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***eNews Update from ASQ Golden Gate Section  
ASQ0618, P.O. Box 360985, Milpitas, CA 95036-0985***



**Please note our new Web address:** <http://www.asqgoldengate.org>

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## **Upcoming Events**

**Thursday, March 19, 2009** – Joint Networking Event with San Francisco and Silicon Valley

We are in the final planning stages for the March Event, which will be all about Networking.

We recognize that networking with other quality professionals across industries is a valuable way to learn from the best practices of other professionals, and we are excited to host this event with the ASQ Silicon Valley and San Francisco sections. We will have topics related to networking and opportunities for you to share ideas and practice. The event will be held at Jillian's in San Francisco, conveniently located in the Metreon. We will start at 6:00pm and end at 9:00pm. Hors d'oeuvres will be served and pool tables have been reserved for play. No host bar. To register for this event:

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaid=175808>

### **Special Notice**

ASQ Golden Gate Section 0618 elections will be held at the beginning of the March 19, 2009 networking meeting. Our nominating chair offers the following slate of officers:

Chair: Wai Wong  
Chair-Elect: Mike Spencer  
Secretary: Arlene Kadrach  
Treasurer: Jeanne Vargas

To register for upcoming ASQ Golden Gate 0618 events: <https://www.acteva.com/go/asq0618>

## Program Notes

### Mike Ahmadi Reviews our February 12 Dinner Meeting

My darling wife Becky and I managed to make it through the tangled web of traffic and navigated over to “The Fish Grotto” in the nick of time. I did not want to miss the speakers this particular evening...indeed I did not. This was a joint meeting between the ASQ and the Institute for Supply Chain Management (the ISM), and two speakers were going to tag team the presentation. One was the highly regarded President of Pharmatech Associates, Bikash Chatterjee; the other was the relatively unknown Mike Ahmadi, COO of GraniteKey LLC (or as I like to refer to him...me!).

I walked in and noticed the warm colors of a building which was obviously built in a time when wood was a popular construction material.

Entering the meeting room, I noticed a large wet bar, but sadly, no bartender nor anything to drink. “No problem,” the staff informed me, “the bar is on the other side of the restaurant.”

This meant having to wind my way through several passageways, starting with a fish market (Dungeness Crab is STILL in season...huh!), several dining rooms, and a one-eyed dead pirate holding a bottle of dark rum and requiring a passphrase for entry.

“Quality Supply.” I whispered in the spot where his ear should have been.

“Arrrgh !” he replied, and let me through.

Okay, I am kidding ! Dungeness Crab is NOT still in season. YOU people will believe anything...sheeesh!

Anywhooo...I got myself and my wife a drink, and headed back to the meeting room. Fortunately, my iPhone GPS was able to locate me and I had no problem finding my way back. Thank you, Steve Jobs!

It was nice mingling with some new faces. There are always new faces present at an ASQ function, but the inclusion of the ISM meant lots more new faces, and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. We should do these joint events more often. The opportunity to extend our networks is always welcomed by all, and networking was the order of the day! The food was good. Spenger’s Fish Grotto is known for fresh seafood, which I absolutely adore. I had the chicken. The other choice was grilled salmon, but I refrain from eating any Salmon that is not specified as being wild since I read “The WalMart Effect”. The chicken was delicious but the salmon looked also looked delectable. I was told it was fabulous. (Ed. Note – The salmon WAS delicious; since I didn’t read The WalMart Effect and I don’t care for mustard, I had no compunction about eating the salmon. Life is short!) This was followed by a decadent chocolate cake, more like a hunk of chocolate fudge on a pool of berry sauce. Yummy !!

It was then time for Bikash and I to deliver our sermon. We discussed the importance of managing security as quality objective for the implementation of ePedigree. Bikash and I took turns delivering the presentation, with Bikash focusing on higher level regulatory and supply chain management topics, and I on high-level security issues. I thoroughly enjoyed watching Bikash deliver his portion of the presentation. He is a GREAT presenter, and his hair was PERFECT. I really need to watch him present more, and I have also got to get the name of his hair stylist !

The crowd remained alert, attentive, and engaged for the duration of the presentation. This is always a good sign. I enjoyed the questions that were posed from the audience, and was happy to know that Bikash and I could answer them. The evening ended on a nice positive note - profuse accolades from the guests. Thank you to all who attended !

Our next event is going to be at Jillian's in San Francisco. It is going to be a somewhat informal combined networking event between the ASQ Golden Gate, the ASQ Silicon Valley and the ASQ San Francisco chapters. This event comes complete with pool tables and, perhaps, a couple of "surprises". Networking is THE KEY to success in today's employment market, so be sure to attend.

I am looking forward to seeing you there, and I hope the bar is in the same room !

## **News from ASQ National**

### **63rd World Conference on Quality and Improvement**

Join ASQ at the 63rd World Conference on Quality and Improvement and open your mind to the latest quality knowledge and tools, enjoy networking opportunities with quality experts, and generate quality ideas through a broad range of sessions. Visit <http://wcci.asq.org> for more information. To view the conference press release on our Website, [click here](#).

### **FREE: Certification Exam Preparation Webinar**

This webinar, featuring one of our most experienced certification subject matter experts, is free (\$100 value) for a limited time. The webinar will help you:

- Select the perfect reference books to take to the exam.
- Develop a detailed review plan.
- Decide if you need to take a refresher course.
- Use practice exams to pinpoint areas for additional study.

[Register and listen in now](#) in the comfort of your home or office.

## **Keeping Up With the SF/Bay Area Sections**

### **ASQ - Silicon Valley Events**

Information about upcoming events and member services provided by the ASQ Silicon Valley section can be found at: <http://www.asq-silicon-valley.org/>

## **ASQ – San Francisco Events**

Information about upcoming events and member services provided by the ASQ San Francisco section can be found at: <http://www.asq-sf.com/>

## **ASQ – San Francisco/Bay Area Joint Events Calendar**

A combined calendar of upcoming events for the San Francisco, Silicon Valley and Golden Gate Sections can be found on Yahoo's Upcoming.org. To find out what's events are being sponsored by ASQ Sections around the Bay Area, go to:

<http://upcoming.yahoo.com/group/5069/>

## **SF/ Bay Area Networking Group available on LinkedIn**

LinkedIn is an online network of more than 25 million experienced professionals from around the world, representing 150 industries. The San Francisco/Bay Area ASQ Sections, including the SF, Silicon Valley and Golden Gate sections, have established a LinkedIn group, ASQ - SF/Bay Area Network - Sections 0604, 0613, and 0618. This provides a means for our members to enhance local professional networking opportunities. We welcome any ASQ member from a San Francisco Bay Area section.

To join the ASQ SF/Bay Area networking group, submit your request through the following URL: <http://www.linkedin.com/e/gis/146713>.

## **Certification and Recertification**

### **Upcoming Exams**

The Golden Gate Section will host the March 7, 2009 ASQ Certification Examination at the Dublin San Ramon Services District, 7051 Dublin Blvd., Dublin CA 94568.

On March 7, 2009, the following certification exams will be offered:

[Biomedical Quality Auditor](#)

[HAACP Auditor](#)

[Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence](#)

[Quality Technician](#)

[Reliability Engineer](#)

[Six Sigma Black Belt](#)

Complete information on the ASQ certification process can be obtained on <http://www.asq.org/training-and-certification.html>.

Our Education Chair, Blaine Glandt, may be able to direct you towards exam preparation classes or materials. Please email him at [education@asqgoldengate.org](mailto:education@asqgoldengate.org). For more information, see our [certification page](#) on the Golden Gate Section Website.

## **Recertification Process**

Recertification CU documentation is available at Golden Gate meetings and sponsored events. Please contact Jim Kohnen at [jim483@aol.com](mailto:jim483@aol.com) with questions about recertification. If you are coming due for recertification, and you are concerned about meeting the requirement of 18 recertification units, Jim will be happy to work with you to determine what experiences you have had that will help you to recertify without retaking the exam.

## **ASQ Courses Offered by Silicon Valley Section**

Silicon Valley offers a comprehensive selection of technical, certification exam preparation, and biomedical courses. Certification Courses assume participants have had experience in the field they are preparing for and are directed specifically to certification test preparation. You can find detailed information about the Silicon Valley course offerings at: <http://www.asq-silicon-valley.org/content/view/19/36/>

## **Chairman's Corner**

Change is inevitable, I suppose. A new baby, a new job... a loss of job. We are in the midst of change all the time, some big some small, but all affect us as individuals and community to some extent. My favorite quote about change these days is from the actor Harrison Ford- "We all have big changes in our lives that are more or less a second chance."

For me change must be seen as an opportunity, even when it appears that the change is unwelcome at first. These days friends, family members, long time colleagues and even I may be in the precarious position of losing a job. It is the fear of the unknown the fear of change that is most consuming. But even this type of change is an opportunity. Change forces us to look at who we are, who we want to be/become and where we will go next. That's an exciting prospect!

So I say welcome change and befriend it- for change is constant!

We are preparing for change at ASQ Golden Gate. We have our change in officers with the upcoming election in March; we have a change in name for our section to "ASQ East Bay", which we feel better describes our location of section members, boundaries and area of influence; we are changing the way we provide services to our members- focusing on increasing our membership, providing opportunities for networking, and improved communications to our members.

*See more about change or opportunity below:*

## **A change of pace**

In lieu of a dinner meeting for March, join us for the Networking event! Now is the time to practice your skills in a safe environment, a great event if YOU join us.

<http://www.acteva.com/booking.cfm?bevaaid=175808>

Remember that networking is two way street; it's not just for people looking for a job now, but can be a rich experience as you meet new people and grow relationships for the future whether social or professional. ASQ offers a unique opportunity to meet like-minded folks across industries.

### **The South San Francisco Life Sciences Fair**

To Initiate, Develop, and Promote Professional Networks.

To learn more about this fair, [click here](#). To register for the fair, [click here](#).

**MEMBERS Call to Action:** Would you be willing to volunteer to host an ASQ table onsite at the Life Sciences Fair?

March 9, 2009, 10-4pm South San Francisco Conference Center, if so please contact me at [chair@asqgoldengate.org](mailto:chair@asqgoldengate.org).

### **ASQ SF/Bay Area Linked in**

We now have 88 members and new discussions posted recently- [check it out!](#)

Kate Raymond

Chair – ASQ Golden Gate Section 0618

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