



▶ NEWLY ENGAGED AND NEWLY-WED COUPLES SHARE WITH US THEIR LOVE STORIES. **PLUS** WE DELIVER ALL THE BABY NEWS.....1

▶ WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED. WE'LL KEEP YOU CURRENT OF WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE BUSINESS WORLD TO THE LATEST IN TRENDS AND ENTERTAINMENT.....2

▶ WE ARE ALL OVER THE MAP! THIS SECTION WILL CONSIST OF STORIES, PHOTOS & OTHER NOTEWORTHY ITEMS THAT WILL HELP CONNECT US TO ONE ANOTHER.....3

DEPARTMENTS

IN EVERY ISSUE

BDO BAY AREA WATCH

THE NEWSLETTER CONNECTING THE BAY AREA PRACTICE

Valentine SPECIAL

Celebrating love & happiness for ever after

Newly engaged and newly-wed couples share with us their love stories.

He managed to turn an ordinary day extraordinary...on the morning of July 7, 2007 Gary Gee (*SF Assurance Associate*) proposed to his girlfriend Rianne as she was getting ready for work. He simply tapped her on the shoulder as she was fixing her hair. "When I turned around, he was on one knee, ring in his hand asking me to marry him...I started crying, said yes and told him...good job!" Gary and his fiancé are now busy planning their summer wedding. Sandy Chang (*SF Assurance Associate*) tells us her boyfriend surprised her as they were getting ready for bed..."he claimed that he was planning something fancy" however due to her having a scheduled out of town engagement he decided he couldn't wait any longer and proposed to her on the eve of February 7, 2007. Sandy and her husband John married last summer

at the Saratoga Country Club. A week following the wedding, the couple held another reception in Taiwan followed by a week long island paradise honeymoon in Hawaii. Phuong Huynh (*SF Assurance Associate*) recalls the day when she ran into her now husband for the third time...



Phuong Huynh, (SF Assurance Associate) and her husband, Joe reflecting on their future together

"It started out as a conversation to catch-up on old times...He is the love of my life, my best friend, and my husband. I couldn't have asked for a better partner in life."



Babynews

Congratulations to all these proud parents and warm wishes to their new babies joining the BDO family!

- Robyn Kawamura** (*SF Assurance Sr. Manager*)
- Binita Pradhan** (*SF Assurance Sr. Manager*)
- Silvia Golib** (*SF Receptionist*)
- Mehvesh Mapara** (*SF Tax Associate*)
- Grace Li** (*SF Assurance Manager*)
- Michele Mickelson** (*Recruiting Manager*)

Oh Baby!

& the BDO family only keeps growing! Congratulations to these new and expecting proud papa's, **Derek Matzke** (*SF Assurance Manager*) and **Todd Staples** (*SF Assurance Associate*). Baby Derek and baby Todd are both due in May.

We asked Kevin Bowman (*SF Assurance Sr. Manager*) & Todd Staples (*SF Assurance Associate*) if they have any tips for our newly-wed & newly-engaged couples. **"All I can say is marriage is very similar to work. When my partner tells me to do something - I do it. Otherwise, it could make life miserable and possibly financially detrimental."** - Kevin

"Create a bonfire of love you newly-weds and keep feeding that fire every day by serving your spouse" - Todd

BDO NEWS

Firm Announces Las Vegas Office Opening

The firm announced on February 27, 2008 that the Las Vegas office is now open. Plans are still underway to open an Austin, Texas office. This is the latest step in BDO Seidman's continued expansion into strategic new markets. The Las Vegas and Austin offices will bring the total number of BDO Seidman offices to 37. - BDO Communications

California Dreaming is a Reality!

On January 17, 2008 hosted by the So Cal offices, the Firm held its third and first west coast (regional) town hall meeting in Hollywood, CA. Be sure to watch it to keep abreast of all the latest BDO news and initiatives impacting the west coast and the Firm as a whole.

CONTENT HIGHLIGHTS

- Results of Last Month's Poll question...3
- Face Time with Chris Smith, Partner....4
- Enter to Win a \$25 Movie Card!.....5

DEPARTMENTS

Under \$10 - \$
Under \$20 - \$\$

Under \$50 - \$\$\$
Under \$100 - \$\$\$\$

FOOD & WINE

Chicken feet anyone?



A classic dim sum cart-delivered snack, chicken feet was not a favorite for Brent Vidulich, from Madison, WI (*SF Audit Intern*).

On this picture from left: Chris Nguyen (*SF Assurance Associate*), Brent Vidulich (*SF Audit Intern*).

Restaurant Review:

Koi Palace (Daly City) \$\$

A group of us in the SF office are in search for the best dim sum restaurant in the bay area. Our most recent visit was to Koi Palace (Daly City) where crowds of locals keep this place filled. Though the food variety was excellent we rated this place avg.



Wine Pick of the Month:

Raymond Reserve Cabernet Sauvignon 2003 (\$\$\$)

Deferring to the Jasper's sommelier, this wine pairs amazingly well with slow smoked baby back ribs. This wine is also the perfect match for a flourless chocolate cake. Raymond Vineyard's is in our own backyard, Napa Valley and a must visit as the staff are knowledgeable and friendly, free tasting coupon at their website as well.

Winemaker's notes: Blend:

85% Cabernet Sauvignon, 9% Cabernet Franc, 6% Merlot
Aromas of dark chocolate, blackberry, black cherry and a hint of violets envelope the senses. Opening flavors of ripe blackberry, blueberry and plum are followed by cherry, cassis and chocolate. An elegant, complex, balanced wine highlighted by lush fruit and a smooth, long finish.



PERSONAL FINANCE

Another Way to Diversify Your Portfolio

(BDO Benefits Bulletin)

Sector funds invest in a particular segment-or sector- of the economy. While you are focusing on a particular industry – say hospitals, technology or energy – the sector fund gives you diversification within a sector's industry.

ART & CULTURE

Movie Review: JUNO (2007); PG13; 1hr 31min

The last 3 movies I've seen, "Atonement" and "No Country for Old Men" have been a real disappointment. And "There Will Be Blood" was not only disappointing but also had the absolute worst ending I have ever seen in my life. But then my faith was restored in the movie industry. I was delighted to see a movie with a beginning a middle and an end. I understood it, identified and liked the character, even loved the great, normal ending. "JUNO" While JUNO may not be the best movie ever made it certainly is the best I've seen in the last few months. I think this movie is a complete package. I hope you will enjoy it as much as I have.

SPORTS

BDO (SF) Dodgeball Team Season Highlights

Organized by Finn Michaelson, Mark Snover (*SF Assurance Associates*) and Brandon Stevens (*SF Tax Associate*), the BDO Dodgeball Team played its first season and managed to make it to the playoffs with 1 win...and this was by default as a result of the opponent not having enough people to play. Unfortunately BDO did not make it past the first round of the playoffs as BDO was matched up with "Deathball" the undefeated team that holds the championship title for 6 seasons straight! The fierceness of this team was seen when the captain of Deathball broke his teammate's finger by throwing a ball at him while practicing.

"If we do it again, it will surely not be during the busy season" – Finn.

HEALTH & FITNESS

Body in Motion

On average we burn about one calorie per minute at rest mode. This easily adds to 1,440 calories burned per day for doing nothing! Researchers at the Mayo Clinic found that just being on your feet more can burn an additional 350 calories a day. Now think how many more calories you can burn by just being a little more active throughout the day. Perhaps you should consider sending your print jobs to a printer a few steps away from the one closest to you.

5 Tips on How to Survive Busy Season (*United Healthcare Guide*)

You may not always be able to make stress disappear, but you can manage it with some very simple techniques. Here are some great tips to help you deal with stress and help you stay healthy.

1. Take care of yourself. You can handle stress better if you eat nutritious food, exercise and get enough sleep.
2. Set limits. Trying to do too much will add to your stress. Focus on what's most important and learn to say 'No' to the rest.
3. Use relaxation techniques each day. Do some breathing exercises, gentle stretching or meditation. Listening to music, taking some quiet time for yourself or even picking up an old hobby can help too.
4. Let it go. Tell yourself that sometimes it's OK to just "let it go".
5. Get support. Sharing your feelings really can relieve your stress.

TECHIE CENTRAL

HD-DVD is Now History!

Blu-ray discs will now be the new format for the next generation of DVDs. Blu-rays can hold over 4X more information than a standard DVD. Currently, blu-ray discs cost ranges between \$25 and \$34. It is estimated that it will be 5 – 10 years before there's one in every home.

BUSINESS WATCH

What Will be the Future of Yahoo!

On Jan 29, 2008 after its eight straight profit decline, Yahoo announced it will cut about 1,000 employees or 7% of its staff. On Feb 1, Microsoft offers to buy Yahoo for \$44.6 billion dollars. The price is a 62 percent premium over Yahoo's Jan 31st close, but only about a quarter of what the internet company was worth at the height of the dotcom bubble in 2000. Yahoo's shares shot up 48% after this announcement. The board is set to evaluate the unsolicited offer.



LIFE ON EARTH

Did You Know? Total world population is estimated to be 6,602,224,175 (July 2007). Yes, that's 6.6 billion people! Of this total China represents 20% or 1,321,851,888 followed by India representing 17% or 1,129,866,154. While the United States represents only 5% of this total or 301,139,947. It's no wonder that Mandarin Chinese is the most spoken language in the world (13.22%). Surprisingly Spanish came in second at 4.88%, followed by English at 4.68%. – *CIA The World Fact Book*

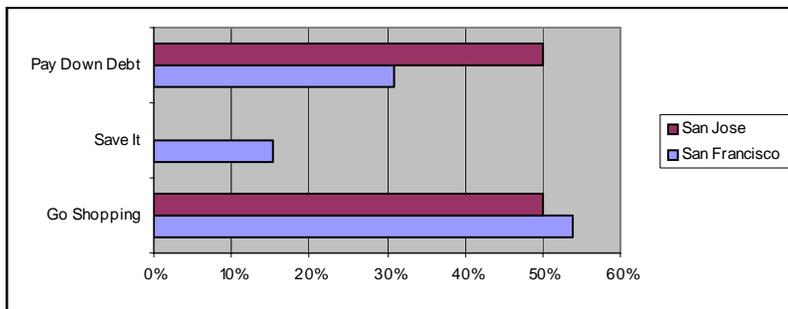
GREEN LIVING

Go Green with Household Cleaners

Unless you are using products scented with natural oils, your favorite "clean smell" is likely the result of a chemical concoction. Try natural cleaning agents such as baking soda and white vinegar whenever possible. Or look for earth friendly brands however be ware that just because it says "natural" for example does not mean that it's non-toxic or eco-safe.

Last Month's Poll Question Results Are In!

From Gucci bags or expanding the ever growing shoe collection to paying down debt, here is an office breakdown of the results of last month's poll question: How Will You Spend Your "Economic Stimulus Check"?



Participate in this Month's Poll Question!

Reader Poll

Which of these is on your "bucket list"?

- Bungee jumping
- Hand gliding
- Sky diving
- Neither, I cherish my life

vote

BDO WORLD.local



BDO Women's Initiative
Driving Opportunities & Opening Doors

BDO Seidman's Women's Initiative was created in 2006 by CEO, Jack Weisbaum, to better recruit, retain and advance women client-service professionals to maximize the firm's marketplace success.

The initiative has three strategic goals:

- Build **understanding, commitment and excitement** about the importance of women to BDO's business success
- Provide opportunities for women to **network** and form rewarding relationships
- Continue to develop and communicate consistent, well-defined **career paths and standards** to ensure opportunities for all BDO talent

The BDO Women's Initiative is excited to introduce **ConnectIn**, a series of local office networking events that aim to bring people together to form stronger business relationships.

Every BDO office has a "Local Networking Champion" who is charged with planning ConnectIn events over the course of 2008. Each event will be tailored to a different audience, but all events will work towards building relationships for the benefit of professional development and business success.

We encourage you to take advantage of the ConnectIn events. Stay tuned for more information from the Women's Initiative in 2008.

Chinese New Year Celebration

The San Jose office has resolved in 2008 to embrace and celebrate cultures and holidays outside traditional American holidays. San Jose began the year of the Rat with a Chinese New Year Celebration. The January Birthaversary held at the end of January included Chinese décor, treats and information presented by Office Assistant Rochelle Rotea. Everyone had an opportunity to find their birth year, look at their relationship compatibilities and learn the customs associated with Chinese New Year. On February 7, the office wore red in honor of the New Year and held a luncheon at the Mayflower Restaurant where they dined on Dim Sum.



Above: L-R, Teresa Chuang (SJ Tax Associate), Alvin Cheung (SJ Tax Intern), Shirley Ma (SJ Tax Associate), Douglas Sirota (Tax RBL), Wayne Corini (SJ Tax OBLL)

Due to size restrictions we were unable to include job titles for picture on right.



Above: L-R, Back Row-Patrick Smith, Jennifer Harris, Sherry Zhang, Iryna Haurylava, Yuliya Semenova, Lisa Bennett, Rochelle Rotea, Teresa Chuang, Alvin Cheung
Front Row-Pam Durham, Crystal Nichols, Shirley Ma

FACE TIME



Chris Smith

ADA Partner (Los Angeles) doesn't just practice what he preaches – he also teaches what he practices.

Best known for his Friday Webex sessions and PDM lectures, Chris Smith is also a “scrappy street fighter against whom you wouldn't want to be paired in an ultimate fighter match. Just ask Ken Gee (*SF Assurance Partner*) - had he not cried “Uncle”, he would not have been able to walk away from our last encounter inside that cyclone-fenced enclosure.”

Who is your Alma Mater?

Undergraduate - Montana State University – Where I was taught the 3 Rs: rodeoin', ropin', and rauditin'. Graduate – University of San Francisco – the leading institution of higher education in all of the Bay Area.

How long have you been in the public accounting profession?

Since 1985 – the same year that the 49ers won the Super Bowl, Lionel Ritchie had the album of the year, and I had a full head of hair. 22 years later, only the Niners stand a chance of ever coming back.

When did you join BDO?

In 1991 – I started in the Spokane, Washington office and transferred to Los Angeles in 1998.

What is your favorite thing about BDO?

As a firm, we take what we do very seriously, but not so much ourselves.

What part of your job do you like best?

The many professionals with whom I get to interact.

What is the most challenging?

All of the questions raised by the many professionals with whom I get to interact.

How has being a CPA changed you through the years?

If I had to limit it to just one thing, I'd have to say it's the paparazzi. Seems like we used to be able to go out to our clients without fear of them stalking us every step of the way, trying to capture us in some sort of unflattering photo.

Whom would you most enjoy inviting to dinner?

My wife. Speaking of which, can I get an extra copy of this newsletter to take home?

Who are your favorite artists?

Music: Coldplay, Linkin Park, The Verve, 50 Cent and Maroon 5. Actually, I just lied – I don't really know any of their music; I just said that to give myself “cred” with the many young BDO professionals in the Bay Area. I actually listen to artists such as James Taylor, Lyle Lovett, Van Morrison, and John Fogerty.

Painting: Van Gogh and Cezanne; Escape: Houdini

What are your guilty pleasures?

“Guilty”? If the good sisters at Queen of Apostles grade school in San Jose couldn't slow me down with the “guilty” thing, why must you? Regardless – coffee ice cream, dark chocolate, and reruns of “Saved by the Bell”.

The road not taken

If I weren't a CPA, I would be sitting around, making up stories about all the places I've ever surfed, the size of waves I tore up over the weekend, and otherwise pretending to be a surfing legend. Sort of like what Slade Fester (*SF Assurance Partner*) does now.

On his downtime

Slack, bum, veg, hang, chill, and whatever other words come to mind to describe someone who, in the absence of having any particular skill sets, hobbies, or outside interests, watches a lot of TV.

Leisurely pursuit

Someday I'd like to have nothing to do so that I could sit around all day watching reruns of Saved by the Bell, while eating coffee ice cream and dark chocolates. Then drive out to the Mavericks and slice across the face of those 50 foot waves like a hot knife through butter.

Words of wisdom

What message would you like to send to professionals just starting their careers at BDO? Always do what Minnihan (*SF Assurance OBLL*) tells you to do and always hit “spell check” before you turn in workpapers for review.

THE BAY AREA PRACTICE WELCOMES ALL NEW HIRES & INTERNS TO BDO

San Jose – Tax

Trina Olive
Sherry Zhang

San Francisco – Tax

Marina Gurwitz
John Montoya
Louise Tao

San Francisco – Assurance

Ashley Hutchinson
Brian Goulding
Chris Nguyen
Zheng Tan
Yura Kang
Melissa Rivers

San Francisco – Tax

Marina Gurwitz
John Montoya
Louise Tao
Tatyana Pak-Levy
Randy Lee
Katja Immes

San Francisco – Assurance Interns

Catherine Kuhn
Seth La Reau
Brent Vidulich

San Jose – Tax Interns

Alvin Cheung
Yuliya Semenova

Tatyana Pak-Levy

Randy Lee
Katja Immes

Vicky Hoang – **Tax Intern**

& A SPECIAL WELCOME BACK!

Colleen Pleis
SF Assurance Sr. Manager



Dan Whitteaker, Business Development Manager

Joins the Bay Area BDS team as a Business Development Manager, reporting to Melissa, and is responsible for new business development and lead generation across the Bay Area business lines. Dan comes to BDO with more than 15 years of experience and professional relationships in the Bay Area, most recently with Moss Adams where he also served in a business development role.



Penny Zou, Business Development Coordinator

joins the Bay Area BDS team as a Business Development Coordinator responsible for proposal and statement of qualifications preparation, business development data management, and marketing support. She also is Executive Assistant to several Tax Partners in the San Jose Office. Penny has over 15 years of experience, 10 of which have been spent in marketing, sales and customer relations. Prior to joining BDO, Penny spent 10 years at Procter & Gamble in China and later worked in the US for Charter One Bank (a subsidiary of Citigroup Bank). Penny is currently training with Leah on proposals, so please continue to direct proposal requests to Leah for the time being.

happy birthday!

happy anniversary!

SF January Birthdays

Mark Snover Sandy Chang
Yeniy Chan Andy Bond
Phil Crawford Kevin Harper

SF February Birthdays

Thomas Byers Yuven Moodley
Sylvia Mak Denny Lai
Nancy Je Prithvi Pai
Ann Manavalan Nate Wiens

SJ January Birthdays

Kriti Krishna
William Salvador
Ravi Pokuri

SJ February Birthdays

Bethany Stanley
Monica Calvillo

SJ January Anniversaries

Daniel Kahawaiolaa
Robert Strasser
Faisal Jeddy
Xiaohong Ma
Scott Jaconetty
Lance Porter

SJ February Anniversaries

Michele Nguyen Ho
Wayne Corini

SF January Anniversaries

Thomas Byers	Junior Velazquez	Denny Lai
Farah Feizollahi	Natalie Silbernagel	Laura Lin
Jami Wilson	Dorres Macadeg	Rebecca Wang
Lynn James	Yeniy Chan	Ken Kobayashi
Betsy Dye	Yuven Moodley	Darleen Zadoo
Sossi Tashjian	Colleen Shaw	Kaushal Shah
Yuko Wakasugi	Hazel Leung	Kalman Hui
Yoko Sueita	Jin Koo	Hoon Lee

SF February Anniversaries

Grace Li	Concepcion Castillo
Arina Firer	Silvia Golib
Justin Hobbs	Fran Crawford

CHINESE NEW YEAR – THE YEAR OF THE RAT

The 2008 Chinese New Year began on Feb 7 and runs through Jan 25, 2009. By the Chinese calendar, 2008 is the year of the Rat and according to Chinese astrology in a “Rat Year” we can expect 12 months of plentiful opportunities and prospects, it is a time of hard work, activity, and renewal. This is a good year to get married, launch a product or make a fresh start. Ventures begun now may not yield fast returns, but opportunities will come for people who are well prepared and resourceful. The best way for you to succeed is to be patient, let things develop slowly, and make the most of every opening you can find.

Hey February is also Oscar month. Here's a chance for you to WIN a \$25 movie card!

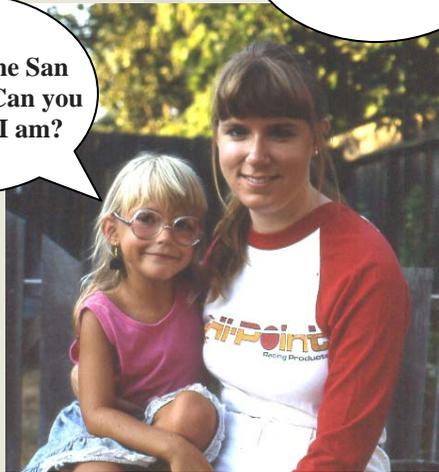
See if you can guess who these cute babies are and you will be entered to win a \$25 movie card! One winner will be randomly drawn from each office. Deadline to submit your entry is Friday, March 14. Please email your answers to pcrawford@bdo.com. Answers and winners will be announced in next month's issue of the newsletter!

And there will be more games, prizes and sweepstakes coming! Each month there will be a chance for everyone to enter and win prizes. Typically, one winner will be drawn from each office and in some instances winners will be selected by an independent panel of judges. All entries must be emailed to pcrawford@bdo.com and submitted by the posted deadline. Here is a sample of upcoming games and sweepstakes:

Can You Guess Who I am?
Cutest Pet Contest
& Photo Contests

We'd love to hear your suggestions and ideas also! Please submit your ideas to the BAW team at pcrawford@bdo.com

I work in the San Jose office. Can you guess who I am?



I work in the San Francisco office. Can you guess who I am?



PRACTICE DEVELOPMENT

Each month we will feature one of the Bay Area Practice clients and/or prospects. This month's feature is one of San Francisco's assurance clients: **Clif Bar**



Clif Bar (Berkeley), a privately owned company founded by Gary Erickson, is a leader in the billion-dollar energy-bar industry targeting athletes and health-minded consumers. After countless hours in his mother's kitchen, Erickson managed to bring sales to \$700K in its first year of operations and has been profitable every year since its 1992 launch. Clif Bar has been a BDO client since 2002.

Partner: Brian Minnihan

Manager: Derek Matzke

Lead Sr.: Cris Balueza

Perks: Besides the rock climbing wall in the office, the audit team has access to FREE Clif Bar products!

THE OFFICE

The SF Tax dept held a social at Paragon on Jan 30. The theme was "In with the new, out with the old" in welcome of the new hires and GoFileRoom, and a goodbye to their old paper green files.



Announcements

The SF Assurance dept will be holding its first town hall meeting and social of 2008 on the afternoon of March 20. The Town Hall will be followed by another spectacular BDO San Francisco Social Event, with both a mystery theme and location! More info to follow.

"There have been signs of greater human habitation here on the 17th floor. However, it is interfering with my afternoon naps. This, in turn, is having a drastic effect on my performance numbers. No doubt, this situation needs to be corrected." - Christopher Smith, (SF RAS Admin)

UPCOMING FEATURES

- Tax Tips • **Face Time with Brian Minnihan, SF OBLL** • The Truth About Organic Food
- **The XXIX Olympiad (Beijing 2008)** • Did You Know...? • **Soon We'll be Smarter!**
- Our Favorite Cheap Eats in the Bay Area • **Cutest Pet Contest** • and lots, lots more!

TIME ENTRY REMINDER

Remember to input your time daily!

**GET NOTICED
SUBMIT YOUR
CONTRIBUTIONS TODAY!**

MESSAGE BOARD

Send us your thoughts

We'd love to hear your reaction to this newsletter, plus ideas for upcoming issues. Send feedback to the Bay Area Watch Team at pcrawford@bdo.com

CLASSIFIEDS

HELP WANTED

We are currently recruiting volunteers to join the following BAW committees: Editorial, Contributors, Designers, Photographers, Marketing & Promotion, Production, and Distribution. No experience required. Contact Phil Crawford at pcrawford@bdo.com

POST YOUR AD

If you would like to post an ad please submit it by the 15th of each month to Phil Crawford at: pcrawford@bdo.com

A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO ALL THAT CONTRIBUTED TO THIS MONTH'S ISSUE OF OUR NEWSLETTER

- Chris Smith (L.A. Partner)
- Slade Fester
- Jennifer Harris
- Philip Crawford
- Sara Arias
- Christopher Smith
- Jannelle Quintos
- Sabrina Tam
- Staci Warum
- Laura Lin
- Sandy Chang
- Phuong Huyng
- Gary Gee

- Kevin Bowman
- Todd Staples
- Brent Vidulich
- Derek Matzke
- Finn Michaelson
- Dave Cupano
- Marcee Harris Schwartz
- Linda Chan
- Leah Bravo

The persons that submitted their baby picture for this month's game...which shall remain anonymous until winners are announced & everyone that participated in our poll question

A Message from the Bay Area Watch Team

Our Mission is to deliver a high quality communication tool that will closely represent our Vision of *who we are, what we do* and how *we connect* as a professional services firm within the BDO Bay Area Practice. Together we can achieve this goal for the upcoming year and for this reason we would like to welcome you to join our team, submit your contributions or let your voice be heard by submitting your feedback.

Meet our Current BAW Team Members:

- SF:** Slade Fester (*Partner*); Office Administrators; Ronda Lawson, Phil Crawford, Christopher Smith, Associates; Sara Arias, Janelle Quintos, Sabrina Tam & our HR Dept; Staci Warum.
- SJ:** Jennifer Harris, Regional Director Admin