

The Communiqué



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

October 20, 2023

Dear Dames,

Fall is in full swing, and summer temperatures have finally arrived in the Bay Area. The submission of applications for the Female Entrepreneur and Business Grant wrapped upon the 12th last week. We received over 20 applications! After reading them I know the judges will have a very difficult task choosing the two recipients. Each application is scored by our three judges and the results will be tallied by our administrator AnneMarie Austin. There is a compelling story to each of the applications and the amount of passion these women have for their businesses is inspirational. After 45 years in hospitality reading their stories has reminded me of why I love this industry. In case you were worried, grit and determination is alive and well!

I am proud to announce and thank the [Alto Planos Collective](#) for their sponsorship and \$5,000 donation to the Entrepreneur and Business Grant. We are looking forward to a long partnership. A thank you to Dame Dominica Rice for making the introduction and to Dame Mary Gassen who followed through and engaged our first sponsor. Please be sure to support our sponsors' products if you can.

The DEI event at Silver Penny Ranch was another important event for our chapter and is key to supporting our mission. Thank you to Dame Sandra O'Day, co-chair

of the events committee who worked tirelessly to plan and execute the day, and to Dame Sue Conley who generously hosted at the farm. Gratitude to those who served on the panels and those who attended, I heard from many it was a meaningful day.

I hope you will be able to join the Zoom next week on Wednesday, October 25, Getting to Know our LDEI- SF: Our Roots, Our Focus, Our Future. Dame Kara Nielsen has put together (as only she can) a terrific line up from our chapter's founders, board members and committee chairs to share perspectives past, present and future. Many of our new inductees will be participating so it will be a great chance to meet them if you haven't had the chance. There is still time to sign up!

We had a record five dames attend the conference in Louisville, each one came back inspired by the mission of LDEI. We are all looking forward to hearing their insights from the conference.

One last thing, for those of you who have not renewed your membership it is not too late, you can still register on the website. If you are on hiatus please let us know.

Warmly

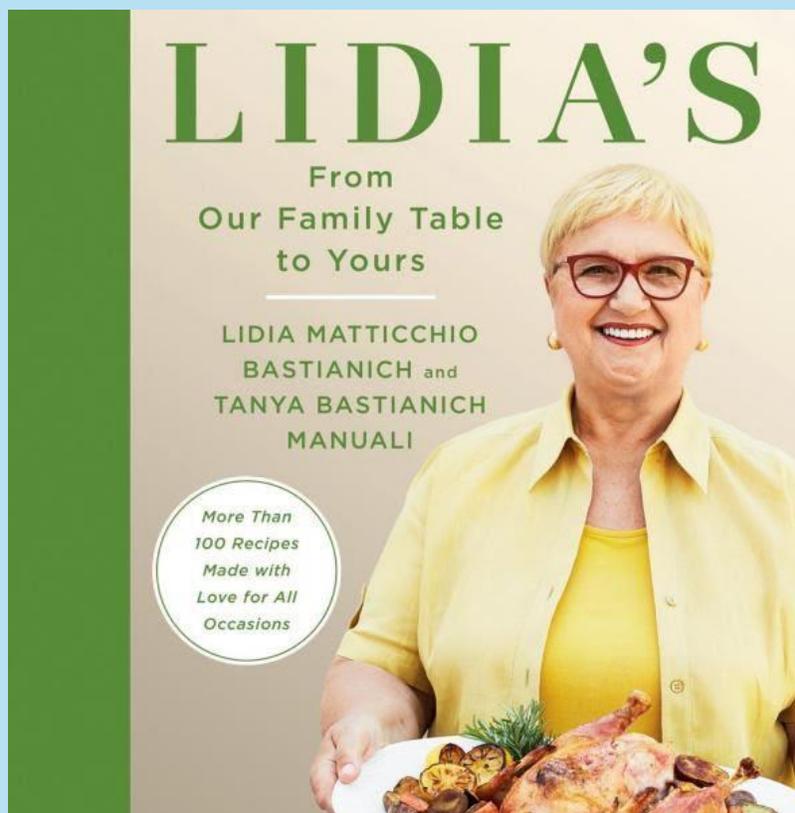
Pam Mazzola

Co-Presidents LDEI-SF

Events

Saturday October 21, 2023 - Lidia Bastianich Cookbook launch and lunch 12 PM at Insalata's

Book Passage presents its new season of Cooks with Books featuring [Grande Dame Lidia Bastianich](#) and her new cookbook *Lidia's From Our Family Table to Yours*, a personal collection of more than 100 family recipes. Join Lidia for lunch at Insalata's in San Anselmo highlighting some of the dishes in her cookbook. \$150 covers the meal, wine, tax, tip and a signed copy of the book. More information is [here](#).



Wednesday, October 25th, 2023 5-6:15 PM - Getting to Know LDEI-SF: Our Roots, Our Focus, Our Future

This free Zoom program is for all members interested in learning about our chapter's founding 34 years ago, how our chapter functions and how our goals fit with the international association's mission. We have more seats available, and currently have 35 registrants. Bring a glass of your favorite beverage to this informative session and hear from founding members, board members and committee chairs, plus we'll share a summary of the recent annual conference. This is a free orientation for anyone who would like a refresher and to discover new ways to get involved in our chapter and in the international association's various awards, scholarships and programs like the Legacy Awards. We extend a special welcome to our 2023 Inductees.

BONUS 'Door' Prize: Dame Kara Nielsen is donating a copy of the recently published *Les Dames d'Escoffier New York Cookbook: Stirring the Pot* by Silvia Baldwin & Sharon Franke to one attendee! Read more about the book at StirringthePotNY.com

[Link to registration](#)

Les Dames d'Escoffier New York Cookbook

STIRRING THE POT

Silvia Baldini & Sharon Franke

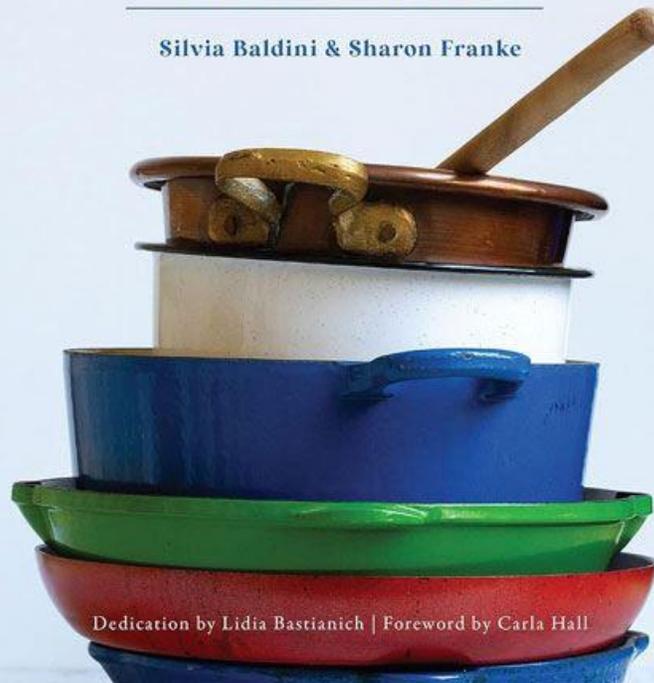


Photo Credit - Courtesy of Les Dames NY

Event Wrap Up: October 5th-8th National LDEI Conference - Report from Treasurer Nancy Ash

The LDEI Conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky October 5-8, and I traveled to the heartland with a few other chapter members to enjoy the camaraderie of Dames from throughout the U.S. as well as international chapters. Thursday's program included a choice of insider views into locally-crafted food, beverages and the arts, but mostly Bourbon (I'm not complaining!) Friday's Keynote speaker was Dr. Temple Grandin who presented fascinating portraits of "other thinkers"; her newest book is titled "Think Differently". On Saturday we were brought to tears

during Toni Tipton Martin's Keynote address, yet at Sunday's brunch she switched gears by providing tales and cocktail recipes from her forthcoming book "Juke Joints, Jazz Clubs and Juice." While the weekend included some serious business, mostly it was a journey from one meal to the next (and did I mention the Bourbon?). And despite the long, delayed flights home, I am delighted that I attended and met so many like-minded, accomplished women supporting the work of LDEI. Next year's conference is in Phoenix October 17-20; I hope to see you there!



SF Chapter Represents at 2023 LDEI Conference

Member Meetups

These open house, casual events are a great way to meet and network with fellow dames in a casual setting. We have often hosted these at dames businesses (wine bars, restaurants, shops) so if you have an idea for a meet up, please contact the events committee chairs Nancy Light or Sandra O'Day.

Member News

In a recent celebration of Sukkot, Dame Leslie Jonath led a flower mandala workshop at the Ferry Plaza Farmers Market with the JCCSF and Foodwise. In addition to producing cookbooks, Leslie is the co-author of *Foraged Art*, a book about making art with what you find in nature. She sourced the flowers from the flower mart as well as from vendors at the market. Overall it was a colorful and beautiful way to welcome the harvest.



Photo Credit - Courtesy of the JCCSF

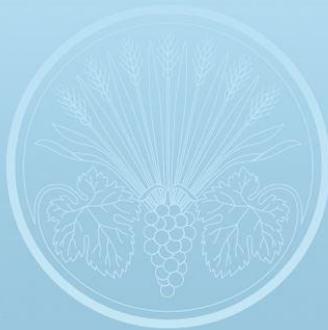
Business Grant

Applications have closed for the first LDEI-SF Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship Program

We have received more than 20 qualified applications for the LDEI-SF Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship program which aims to provide crucial support to female-owned businesses in the food, culinary and hospitality industry in the vibrant San Francisco Bay Area! The applications are now in their next stage, being reviewed by our team of four judges. The whole committee is having a wonderful time reading about these impressive ladies and their businesses, it'll be a hard decision! For more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at emily@emilyluchetti.com.

LDEI Quarterly

We still await 2024 deadlines for the LDEI Quarterly. For any updates on Membership Milestones and Chapter Programs, please contact Dame Jodie Chase at jodie@chase-ink.com. She will submit it to National.



We welcome you to submit any items for our biweekly communiqué to Communications Committee Chair Kimberly Noelle Charles at kcharles@charlescomm.com by 12 pm on Wednesdays for biweekly publication on Fridays. Please consider the categories of Events, Announcements, or Opportunities for Networking and Volunteering. Also, note that it is rare we would publicize fundraising events outside our own needs, but if a major,

national, or significant event is happening with several Bay Area Dames, we want to know about it!



Email: lesdamessf@gmail.com

Les Dames d'Escoffier International, San Francisco Chapter, is a 501 (c)(3) (EIN 20-5941764)
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