

# Band of Angels

## Newsletter

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### Managing Directors

Hans Severiens  
Ian Patrick Sobieski

### Dinner Details

**Date:** Wed., Jan. 14, 2004

**Place:** Los Altos Golf and Country Club

**Time:** Cocktails & Hors d'oeuvres at 6:15, Dinner & Presentations at 7:30

**RSVP:** 650.321.0854 or tonia@bandangels.com

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## Introduction

We are starting our tenth year!! Looking back it seems as if the intervening time passed very rapidly as we still recollect the initial meetings upstairs at the "old" Chantilly with the original group of a dozen in a crowded room and cozy bar. We started before the Bubble, enjoyed the euphoria of those times, survived the crash and today are a group of about 110 angel investors still actively "at it" and stronger for it. Granted that our investment rate has slowed (ref. our prior newsletter) somewhat, but the original purpose of being a place for early stage funding is still very much in force. We've had some IPO's, acquisitions, mergers, drop-outs, etc. over the years and when we look back I think we can all feel that we've accomplished a lot.

As we became established, some rotation occurred within the membership with the younger replacing some of the older. A particularly sad event was the recent passing of Fred Hoar, one of our founders and a great supporter of the Band and everyone's friend. We miss him, he was unique.

Meanwhile, the external factors affecting investment activities look a lot better than last year at this time. The NASDAQ has made a major recovery in excess of 50% and appears to be holding its gains. Inflation is still low. IPO's are no longer made of dreams but are again a reality and Google is planning a monster-sized offering later this Spring with just about every major investment bank taking a piece of it. Semiconductor Industry revenues this past year were up over 17% and the forecasts for 2004 speak of growth of 19%. Chips are still the major building blocks of all electronics so that bodes well across the board for the technology sector. And VC funding here in the Valley is picking up again. So if the US economy holds together this year and the country incurs no expensive, new foreign adventures, 2004 could just be one of those banner years that comes along every decade or so when all vectors are aligned in the same direction. And, since this is the Band's tenth year, let's hope that we experience an equally strong year with lots of profitable liquidations.

Ian and I decided that the old Newsletter format used for 9 years could stand some spiffing up and have gone to a more accessible, user-friendly format. As the scribe who started the newsletter in its type-written format (someone once said that it looked like a Church bulletin), I agree that the new style is more modern and appropriate and in keeping with our forward looking, positive attitude.