



THE QUARTERLY

BY
THE CALIFORNIA CLUB

Spring

EDITION

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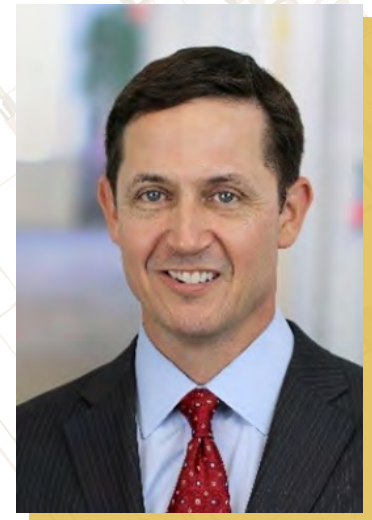
MESSAGE FROM THE

President

Dear Fellow Members,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I extend to you and your families our warmest wishes for a happy and refreshing Spring season and a joyful Easter. As the days lengthen and the Club enters this new season, there is much to be optimistic about and to look forward to together.

The California Club is presently in a period of meaningful transition and opportunity. We are actively preparing to conduct national searches for both a new General Manager and a new Executive Chef. These two roles are central to the experience and traditions of our Club. Food, wine, and service are among our highest priorities, and we are excited by the prospect of identifying exceptional leaders who will help elevate these hallmarks of the Club in the years ahead.



In that spirit, we wish Executive Chef Roy Khoo our sincere thanks and best wishes as he departs in April when he will be “going home” to Auburn, Alabama. We are grateful for his contributions and wish him every success in his next chapter.

Members who may know of outstanding candidates are warmly encouraged to share referrals by reaching out to the Board of Directors at BOD@californiaclub.org.

Thank you for your continued engagement, support, and commitment to The California Club. We look forward to the months ahead and to sharing further updates on these important efforts.

With appreciation,

Patrick Niemann
President, The California Club

Chats with the President

Join us this month for our Chats with the President and Vice President.

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. & 4:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

These chats will be led by President Patrick Niemann and Vice President Roger Yang.

Drop by for a cup of coffee or glass of sparkling wine and a casual conversation. These gatherings are a great opportunity for us to hear your ideas, share feedback, and discuss upcoming happenings at The Club.

Farewell & Thank You to Chef Roy Khoo

For the past almost six years, Executive Chef Roy Khoo has been a force of innovation and culinary creativity in The California Club Kitchen. As we bid farewell to Chef Roy Khoo we look back on his tenure here at The Club with great fondness.

From fantastic wine dinners to cooking classes in the heart of The California Club Kitchen, Chef Khoo's culinary expertise has impressed across the board.

Chef Khoo will return to Auburn, Alabama, where he has maintained a residence for many years, to join Ithaca Hospitality Partners as Director of Culinary Innovation and Operations. In collaboration with the company's founder, a close friend, he anticipates contributing to growth, embracing new challenges, and developing large-scale food and beverage initiatives through innovative concepts and effective team leadership.

Chef Khoo has served the Club with distinction, upholding and advancing our longstanding culinary traditions while earning the respect and appreciation of Members, guests, and colleagues alike. While we are saddened by his departure, we fully respect his decision and are pleased for him as he pursues an exciting professional opportunity that holds deep personal significance.

We are grateful for Chef Khoo's many contributions and his commitment to ensuring a thoughtful and seamless transition. His leadership has strengthened our culinary program, and his presence will be fondly remembered. We also extend our sincere gratitude to his wife, Jenny, and their children, Elaine, Avery, and Ryan, who are enthusiastic about his next venture. We wish them all the very best.

We invite you to join us for a farewell reception for Chef Khoo on Wednesday, April 22nd from 5 p.m. - 6 p.m.



A Return to Traditional Dining

Last month we were delighted to welcome Members back to the timeless tradition of California Club dining, now once again hosted on the First Floor of our Clubhouse for both lunch and dinner. Thanks to the dedication and care of our management and culinary teams, this cherished experience has been thoughtfully restored. Many of you have already enjoyed being back in the Main Dining Room, and we look forward to welcoming even more of you in the months ahead.

As we continue this exciting transition, there may occasionally be previously scheduled private Member events that affect First Floor dining. Should this occur, we will always provide advance notice to keep you informed and ensure a seamless experience. In the meantime, lunch and dinner service will remain consistently available on the Third Floor, where you'll also find our newly refreshed, streamlined menu alongside the ever-popular Deck Buffet at lunch and breakfast service at the Third Floor Bar and Deck. The Third Floor Dining Room also now features gaming tables for those looking to play a game of dominoes, mahjong, or chess.

The traditional Long Table in the Main Dining Room reserved exclusively for Members at lunchtime has also been reinstated, offering a wonderful space to connect and enjoy the Club's vibrant community.

Please note that an updated dress code and standards have also been implemented for the First Floor, which is fully detailed on page nine of the Quarterly.

We truly appreciate your patience and enthusiasm as we reestablish First Floor service, and we welcome your feedback along the way. Should you wish to share your thoughts, Member John H. Welborne is graciously assisting management on behalf of the Board and would be happy to hear from you. John's contact information is john@welborne.net and (323) 935-1914.

Monday - Friday				
	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Bar
Third Floor	Third Floor Bar & Deck 7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Deck Buffet 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Third Floor Dining Room 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Third Floor Dining Room 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Third Floor Bar 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.
First Floor	N/A	Main Dining Room 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Main Dining Room 6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.	Main Bar 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.



Our 2025 Employees of the Year

W.O.W. WINNER

ELENA DERKACH

Elenna Derkach has truly set the standard for excellence. Nominated twice in 2025 and earning both Employee of the Month and Most Wows of the Year, in recognition of her outstanding dedication to our members and staff. Known for her positive “yes” attitude, Elenna handles last-minute requests, group changes, and additions with intention and speed, even stepping in after hours to assist.

In early 2025, she enthusiastically stepped into her role as Catering Supervisor, seamlessly supporting the Catering Team and offering thoughtful improvement ideas for the department. From mastering Club events for the first time to leading the design and décor of our largest celebrations—Easter, Mother’s Day, the summer series, and a successful holiday season—Elenna’s creativity, diligence, and collaborative spirit continue to be a benchmark for our World Class service commitment.



EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

CELESTINO CRISANTO

After 18 years at the Club, Celestino knows exactly what needs to be done. He always knows what needs to be clean and never has an idle moment. His team always looks to him as the example, thinking “what would Celestino do?” to solve any issues in the department. He treats the Club as if it was his own, showing constant respect and appreciation toward his fellow employees and Members alike.

The entire janitorial team looks to Celestino as a father figure, and he is well loved by the entire team. Congratulations Celestino!

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

PHILIPPA GUTRIDGE

After being recognized as Manager of the Quarter, we are proud to celebrate Philippa as our Manager of the Year for 2025—an honor that reflects both her outstanding leadership and the respect she’s earned across the Club.

Philippa is always the first to jump in and support her fellow employees. She takes the time to get to know everyone personally, building genuine connections that strengthen teamwork and morale. Known for her kindness and courtesy to coworkers and members alike, Philippa consistently maintains a calm, collected presence—even in the most high-pressure moments. Efficiency is one of Philippa’s greatest strengths. She is quick to learn new skills and continually offers innovative ways to streamline operations, from ClubFusion workarounds to improved kitchen communication and thoughtful use of weekly and daily distributions. Her proactive mindset makes the entire team stronger and more effective. Philippa also goes above and beyond to accommodate special guest requests, rallying staff to deliver their best while communicating even the toughest information to members with grace and empathy. Her dedication has been instrumental in retaining valued repeat groups such as the ERT, the Breakfast Panel, Chancery Club, and others—working creatively with them to overcome challenges while honoring long-standing traditions.

With a deep understanding of our Members’ expectations and a clear vision for the Club’s future, Philippa balances respect for tradition with an openness to growth and innovation. Her leadership truly embodies the values of our organization, and we are thrilled to recognize her well-deserved achievement. Congratulations, Philippa!





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. In this issue, we're spotlighting our Philadelphia club, The Union League of Philadelphia.

THE UNION LEAGUE OF PHILADELPHIA

Founded in 1862 as a patriotic society to support the Union and the policies of President Abraham Lincoln, The Union League of Philadelphia laid the philosophical foundation of other Union Leagues across a nation torn by civil war. Today, the Union League of Philadelphia remains a center for business, government, and international relations and has been ranked the #1 City Club in the Country for the seventh consecutive time.

Located twenty minutes from Philadelphia International Airport, The Union League occupies an entire city block in the center of downtown Philadelphia's commercial and cultural district. The Union League places you at the gateway to Philadelphia's exciting Avenue of the Arts, and just steps away

from City Hall, the Academy of Music, the Kimmel Center, excellent restaurants, theaters, historic sites, museums and shopping.



Presidents Portrait Room at the Union League

The building is representative of the classic French Renaissance style, with a brick and brownstone façade and dramatic twin circular staircases that lead to the main entrance on Broad Street. Built in 1865, the building was added to the National Historic Register in 1979.

The Club offers three different dining options for Members and guests including more casual dining at Café Meredith, everyday dining at Founders, and 1862 by Martin Hamann, the most exclusive dining room in Philadelphia.

In addition to dining, the Union League offers a premier health and fitness center with state-of-the-art Cybex equipment, personal training, nutritional analysis and laundry services.

With 84 luxurious guest rooms and one-bedroom suites, the Inn at the League offers an incomparable mix of distinctive history and unparalleled comfort and convenience.

Members should note that an overnight stay at the Union League is required to utilize any Reciprocal Club privileges.

You can learn more about the Union League at <https://www.unionleague.org>



Union League of Philadelphia Exterior



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

Dress Code and Standards

FIRST FLOOR DRESS & STANDARDS

For Gentlemen:

A suit, jacket or blazer, and collared dress shirt. Neckties are encouraged but not required.

For Ladies:

Clothing meeting similar standards such as tailored dresses, suits, and skirts or tailored pants with dress shirts, blouses or sweaters, and jackets or tops of equivalent formality.

For both ladies and gentlemen, white-soled shoes are acceptable (but discouraged) if they are dress shoes. No denim is permitted.

Business Papers are not to be displayed in the Main Dining Room.

THIRD FLOOR DRESS CODE

For Gentlemen:

A collared shirt with slacks or khaki pants. Tasteful denim that is not distressed, ripped, or defaced is also allowed.

For Ladies:

Clothing meeting similar standards such as dresses or skirts or tailored pants with blouses or sweaters of equivalent business casual attire. Tasteful denim that is not distressed, ripped, or defaced is also allowed.

Not Allowed:

T-shirts, shorts, hoodies, sports jerseys, flips flops, hats, tracksuits, or athletic shoes/sneakers.

Members and Guests are welcome to travel to and from the Ground Floor, Overnight Room Floors & Seventh Floor Fitness Center while not adhering to the dress code standards above, but may not travel to the First, Second or Third Floors.

CLUBHOUSE RULES OF DECORUM

PHONE POLICY

Talking on cellular phones is not permitted in the Clubhouse unless you are in either a Telephone Booth or a Private Meeting & Dining Room.

ELECTRONICS POLICY

The use of smart phones, tablets or laptop computers for web, email and texting purposes are permitted in all areas of the Club, but only in silent mode.

Should you have any questions about the dress code or house rules please contact the front desk at frontdesk@californiaclub.org or 213-438-1391.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday, April 5: Easter Brunch

Wednesday, April 8: Women's Committee Jane Austen Tea Party

Saturday, April 11: Classic Car Affinity Group Presents: ArtCenter College of Design Excursion

Friday, April 17: Martini Lunch

Friday, April 17: Children's Beginner Etiquette Class (*Ages 7-11*)

Monday, April 20: Author Luncheon *with award-winning journalist & author of "The Art Spy: The Extraordinary Untold Tale of World War II Resistance Hero Rose Valland, Michelle Young*

Tuesday, April 21: California Club Connects: Business Networking Breakfast Mixer

Tuesday, April 21: Lunch with an Author *featuring author of "Love & Other Monsters" Emily Franklin*

Tuesday, April 21: Book Discussion Dinner *featuring Trust by Hernan Diaz and When the Stones Speak by Doron Spielman*

Wednesday, April 22: Farewell Reception for Executive Chef Roy Khoo

Monday, April 27: Mahjong New Card Social

Wednesday, April 29: Trivia Night

Thursday, April 30: The James R. Shoch Dominoes Social Dinner



THURSDAY, APRIL 30: THE JAMES R. SHOCH DOMINOES SOCIAL DINNER

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May



SUNDAY, MAY 10:
MOTHER'S DAY BUFFET

CLOSED

Monday, May 25: Club Closed for Memorial Day

DINING

Tuesday, May 5: Cinco de Mayo Tuesday Night Buffet

SPECIAL EVENTS

Friday, May 1: Children's Intermediate Etiquette Class (*Ages 12 - 15*)

Monday, May 4: Women's Committee Flower Arrangement Class & Luncheon

Sunday, May 10: Mother's Day Buffet

Tuesday, May 12: Lunch with an Author *featuring author of "Canticle, A Novel" Janet Rich Edwards*

Tuesday, May 19: Opera Club *featuring mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves*

Tuesday, May 26: LA Central Library Tour & Luncheon *"Celebrating a Century of the Light of Learning"*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June

 **CLOSED**

Saturday, June 27- Tuesday, June 30: 4th of July Annual Closure

 **DINING**

Tuesday, June 2: Tuesday Night Buffet

 **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Wednesday, June 3: Library Committee Author Dinner *featuring Claire Ackroyd*

Wednesday, June 3: Roederer Estate Sparkling Wine Dinner

Tuesday, June 9: Lunch with an Author *featuring Lisa Genova*

Monday, June 15: Women's Committee "In the Kitchen" Cooking Class

Thursday, June 18: Conversation with Chef Luncheon *featuring Doinca Marchetti*

Friday, June 19: Father's Day "All the Classics" À La Carte Dinner

Thursday, June 25: Annual Summer Smoker



MONDAY, JUNE 15:
WOMEN'S COMMITTEE "IN THE KITCHEN" COOKING CLASS

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July



WEDNESDAY, JULY 29: SUMMER COOKOUT "THAT'S AMORE"

 **CLOSED**

Wednesday, July 1 - Sunday, July 5: 4th of July Annual Closure

 **DINING**

Tuesday, July 7: Tuesday Night Buffet

Wednesday, July 15: Summer Cookout *"Bastille Day"* Dinner

Wednesday, July 22: Summer Cookout *"BBQ"* Dinner

Wednesday, July 29: Summer Cookout *"That's Amore"* Dinner

 **SPECIAL EVENTS**

Tuesday, July 14: CC Connects: Business Networking Breakfast Mixer

Tuesday, July 14: Lunch with an Author *featuring Kerri Maher "Summer of Love"*

Friday, July 17: Martini Lunch

THE CALIFORNIA CLUB

In Focus



The Laykin Family at the Father-Daughter Dance



Leah and Michael Smith (center) with Guests at the Madeira "The Making of America" Wine Dinner



Frank Lavin with Executive Forum Speaker Maria Salinas



Diana Nixon, Michael Turrill, Patrick Niemann, and Lew Horne at the Annual Meeting



Craig Meyer, Aris Hovsepian, and Lalo Diaz at the Robert Burns Scotch Dinner



Women's Committee Members Patty McKenna, Rebecca Niemann, Tricia Grey, Neddy Warren, and Michele Wroan at the Frances Valentine Trunk Fashion Show



Jan Larson, Guest, Joyce Stuart, and Beth Stokes at Lunch with an Author featuring Ann Hood