time you learned to spell your name." So I started writing "Der Harootunian". Today I still use "Hart" on different occasions. The column will deal in more depth with topics that do not fit the format of "Through the Telescope". The first topic, following Renee Mau Wade's illuminating first-person story on Hurricane Rita, deals with my memories of New Orleans, especially its restaurants. I hope you enjoy this new addition to The Observer.

Renee's article was written one week after Hurricane Rita hit the area of Texas where she now lives, and we decided to publish this account because the aftermath of the disaster is still fresh in our minds.

We hope you enjoy this and future issues, and we wish all of our alumni a healthy, happy and prosperous year.

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## A Letter from the President

January 2006

To All Galileo Lions,

This month, a packet is being mailed to all members of the Galileo Alumni Association. Included are a GAA membership card, the *Galileo Observer*, a letter from the Membership Chairperson, and three letters from Galileo Academy of Science and Technology (formerly Galileo High School) administration and staff.

A GAA member is defined in the Bylaws as "any person having attended Galileo for any period of time or served in the capacity of staff or faculty at Galileo and having submitted a completed GAA Application Form."

So even though you receive online communications from GAA, if you haven't sent in a form, you're not a member of the Association. To become a member, please complete and submit the application form. You'll find it at <http://galileoalumni.org/membership.html>.

An annual donation of \$25.00 from each member is suggested to defray operating costs and support the activities of the Association. (Board members receive no perks or financial compensation from the money you donate.) We don't want to exclude anyone from membership and appreciate any support you can give. Since GAA is a non-profit organization, all donations are tax deductible. Please make your check payable to "Galileo Alumni Association" and enclose it with the application form to GAA, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Currently, there is one open position on the Board of Directors. Any member of the Association who is willing to attend Board meetings and participate on a committee may be considered for appointment to this position. If you're interested or know of someone who might be, please contact me at [president@galileoalumni.org](mailto:president@galileoalumni.org).

The Board of Directors welcomes suggestions from members. Recently four alumni, two of whom are members of GAA, inquired about the removal of Meeting Minutes from the website. After discussing the length of time between meeting date, approval of Minutes, and website posting, a decision was made at last November's meeting to provide more timely "Highlights". Now you'll find these on the website shortly after each meeting. In addition, we invite you to attend and participate at Board meetings.

*The Galileo Observer*, our quarterly newsletter, will continue to be emailed to all alumni who have provided email addresses. From now on, hard copies will be mailed to GAA members without email. However, if you're a member and your email service is blocking delivery, let us know, and we'll see that you receive a hard copy, too.

We invite you to check our website regularly for news and announcements <http://galileoalumni.org/home.html>. Anyone planning alumni events or reunions, willing to serve on a committee, or having something to share with other Lions will find contact information at <http://galileoalumni.org/contact.html>. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jim Dresser  
President, GAA

### *Alumnus Extraordinaire*

## Jerome Solari

Recently Jerome Solari (February, 1946) made a generous donation of \$15,494 to Galileo Academy in care of the Galileo Alumni Association. The endowment is the first of its kind and the largest contribution ever made to Galileo Academy by an alumnus.

Jerome, who is 76 years young and retired, is married to Nancy, and has two children, both boys, living in Antioch and Sacramento, respectively, and a total of 5 grandchildren going on 6. He is a native San Franciscan and one of the rare persons who attended Spring Valley School, Marina Junior High School, Galileo and U. C. Berkeley. In talking with Jerome for this article, he reminisced about his days at Galileo and his friends. Jerome now lives in Cow Hollow, not far from his boyhood schools.

Jerome was an excellent student at Galileo and was enrolled in an accelerated program that enabled him to graduate in two years. At Galileo he was a yell leader and head of the R.O.T.C. He went on to U. C. Berkeley, graduating in 1949, and attended Boalt Hall of Law, becoming a lawyer in 1952. Although he never practiced private law, he joined the CPA firm, Deloitte & Touche, managing their tax department, and retired at age 55.

Today Jerome enjoys playing bridge three times a week and walking his dog on the beach. He is also a member of the Bohemian Club.

In making his donation to Galileo, Jerome said he wanted to help the high school improve its educational standards and hopes the funds will be used to achieve this purpose.

The Galileo Alumni Association, guardians of the endowment, and Galileo Academy, thank Jerome for his generosity and loyalty to the

institution of his youth. We all wish his family the best in the years to come.

SDH

1/21/06

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### Galileo to Benefit from Donation

The Galileo Alumni Association wishes to acknowledge Jerome P. Solari, class of 1946, for his generous endowment. After expenses, the net worth of stock donated was \$15,166 which has been reinvested.

The money is to be used for Galileo Academy of Science and Technology at the discretion of school administration. At this time, Margaret Chiu, principal, has declined use of any of the endowment but knows funds are available upon request.

Jerry has the gratitude of faculty, staff, students, and parents, as well as GAA. He truly exemplifies the Galileo spirit.

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### Alumni Raise Funds for Galileo Athletic Programs

Dick Bechelli, class of 1951, has matched \$1,000 in funds raised by GAA for Galileo's Athletic Department. Thanks to Dick's generous donation and to the many donors who responded, GAA will be presenting a check for \$2,040 to the Athletic Department on February 21st. Since Galileo's budget for athletics was cut by 20% this school year, the gift is greatly appreciated.

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Exclusive to The Observer

## **RITA, A WEEK LATER**

by Renee Mau Wade (1951)

**On Friday near sunset, the sun was shining under the outer edges of the hurricane clouds coloring the landscape a bright yellow. The clouds were swirling black and weird like in a science fiction film. You could see the outer edges of the system and the clouds moving counter clockwise around us, as we were on the outer edge then. On Saturday afternoon you could see the clouds still going around but way to the East and still going counter clockwise.**

**I stayed at my son Keith's home on Friday night, the night of the hurricane. He didn't want me to be alone. I am fortunate to be so blessed. We taped windows in both our houses, brought in anything that could go airborne and filled the bathtubs with water. We were quite worried that we were in the path of Rita so we watched TV all the time. I even packed up my valuables and important papers and put them in marked plastic containers. We didn't know what to expect until Friday evening as we live about 40 miles north of Houston. If Rita had taken the original path estimated five days before we would have been hit really hard, as we would have been on the "dirty" side of the hurricane, which is the right side. Two days later we were in the eye's direct path. With that in mind I shopped Wal-Mart four days before and they were almost out of everything that didn't have to be refrigerated -- canned tuna, water, batteries, paper products, canned anything and candles. (Candles inside glass reflect more light and are safer.) People were waiting outside for the trucks to unload. Water was the biggest thing. I filled bottles of water and put them in the freezer days before, as ice was not to be had anywhere by Thursday. By Friday everything was closed and all services stopped.**

**Rita turned eastward Friday night and we ended on the "clean side", or left side, which is the side with less damage. When it hit about 3 AM Saturday, we lost power so were dependent on the portable radios, also a must-have. The wind and rain were crashing against the windows, and I had never experienced such force of nature before. I was scared. Transformers were exploding and showering their blue light into the clouds.**

**Coming back home on Saturday afternoon there were many huge trees cracked in half with large and small branches all over the place. Some fences went over and parts of roofs were scattered around but no significant damage. The power was still on and off for hours at a time. Water had leaked into my dining area and a few branches had blown off the trees, but as far as I know that is all the damage I had. Rita also peeled some of the duct tape off the windows.**

**Having cash on hand is so important. I met some people from New Orleans about two weeks before Rita who couldn't get any of their bankcards to work. I offered them cash but they refused, smiling and saying that we had all been so kind to them and they would appreciate it if I would pray for them. I am sure that all the prayers really saved us here and we are all thankful for that.**

**The massive evacuation was the biggest in history, about 2.5 million from Texas alone. People left who were not under evacuation orders, and that really filled up the four separate freeway lanes going north which was the main problem in this**

historic evacuation. People were going one mile an hour on the roads going north with some people pushing their cars to save gas. They finally opened the South lanes and by Friday afternoon the freeways were clear. Two days before there were long lines at the little local gas stations in my area, and on the main street the police controlled the lines. We got none of the network programs all week as all the TV stations kept telling us of the huge devastation coming, then we lost all signals when Rita hit.

The “clean side” of the hurricane was felt here for about 10 hours. We have power outages off and on and are supposed to boil our water. Gas is still in short supply. We expect the electricity will be a problem for a while. Huge helicopters continue to go over the house all day, taking supplies into the area badly hit to the East of me. Slowly we are getting back to normal. The week leading up to Rita was as stressful as anything you can imagine.

***Ed. Note:*** For important information on how to prepare for a disaster, go to [www.72hours.org](http://www.72hours.org).

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## **The Hart of the Matter**

### **Memories of New Orleans**

#### **(Or What The Force of Nature Could Not Destroy)**

The first time I went to New Orleans was in the early 1970s. TIME & LIFE was having a meeting at the Grand Hotel in Point Clear, Alabama, near Mobile, and I flew into The Big Easy the weekend before to explore its mysteries and attractions. I liked it so much that I convinced three of my colleagues to re-visit New Orleans the weekend after the meeting. We rented a car and drove over the same road that took the life of Jayne Mansfield, arriving in the Bayou City in time to rent a double suite of rooms in the Royal Orleans Hotel (now the Omni). We bought bottles of champagne and put them on ice, awaiting a successful weekend with the fairer sex. As it turned out, one of our group got involved with a local girl who personally escorted him on a tour of the French Quarter.

I have been to New Orleans several times since that first double weekend, and each time I visit I am captivated – by the atmosphere, the cuisine, and the fun. On one trip I took the City of New Orleans from Memphis, but that train trip was disappointing. All I saw *en route* was marshland.

On Bourbon Street it is New Year’s Eve every night. Happy-go-lucky people roam the streets of the French Quarter, drinks in hand, going in and out of watering holes, the most famous of which is Pat O’Brien’s where Emile, the legendary entertainer would play and sing any song you named (he knew them all). Once he

sang “San Francisco”, the Jeanette MacDonald version, for me. None of the famous Hurricanes they serve in the bar were as devastating as Katrina was.

I remember Preservation Hall and the jazz band that played in a hole in the wall. The group used to visit the Stern Grove Festival in San Francisco every summer for many years. Then there was Brennan’s, perhaps the most well-known restaurant in New Orleans, where I had a memorable brunch of poached salmon on that first trip. The wonderful Brennan family now owns several other restaurants.

Although Brennan’s claims to have invented Bananas Foster, that incredible taste treat, the owner of The Court of Two Sisters told me that it was first introduced there. One can hear live jazz there during brunch.

Ah, New Orleans . . . the Hotel Monteleone with its Carousel Bar, the Jazz Museum, the French Market with its Café du Monde and the *beignets* served with coffee, the Acme Oyster House, Paul Prudhomme’s restaurant, the Absinthe Bar, Galatoire’s, a reminder of our Tadich Grill, the Martin Lawrence Gallery where I bought my Picasso, the elegant Windsor Court (an Orient Express hotel), Harrah’s Casino, the view from the Westin, Emeril Lagasse’s Nola, the Christmas decorations in the block-long lobby of the Fairmont Hotel, the new Ritz-Carlton Hotel, the trolleys that take you past Tulane University and the wealthy mansions of a bygone era, the Superdome. And then there’s Mama’s, the Cajun restaurant where the line goes out the door, you order your food (*etoufee*, great jambalaya and gumbo) and grab whatever table is open. The manager comes out to the waiting crowd and invites them inside to buy a huge Bloody Mary. Mama’s was and is New Orleans.

I had turtle turtle soup in five different restaurants on one trip. The best was at The Commander’s Palace, a restaurant of enormous reputation. Emeril worked there as well as other famous chefs who have moved on. I was greeted by one of the Brennan family, who now owns the restaurant. The wine manager personally showed me the wine cellar and we discussed various California wines. I was given a tour of the entire restaurant including the kitchen. It was the most edifying and friendly experience I had in New Orleans. Nearby in the Garden District stood the house of Anne Rice, the author of the vampire books.

I had a trip planned to New Orleans last November, but I had to cancel it for obvious reasons. Knowing the people of New Orleans and the love they have for their city, they will rebuild, just like San Francisco did after the 1906 earthquake and fire. In the aftermath of the overwhelming tragedy of Katrina, somehow cool heads will prevail, and although it will take a long time, the determination and pride of its citizens will make the new New Orleans an even better place. Out of tragedy grows the opportunity for the rebirth of a great city. Even the great force of Nature cannot destroy the spirit of New Orleans.

## Through The Telescope. . .



**New Year's Revolution:** Resolutions are fleeting; revolutions are lasting. This year do something you have not done before. Travel to a foreign country, take up a hobby, make a new friend, read a good book, volunteer for a charity, buy a computer. Look skyward. . .the sky is blue and the sun is shining.

The best movie I saw last year was "Cinderella Man". It was both uplifting and noble. Also noteworthy were "Crash" "Walk the Line" and "Match Point", Woody Allen's thriller which is playing now.

Jerry Courtney, Galileo's new Assistant Principal of Curriculum, recently paid a visit to the GAA Board meeting. He reported that there are now 2,200 students enrolled with a wait list of 150 applications. The ethnic breakdown is as follows: 42% African-American, 38% Asian-American, 16% Caucasian, 4% Other. Galileo has received a six (6) year accreditation from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the maximum. The roof of the school building was redone with copper flashing, and hidden cameras have been placed in the school.

Galileo alumni were a-buzz about the Washbag night last summer. So Bill Dito (1950), the organizer, arranged another event in early December, and it was attended by alumni who couldn't make the first one. Vince Gomez (1952) and partner-pianist Dick Fregulia really enjoyed entertaining the crowd with their great songs and the crowd responded in kind. (Read Vince's account of the first bash below in his "Mez Sez" column.)

*Como estas?* . . . The Bamboo on Polk Street is the only Chinese restaurant I know where the owner speaks Spanish and the background music is Latin. Reason is he is from Peru where there is a large Asian presence, especially in Lima.

**Redundant:** Why do people walk up the escalator at B.A.R.T. when they can just stand and ride? There are staircases for people who want to get exercise.

**Hall of Famers All:** An item in the Chronicle points out the fact that Galileo may be the only school in the country to have bred Hall of Famers in four different sports: Hank Luisetti (basketball), Joe DiMaggio (baseball), O. J. Simpson (football) and Lawson Little (golf). All are in the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame except DiMaggio who attended Galileo for a very short time (one week, I'm told).

Rummaging through some old papers, I found a newsletter (one page in length) dated 1986 from the Galileo Alumni Association signed by Principal John Quinn and Alumni Coordinator Jack McCaffrey announcing a general reunion planned for mid-October of that year and asking for contributions. A fundraiser, "An Evening on Broadway", featuring professional and student performers, was planned



for February to supply badly needed uniforms for the band. The faculty of the 50s and 60s mentioned in the newsletter were James Donohue, Luciclare Ansel, John Chin, Blake Deaver, Gerald DeRyan, Anne Dougherty, Norman Keeve, and Mark Knoell. Can't say I recall any of them.

On the walls of my bedroom I have pictures of Pablo Picasso, Ernest Hemingway, Marilyn Monroe, Elvis Presley, Vincent van Gogh, St. Francis of Assisi, Willie Nelson and William Saroyan. All are dead except Willie Nelson. These are people I have admired over the years. Each morning when I get up I am inspired by one or the other of them. Each night when I go to bed, I have the feeling that they are watching over me.

Two performers who could defy audiences, in my opinion, were Barbra Streisand and Frank Sinatra. I sat in the eleventh row at the Winter Garden in New York City during preview week, and when she sang "I'm The Greatest Star" in the musical "Funny Show", she literally stopped the show. There was a standing ovation. The first time I saw Sinatra was at the Sands Hotel in Las Vegas. When he walked on the stage to thundering applause he could have turned around and walked off and still the audience would have been happy to have seen him. Both of these stars had stage presence and held audiences in their grasp.

Telephone numbers once had personalities. Remember when numbers started with words such as Exbrook, Hemlock, Underhill, and Graystone? Mine was Overland and my Dad's shop's was Ordway 9634. You could tell by the prefix in what neighborhood the phone was located.

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW?** The three worthy recipients of the first Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarships are all at UC campuses. Veronica Girma and Trevor Chuan are both at UC Davis, studying biochemistry, while Emily Wu is at UC San Diego, studying biomedical engineering. These students who are now Galileo alumni are outstanding representatives of the high caliber of education provided by our *alma mater*.

**Help:** You've heard the phrase, "the whole nine yards"? Why not ten yards? If anyone knows the origin of this phrase, please contact me.

**Pet Peeves:** 1) Paper stickers on fruits and vegetables. 2) Ballparks with commercial sponsors' names (e.g., Monster, SBC, Qualcomm). Why not stick with Candlestick or Oakland Coliseum? Do you think Fenway Park in Boston or Yankee Stadium in New York City would allow a corporate sponsor to invade their tradition? Let the advertisers pay for billboards or signs inside the park instead.

**Thought for Galileo alumni:** *Your rewards in life are always in direct proportion to your contribution.* --Anonymous.

**Fortune Cookie:** Price is what you pay. Value is what you get.

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## Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarship Fund

In December 2004, through the generosity of the Ron Ertola family, the Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarship Fund was established. In June 2005, three scholarship awards of \$1,000 were presented to students who met the following criteria:

1. Earn all high school credits at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology.
2. Have a grade point average of 3.0 or higher.
3. Show outstanding commitment to the school, student activities, and the community.
4. Graduate in June of the calendar year.
5. Continue on to a community college or four-year college.

Scholarships will be awarded again in June 2006. You are invited to contribute to the scholarship fund by mailing a tax-deductible donation to Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. Please make checks payable to Joan Lucchesi Ertola Scholarship Fund.

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## Mez Sez

by Vince Gomez

Thanks to the orchestra students of Lincoln High School (San Jose), I was given a gift of two tickets to "An Evening with Tony Bennett" at the Saratoga Winery on August 27, 2005. Between the relaxed opener, "Watch What Happens", to the moving interpretation of the Alan and Marilyn Bergman ballad, "How Do You Keep The Music Playing", Tony treated the capacity crowd of 1750 fans to an entertaining 90-minute set from his vast repertoire developed over the past 55 years. The four supporting musicians who were masters of their instruments included Ed Musiker (piano), Grey Sargent (guitar), Paul Langosh (bass), and Harold Jones (drums). On the third tune of the evening Bennett featured pianist Musiker with an interesting arrangement of "Maybe This Time". Guitarist Sargent played the only instrument behind Bennett's rendition of the Hank Williams standard, "Cold, Cold

Heart". Harold Jones, a former drummer with the Count Basie band, was the rhythmic drive for all of Bennett's up tunes along with bassist Langosh. "I've Got Rhythm" was the tune where everyone in the band showed off their technical skills. Other arrangements included "The Best Is Yet To Come", "Speak Low", "Old Devil Moon", Smile", and "You're All The World To Me", which preceded his signature hit, "I Left My Heart In San Francisco". An interesting part of the evening was the accompaniment of the cicadas on a soft ballad, "Fly Me To The Moon". It was a wonderful performance by the veteran balladeer in a beautiful setting on a starry summer night.

On July 28, 2005 Galileo alum Bill Dito organized a group of Galileo graduates from the 50s for a gathering at the Washington Square Bar and Grill. Pianist Dick Fregulia and yours truly on bass were the musical background while the 26 alums and spouses had a great evening at the old North Beach watering hole. A highlight of the evening was when former Lion yell leaders John Zuffo and Monica Parenti Kirkland led the group through songs like "It Had To Be You", "All of Me", and "Bye, Bye Blackbird" with our accompaniment. It was so good to see our faithful Lions having such a good time. Among others I got to see former classmates Beverly De Losa and Barbara Amadeo for the first time since our days at Francisco and Galileo. My fellow musician Fregulia, and Washbag owner Guy Ferri were very impressed with the energy and remembrance of lyrics and melodies from the "older" Lions!

On September 9<sup>th</sup>, San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt Cain, a 20-year-old rookie, pitched a 2-1 two hitter against the Chicago Cubs. On that evening the ball dudes on the left and right field lines were Galileo alums Harry Holsworth and myself. On my way to my post in right field I had brief chats with Moises Alou, who remembered his Canada College coach Tom King (Galileo alum), Omar Vizquel, and Cubs manager Dusty Baker (former Giants manager). Harry and I had a great time being on the field with all the major league players, two Lions hanging out with the Giants. Till my next column, STAY HEALTHY!

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## **Oakland Teaching Fellows**

### ***Bringing Outstanding Professionals to the Urban Classroom***

GAA has been contacted to see if any alumni are interested in a career in teaching, especially math, science, and special education, in the Oakland public schools. More information follows.

This fall, more than 40 new teachers entered the classroom as Oakland Teaching Fellows and brought a commitment to raising student achievement in Oakland to hundreds of students in our public schools. The Fellows program seeks other accomplished, motivated career-changers and recent college graduates to join them and dedicate their skills to creating lasting change by teaching in the Oakland Unified School District. This is an opportunity for outstanding individuals to train this summer to begin teaching math, science and special education this fall. Fellows earn a California Teaching Credential

and, as teachers and leaders, impact the lives of our students and the future of our community. To apply and for more information, please visit our website:  
[www.OaklandTeachingFellows.org](http://www.OaklandTeachingFellows.org).

Regular Application Deadline: February 20, 2006

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## **A Memento of the Reunion**

**Richard Lee (Class of 1958) has captured the highlights of the Reno reunion on a DVD. Pictures were taken by several classmates and were given to Rich who put them together on the DVD. It is available for purchase for \$20 (includes protective envelope & postage). \$5 from each sale will go to the Galileo Alumni Association.**

**To obtain the DVD, please contact Rich Lee at [richlee@worldnet.att.net](mailto:richlee@worldnet.att.net), Nina Clima at [PalmiraClima@aol.com](mailto:PalmiraClima@aol.com), or Jennie Wong Lee at 640 - 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94121.**

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## **Hank the Great**

*Phil Palette's book, "The Game Changer", about Galileo and Stanford basketball great Angelo "Hank" Luisetti, is on sale online at [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com) for \$22.90 plus shipping. You can get it at a discount at the following website: [www.hankluisettibook.com](http://www.hankluisettibook.com). There it is \$17.50 plus shipping, which is about \$5.*

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## **A Day at the Ballpark**

**Hello Fellow Classmates and Friends:**

**We had our annual event last year at SBC Park where we watched Barry Bonds hit his 705th homerun. It was quite a sight!**

**It was nice to see those of you that made it to the pre-game tailgate and game. We hope that you had plenty to eat and drink. For those of you that did not make it to the event, we sure missed you and hope that you can make the next event. The weather was fantastic, not too hot and certainly not cold.**

**We had taken plenty of pictures of our event and have them posted on OUR website. You can click on the link to be redirected to the website. Also please let our fellow classmates whose email addresses we do not have know about our website.**

If you have recently moved or changed your email address, please visit our website and click on the Update link to submit your new information.

Our warmest regards,

Class of 1972 Reunion Committee, [www.galileoclass72.org](http://www.galileoclass72.org)

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## Honors & Tradition in San Francisco (a postscript)

It was a warm May night in North Beach. People were walking along Columbus Avenue while outdoor café diners were enjoying each other's company and the gastronomic delights of this culinary-conscious city. Cars were jockeying for parking spaces. The area was alive as early as 6 o'clock with the noise of a San Francisco crowd that couldn't wait to celebrate the coming of summer.

Inside the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club an annual event was taking place that would bring together old and new friends in a celebration of Galileo High School athleticism. Twelve former Galileans were being honored at the Galileo Sports Hall of Fame dinner. It was a grand night. The moment I walked in and saw the table arrangements and the smiling faces of dozens of old friends, I knew we were in for a special evening.

130 people sat at round tables decorated in purple and orange. Applause greeted the 2005 recipients of the Hall of Fame honors when they were introduced and presented with their medallions. Memories were exchanged and shared among the attendees, many of whom hadn't seen each another for forty or fifty years.

After it was all over and people started to leave, the feeling was that the evening had brought together alumni and friends who were proud to honor the athletic achievements of the Lions who had once roared for the Purple and Orange. --- SDH

*(This year's event will take place at the Elks Club in South San Francisco on Saturday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. See following article.)*

### SPORTS HALL OF FAME COMMITTEE SETS DATE FOR 2006 DINNER

The Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Committee has set May 6, 2006 as the date for its next dinner and awards ceremony. It will be held at the Elks Club in South San Francisco. The Elks Club is a larger venue than the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club, where previous dinners have been held, and provides plenty of free parking. Full details will follow in the April issue. Meanwhile the committee is accepting nominations for its 2006 awards. Visit [www.galileoalumni.org](http://www.galileoalumni.org) for a nomination form.

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**GALILEO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
Financial Statement  
September 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005**

<b>BALANCE FORWARD</b>		<b>\$8,403.59</b>
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership donations (New members)	<b>\$150.00</b>	
Membership donations (Renewals)	<b>80.00</b>	
Donation DVD Sales, Reno Reunion	<b>45.00</b>	
Donation drive – matching funds challenge	<b>1,040.00</b>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$1,315.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Postage Stamps	<b>\$66.60</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$66.60</b>
<b>BALANCE</b>		<b>\$9,651.99</b>

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**SOLARI ENDOWMENT FUND (Bank of America)**

Received 11/29/05 (Stock)	<b>\$15,494.00</b>
Sold 12/14/05 (Stock)	<b>15,246.40</b>
(Loss)	<b>(247.60)</b>
Commissions and Fees	<b>(112.64)</b>
<b>FUND BALANCE</b>	<b>\$15,133.76</b>

Submitted by:  
Joe Scafidi  
Treasurer, GAA

## LETTERS

| Karla Zimmerman (Carol Halas, Class of 1948) writes:

*Would there be any interest in having a Southern California Galileo reunion/get-together? Those of us who do not live in San Francisco or nearby can't always make it to the Northern California parties.*

**Ed. Note:** Anybody interested should contact Karla at [Karlaz@msn.com](mailto:Karlaz@msn.com).

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*Dear Mr. Dresser:*

*Thank you for your explanation of the facts. I love hearing about my old High School, even though I am not able to be involved personally. How would one go about trying to locate a former teacher? I graduated in 1959 and Mr. Frank Voci was a very wonderful, helpful teacher to us foreign students. Any suggestions? Thank you so much for any help. Warmest Regards, Eleonore Freund*

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*I am John McGlinchy, the son of the late Donald McGlinchy, an English teacher at Gal from 1958 until his untimely death in the 1989 earthquake. The 1988-89 school year was going to be his last. Sadly he never enjoyed the retirement he deserved.*

**Ed. Note:** Our condolences to John.

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I am trying to contact Alvin Lau, Class of 1956. If anyone knows of his whereabouts I would appreciate contact. I only went to Gal for one semester in 1955. Steve Kugel [skugell@aol.com](mailto:skugell@aol.com)

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My name's Tony Compagno from San Mateo, CA. I graduated from Galileo in June '61. I was a quiet, short kid with a bad complexion who played some sports and wrote a sports column for the Pendulum called from the Sidelines."

I'm still short. I've been to two reunions so far, and I enjoyed both greatly, seeing people I regard with the kind of fondness hard to duplicate as we move through life, somehow.

To the point: I have written a novel, offered by PublishAmerica from Baltimore and available on-line (through PublishAmerica.com, Barnes & Noble.com or Amazon.com). It's a fictional reminiscence of San Francisco, particularly the Marina and North Beach areas, in 1954, when I was ten. It would be of interest to baby-boomers, especially those from The City, or to anyone who grew up in or remembers the 50's intimately. It is deeply nostalgic and filled with many recognizable types based largely on people I've known. It is, however, a work of fiction, but tries to capture the truth and texture of that precious time and place.

I need to toot my own horn, and am trying to get the word out about my book any way I can. I think a mention in your newsletter and/or on your website would go a long way in bringing the book to the attention of those most likely to respond to and be engaged by it. It's called "A Remarkable Collection of Angels" and is a fairly short read at 169 pages, chock-full of details of time, place and character.

As for the quiet boy who walked the corridors of Galileo so long ago, I have been married for 36 years and have two grown daughters and a one-year-old granddaughter named Lily, the flower of my advancing old age. Where do the years go?

Again, Happy 2006 to all; I hope it's a great year for you and me and ours. Thanks.

Tony Compagno, Class of June '61.

**AND**

I very much appreciate your swift response to my note regarding my novel about San Francisco in '54. I don't know if you looked on-line for info about the book, but I am sending some material in the mail. Again, thanks for your graciousness, and I hope that you or anyone who reads my fictional reminiscence of 1950's San Francisco will feel that I have "nailed" the precious time and place. There's nothing wrong with living "with" the past; it's just that we shouldn't live "in" the past. Thanks again, Sisvan; perhaps we'll meet and talk one day soon. Happy New Year.



## **Proud San Francisco Natives honor Herb Caen, SBC Park and celebrated San Francisco Native Day, Friday, September 16, 2005**

On Friday, September 16, 2005, The Second Annual San Francisco Native Jamboree brought together native San Franciscans in celebration of their shared history. Legendary San Francisco columnist Herb Caen was inducted into the San Francisco Native Hall of Fame, and his son, Christopher Caen, accepted the award on his late father's behalf. Caen remarked that the evening "felt like Brigadoon", and that his father would have been touched to have been recognized by the native San Franciscan community.

A first generation San Franciscan, SF Fire Chief Joanne Hayes White personally read mayor Gavin Newsom's proclamation that September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005 is known as Native San Francisco Day, celebrating the opportunity to "reminisce about the special places of the past, and remember the interesting people that have crossed mutual paths".

In addition, Mark Borchardt from HOK accepted the "SF Classic" award for the design of SBC Park. Daniel Homsey, Director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, was the master of ceremonies. Honorary Board members Anne Marie Conroy, Ann Cochrane and Virginia Gee were in attendance. Tony Hall performed a San Francisco song. Carl Nolte was also present. Carl wrote the "how to talk like a San Franciscan" article that spawned the idea for this event.

Festivities ranged from performances by the local band, the Jazzaholics, and a raffle, to the awarding of a prize to the family to bring the most native San Franciscan generations to the event.

Event organizers and sponsors Linda Molinari Mansouria, CFO of San Francisco Generations, Inc. and President of Make It Happen, LLC and The Meetings Academy and Debra Mugnani Monroe, CEO of San Francisco Generations and President, Monroe Personnel Service LLC, led the crowd in a toast to their native city, hailing San Francisco as "the brightest star on the western coast of these United States of America...long may your hilly landscape gladden the hearts of all".

To support the community, the San Francisco Native Jamboree benefited the San Francisco Conservation Corps. Their mission of helping San Francisco's young people by providing education, training, and marketable job skills while addressing community needs through service work touched the volunteers and a portion of the net profit will be donated to this particular non-profit.

The event was supported by many sponsors, with special recognition being given to the Golden Gate Sponsors: Pete Brannigan, Realtor Associate, B.J. Droubi and Company, Make It Happen LLC, and Monroe Personnel Service LLC and Temptime.

(Additional information on these and other events at [www.galileoalumni.org](http://www.galileoalumni.org).)

February 9 – GAA Board Meeting, 6:30 PM, Room 210, Galileo

May 6 -- Galileo Sports Hall of Fame Dinner, Elks Club, South San Francisco

## Volunteer Help Wanted: Web Designer

The Galileo Alumni Association webmaster has big plans for the website <http://galileoalumni.org/> and needs help. The webmaster, [Vaughn Spurlin](#), is a highly experienced software engineer, with basic web design skills. As anyone can see, the GAA site could be lots snappier. But Vaughn's goals go way beyond that, towards an open source project that would look great on anyone's resume. Look around at other nonprofit websites, and you'll see a real need for better site building tools. Let's build up the GAA site, and use the experience to create a high quality package that can serve all the needs of small nonprofit organizations anywhere on the planet.

- Web page templates
- Information architecture framework
- Content management, so nontechnical team members can publish web updates
- Membership database, available for remote updates by organization officers
- more ...

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

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### FROM THE EDITOR AND THE WEBMASTER

We have learned that AOL may be blocking the receipt of our newsletter by subscribers. If you get email through America Online (@aol.com), then you may not be receiving our newsletter. We are working on delivery by postal mail, but for now please check back periodically and read the news on the GAA website, [www.galileoalumni.org](http://www.galileoalumni.org). You can also download it from there if you **wish**.

We appreciate your patience until we resolve this problem.

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**HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY**

**HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY**

**HAPPY EASTER**

**WRITERS/REPORTERS WANTED!**

For articles and stories on alumni, events, whereabouts of graduates for this newsletter. No mastery of English required, just your willingness to communicate and participate. Contact the Editor.

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**If you would like to promote your Galileo event on the GAA website <http://www.galileoalumni.org/>, please send information to [galileoobserver@aol.com](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com) and/or [webmaster@galileoalumni.org](mailto:webmaster@galileoalumni.org).**

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**The Galileo Observer invites your articles, letters, memories, inquiries and suggestions. All submissions are subject to editing. Deadlines for submissions are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1. Send them by email (preferable) to: [galileoobserver@aol.com](mailto:galileoobserver@aol.com), or by postal mail to: Galileo Observer, care of Galileo Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.**

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