



THE QUARTERLY

BY

THE CALIFORNIA CLUB

Spring

EDITION

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MESSAGE FROM THE President

Dear Members,

Spring is in the air at The California Club – as we value our longstanding traditions, we also embrace changes that enhance the Membership experience. Whether you have been able to welcome some of our wonderful recently admitted Members or enjoy the many new Club events and programming, I hope that you are experiencing this positive momentum.

In her regular communications, our GM & CEO Janis Clapoff, has made earnest efforts to keep you informed of all that is happening at The Club. During her first six months, Janis has introduced fresh ideas that have been well received by Members, including Lunches with an Author, Conversations with Chefs, the Opera Series, and Piano Bar Nights, amongst others. Janis also launched our first Wellness Week along with an ongoing Longevity and Wellness program – yes, you can get a massage or facial at The California Club!



Janis' most meaningful contributions came in the throes of the devastating Eaton and Palisades fires – she relied on her hospitality roots to provide comfort and a sense of community to our Members when they needed it most.

With our management team focused on many important initiatives, our Board of Directors remains focused on The Club's strategic imperatives, including our financial strength and stability. As I mentioned at this year's Annual Meeting, there are numerous economic and other challenges facing downtown clubs such as ours. This is exacerbated by extreme inflation in recent years that has greatly increased our expenses, including the cost to preserve our historic Clubhouse. I also stated that with your support, we will build a plan to accomplish our short-term goals and create a position of strength for the longer term.

Working closely with certain committees and other dedicated Members, we have developed a plan that will be shared in the coming weeks. With the support and dedication of our Members, I am confident that this plan will provide the necessary capital in the coming years to not only maintain the current world class California Club experience, but to also add services and amenities that will be highly valued by our current Membership and increasingly appealing to future Members for many years to come.

Finally, at this year's Annual Meeting we honored the tenure of President Mark Hutchins and his work over the past two years through a period of change at The Club. I thank him for his leadership and commitment to our Club and the ideals of excellence it upholds.

I look forward to our upcoming **Member Town Hall on Thursday, May 1**, where we look forward to sharing ideas and hearing your comments.

In the meantime, I hope to see you around The Club.

Patrick Niemann
President, The California Club

Please Welcome our New Board of Directors

Patrick J. Niemann- President
Lewis C. Horne- Vice President
Stephen G. Larson- Secretary
Roger L. Yang- Treasurer

Wayne M. Brandt- Director
James G. Ellis- Director
Diana Nixon- Director
Sarah E. Scher- Director
Michael L. Turrill- Director

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Dear Members,

As we reflect on the last few difficult months, I want to take a moment to express our gratitude once again for your continued support and participation in our Club's events.

I would like to again extend my thanks to all our Members who participated in our Heroes Appreciation Day at the Los Angeles Police Academy. It was a great success, and we are so proud of the outpouring of support from our community.

As always, our mission is to be the role model for what the number one Club in the United States should look like, setting a standard of excellence that is continuously world class.

Every member of our team, from hiring new to training existing team members, is dedicated to upholding and improving upon this standard across all aspects of our operation.

On this note, I am excited to announce a special event coming up this summer. On June 4th, we will be welcoming **Antoine Corinthios**, the retired President of Four Seasons Hotels (overseeing Europe, Middle East and Asia) as our guest speaker. Antoine will share his expertise on Brand Authenticity and discuss what it truly takes to be world class; it is an event we would love you all to attend!

In May, we will be hosting our second wellness week, a celebration of the synergy between mind, body, and soul. We are honored to bring you **Dr. Linda Shiue**, an esteemed physician, chef and founder of a teaching kitchen for patients. She believes that the best medicine is prevention. She is the first director of culinary medicine at Kaiser Permanente in San Francisco. Her new book, *Spicebox Kitchen: Eat Well and Be Healthy with Globally Inspired Vegetable Forward Recipes* will be given to all who attend.

Additionally, we will bring in **Palma Collectiva** from Santa Barbara, to conduct a Cacao Sound Bathing Experience. Look out for the first stair climbing and boxing initiatives that will be launched-two exciting fitness activities to help you stay engaged and committed to aerobic health. Our Transformational coach and Mandala specialist, Renate Hume, will return for the week as well.

On May 1, Patrick Niemann, our President along with several of our Board members and myself would like to share our vision fusing The California Club's legacies and traditions with our future. More details to follow.

As always, thank you for being a part of our Club family.

We look forward to the upcoming months filled with events, new opportunities and continued growth.

See you at the Club.

Warmest regards,

Janis Clapoff, CEO



First responders at the Hero Appreciation Day on Thursday, March 20, 2025.



Adam Weiss, Mary Urquhart, & Aden Kun with Los Angeles Police Chief & Fellow Member Jim McDonnell.

Sustainability & Corporate Responsibility

We are thrilled to share the exciting initiatives our team has been working on to promote sustainability and corporate responsibility. Our dedicated internal committee, made up of passionate employees focused on “saving the planet” has developed a comprehensive plan to help reduce our environmental impact.

One of the most pressing areas we have identified is our use of plastic water bottles. After evaluating our consumption, we found that we use approximately 42,000 plastic bottles each year, which is equivalent to around \$50,000. While cost is not the primary driver of this initiative, it is eye opening to realize how much plastic waste we generate and how expensive bottled water can be.



Elimination of Plastic Bottles: Once our current supply of plastic water bottles is used up, we will no longer be using them at the club. Instead, we will provide water coolers in the back offices for staff use and remove bottled water from all back of the house areas.



Water Stations: We will offer cold water in pitchers during meetings and switch to glass or aluminum bottles in fitness areas, garage, restaurant, and bars.



Water Bars: Look for specialty water bars throughout The Club by this summer, featuring refreshing lemon, strawberry, and other fruit infused waters!

Once we have successfully tackled the plastic water bottle initiative, we will move forward with our additional targeted areas such as:



Composting: We will begin composting kitchen waste to minimize our environmental impact.



Waste Separation: We will implement better waste separation processes throughout The Club to ensure that materials are recycled or disposed of responsibly.



Green Building Certification: As a long-term goal, we are working towards earning our Green Building Certification, which will highlight our commitments to sustainability and corporate responsibility.

We are proud of the steps we are taking to make our Club more sustainable and to play a part in protecting the planet for future generations. Stay tuned for updates on our progress and how you can get involved.



Employee Spotlight

HEATHER RAMIREZ | Director of Catering

Each Quarterly we spotlight an employee or team that stands out for their contributions to The Club. For our Spring Quarterly, we wanted to introduce you to the new head of our Catering Department, Heather Ramirez.

Can you tell us a little bit about your background in hospitality?

I have been in hospitality for 30 years working in Catering and Events departments for luxury hotel brands including Hilton, Ritz-Carlton, and Four Seasons as well as luxury independent hotels like Hotel Bel Air, Ojai Valley Inn, and Beverly Hills Hotel. My career has taken me from Washington DC to Maui to Las Vegas and LA, as well as working as a Sales and Catering hotel consultant for properties in Central California, Florida and the Big Island of Hawaii.

What have you noticed is different about The California Club in comparison to past places you've worked?

The biggest difference I see is the tenure of the employees. Seeing people working here for decades in the same role or being promoted up says a great deal about the level of loyalty and commitment there is to each other and to the Membership. I'm excited to be part of it!

What's been one of your favorite moments since you started?

Getting to know the Members. Hotels are so transient and although I worked with repeat groups and clients, seeing our Members everyday and really getting to know them is special. It really feels like a family.



Honoring Years of Service

Two long time employees retired this past quarter: **Busser Santiago Bejar** after almost 50 years of service and **Receiving Clerk Joel Balmeo** after 34 years of service. We thank them for their commitment to The Club and wish them the best for their well-deserved retirement!





Reciprocal Club Spotlight

Membership at The California Club includes access to 34 leading domestic and international private clubs thanks to the reciprocal agreements we maintain. Members can visit or stay at reciprocal clubs while traveling, enjoying the exemplary services they offer. Below, we spotlight the Metropolitan Opera Club, located in Manhattan within the Metropolitan Opera House.

THE METROPOLITAN OPERA CLUB

Founded in 1893, the Metropolitan Opera Club is one of the best kept secrets of New York's opera world. This private club is located on the Dress Circle level of the Metropolitan Opera house, and it offers its members a private dining room, bar, and most importantly, access to seats for just about every performance by the Metropolitan Opera.



Metropolitan Opera House Exterior



Metropolitan Opera Club Dining Room

The Club's exclusive premises, at the heart of the Lincoln Center, offer a friendly, collegiate atmosphere with a strict black tie dress code that also creates an air of elegance.

In addition to the Metropolitan Opera's season of performances, the club also offers exclusive dinners and events honoring star singers, chorus, and orchestra members, allowing members to get to know them in a more intimate and personal environment. All of these events make the Metropolitan Opera Club a truly unique cultural institution that is treasured by its members.

As one of our reciprocals, California Club Members may use the dining room and bar of the Club for up to (10) performances per year and may purchase Metropolitan Opera "Club Seats" as well. We hope the next time that you spend an evening in New York City that you take advantage of this unique opportunity to appreciate the opera. You can learn more about the Metropolitan Opera Club at www.operaclub.org.

**Scan or click the code for the list of
Reciprocal Clubs.**



Striving Towards World-Class Excellence: The California Club's Vision for the Future

At The California Club, we are on an exciting journey toward becoming the gold standard in private clubs worldwide. Our goal is to be recognized as the benchmark for excellence in every aspect of what we do, setting the bar for service, facilities, and Member experience. We aim to become the role model that others look to for how to deliver exceptional service, the finest products, and a memorable club experience.

We know that great initiatives take time. Transforming into a world-class institution requires careful planning, dedication, and continuous refinement. We're not starting from scratch—our foundation is already strong, but the work of refinement and training is now underway. As we continue on this path, we are committed to nurturing and growing what we've already established, while setting our sights on an even brighter future.

So, what does it mean to be a world-class private club? We have highlighted a few of the key characteristics below.

- ★ **Limited Membership and Selectivity:** *Our selective application process ensures that we attract individuals who align with our values and are committed to upholding The Club's high standards.*
- ★ **Privacy for Members:** *Our members' privacy is paramount, and every aspect of The Club is designed to offer a sanctuary where they can relax and connect with others in a confidential and secure environment.*
- ★ **Standards of Excellence:** *The three key standards of excellence at The California Club that we strive for are exceptional service, high quality of our facilities and their upkeep, and member engagement and experience.*
- ★ **Global Recognition and Prestige:** *We intend to achieve global prestige by focusing on building elite partnerships and attracting discerning members who value the uniqueness of The California Club experience.*
- ★ **Personalized Member Services:** *We are creating a dedicated team of Member Liaisons who will provide tailored experiences and truly understand each Member's individual preferences.*
- ★ **Leadership and Management:** *Our ongoing staff training and development programs will be integral in fostering a culture of continuous improvement, ensuring operational excellence at every level.*
- ★ **Community, Culture, and Belonging:** *Our Members will have opportunities to engage in interest groups, volunteer initiatives, and other programs that foster a sense of belonging and shared purpose.*
- ★ **Sustainability and Future Outlook:** *As we move forward, we are committed to eco-friendly operations and sustainability.*

All these steps and initiatives are designed to position the California Club as the gold standard in private club operations worldwide. Our brand will be synonymous with service excellence, luxury, and prestige, becoming a symbol of what it means to be a truly world-class institution.

As we continue to nurture and develop our club, we are excited about the journey ahead and the incredible experiences that await our members. Together, we will shape a future where the California Club stands as the epitome of excellence in everything we do.

The California Club: Where Excellence Meets Legacy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

 **CLOSED**

Saturday, April 19: Club Closed

 **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Tuesday, April 8: Lunch with an Author *featuring Dawn Tripp, author of "Jackie, A Novel"*

Sunday, April 20: Grand Easter Buffet & Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Tuesday, April 22: Preserved Flower Arrangement Workshop *with Keigo Sato*

Tuesday, April 29: Mahjong New Card Social

Wednesday, April 30: Trivia Night



TUESDAY, APRIL 22: PRESERVED FLOWER ARRANGEMENT WORKSHOP WITH KEIGO SATO

 **Piano Bar Nights** 

featuring Luca Ellis

*Tuesdays & Fridays in the Third Floor Bar
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May



SUNDAY, MAY 11::
MOTHER'S DAY GRAND BUFFET

 **Piano Bar Nights** 

featuring Lisa Crawley

*Tuesdays & Fridays in the Third Floor Bar
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

 **CLOSED**

Saturday, May 10: Club Closed

Monday, May 26: Memorial Day Club Closed

 **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Thursday, May 1: Member Town Hall

Wednesday, May 7: Distinguished Speaker Luncheon *featuring Nicole Avant, former U.S. Ambassador, award-winning filmmaker, and author of "Think You'll Be Happy"*

Sunday, May 11: Mother's Day Grand Buffet

Tuesday, May 13: Lunch with an Author *featuring Maggie Shipstead, author of "Great Circle"*

Monday, May 19 - Friday, May 23: Wellness Week *featuring boxing, yoga classes, facials, mandalas, life coaching, and massages along with special speakers*

Wednesday, May 21: Cocoa Sound Bathing & Luncheon *with the Palma Collectiva*

Wednesday, May 21: Well-Crafted Wednesday Cocktail Class

Thursday, May 22: Watercolor Class with Biodynamic Wines & Cheese

Friday, May 23: Conversation with Chef Luncheon *featuring Dr. Linda Shiue, author of "Spicebox Kitchen"*

Wednesday, May 28 Trivia Night

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

CLOSED

Saturday, June 28 - Monday, June 30: Club Closed

DINING

Tuesday, June 3: Tuesday Night Buffet

Wednesday, June 4: Reception & Chat "World Class Luxury and Authenticity in Branding" *featuring Antoine Corinthios, Former President of Four Seasons Europe, Asia and the Middle East*

Friday, June 6: Jazz & Grilled Cheese Night

Thursday, June 12: Lobster Night

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, June 10: Lunch with an Author *featuring Edward Humes, author of "Total Garbage: How We Can Fix Our Waste and Heal Our World"*

Monday, June 23: In the Kitchen with Chef Roy Cooking Class & Luncheon

Wednesday, June 25: Well-Crafted Wednesday Cocktail Class

Wednesday, June 25: Trivia Night

Thursday, June 26: Annual Summer Smoker Dinner

Friday, June 27: Opera Series Dinner



THURSDAY, JUNE 26: ANNUAL SUMMER SMOKER DINNER

 Piano Bar Nights 

featuring Lisa Crawley

*Tuesdays & Fridays in the Third Floor Bar
5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July



CLOSED

Tuesday, July 1 - Sunday, July 6: 4th of July Club Closed

DINING

Tuesday, July 15: Tuesday Night Buffet

SPECIAL EVENTS

Tuesday, July 8: Lunch with an Author *featuring Gillian Flynn, author of "Dark Places"*

Wednesday, July 30: Well-Crafted Wednesday Cocktail Class

Wednesday, July 30: Trivia Night

July TBD: Jazz Festival

JULY TBD: JAZZ FESTIVAL

In Focus



Carole Solner, Joan Quinn, Cathryn Palmieri, Jann McCord, & Tricia Grey at the Seaman Schepps Jewelry Luncheon



David Martin, John Welborne, Mary Klaus Martin, & Guests at An Evening of Food, Fellowship & Intellectual Sustenance with David Martin



Author Annie Barrows with Alex Campbell & Cindy Boyd MacPherson



Jonathan & Ashley Rich at the Valentine's Day Dinner



Elizabeth, Bruce, & Joyce Stokes at the Paul Haddad Speaker Dinner



David Rosenblum, Hugh Grant, Rebecca & Patrick Niemann at the Annual Meeting



Carson, Brooke, Casandra & Scott Porter at the Opera Series Inaugural Dinner