

# *The Communiqué*



Les Dames d'Escoffier®

INTERNATIONAL

San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

October 6, 2023

Dear Dames,

Fall is in the air. We have two more events this year and look forward to the announcement of our selection of two Female Entrepreneur Grant and Mentorship recipients. We'll be taking a break in late fall and will begin gearing up for our winter work of involving and mentoring our 18 new members. Additionally, we'll be planning our board retreat and hope to focus future attention on sustainability, both financial and organizational.

We are delighted to welcome Tonya Pitts as our newest board member. Tonya responded to the recent call for new board members. We are delighted she stepped up on her own initiative-no arm twisting required. Several of our current board members have served for many years, for which we are grateful. We welcome a regular rotation of service to add new ideas and energy. If you are interested we are happy to share the commitments for the positions. It truly has been a rewarding and valuable experience for all our board members.

Remember we have our DEI workshop this Monday at Silver Penny Farm in Petaluma. There is still time to sign up if you haven't as yet. Details [here](#). Also

be sure to register for our Chapter Orientation on October 25th, a great way to learn about our history and our future!

Congratulations to our board Secretary Danielle Fiala on the grand opening of Doctorbird Market, a new wine and specialty food store in Pittsburg. Ask her about the inspiration for the name.

Looking for a field trip? Take an east bay drive to and have lunch in Martinez at Dame Leslie Stiles restaurant. One of our new dames, Carissa Crader, director of culinary operations and executive chef of Loaves and Fishes is there cooking with Leslie on some nights. If you go for lunch it's only another 16 miles to Doctorbird in Pittsburg!

Warmly  
Pam Mazzola  
Frankie Whitman  
Co-Presidents LDEI-SF

## *Events*

**Monday, October 9, 9:30 am- 2 p.m. PT at Dame Sue Conley's Silver Penny Farm in Petaluma 2nd Annual Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Meeting and Farm Lunch**

Our DEI event is SOLD OUT!!!! The 2nd annual event features Tanya Holland, Maria Hunt, Maryam Ahmed and Danielle Fiala speaking about mentorship within our group and the food and wine industry as a whole, and how mentorship affects DEI. The group will follow up on how things have changed within the chapter since last year and how they propose to effect change this upcoming year.



Photo Credit - Silver Penny Farm

**Sunday, October 15 Pistachio Lunch and Book Launch 12:30 PM L'Apero Les Trois Winters, CA**

Celebrate the launch of Dame Georgeanne Brennan's newest book, *Pistachio*, with a lunch and book signing at Lake Berryessa Winery in Winters, CA. A collection of sweet and savory recipes photographed by Robert Holmes, this promises to be a lovely afternoon. A three course meal paired with Lake Berryessa wines and a signed book included for \$115 per person or \$185 per couple. More about the book in Member News.

Tickets and more info [here](#).

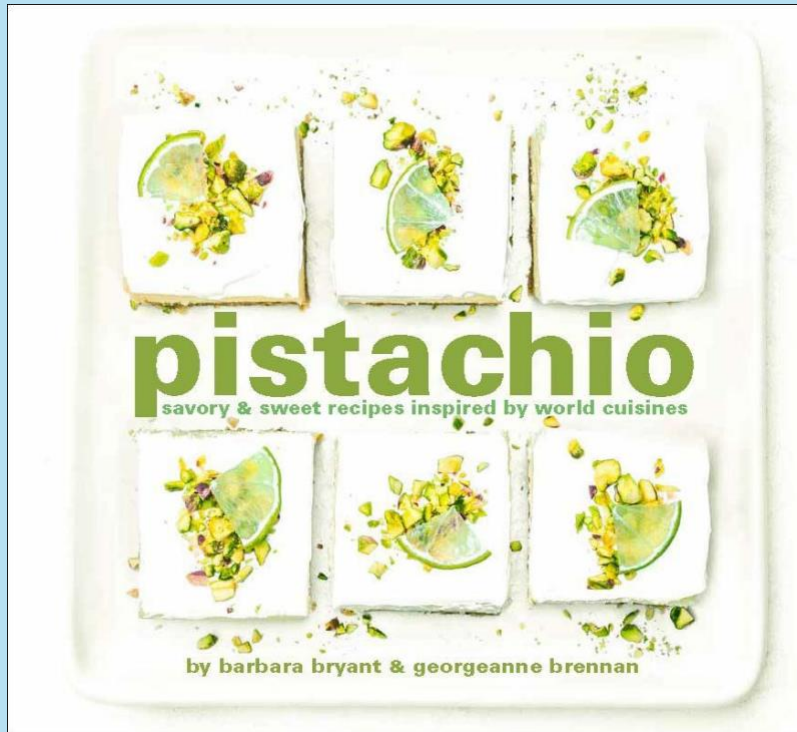
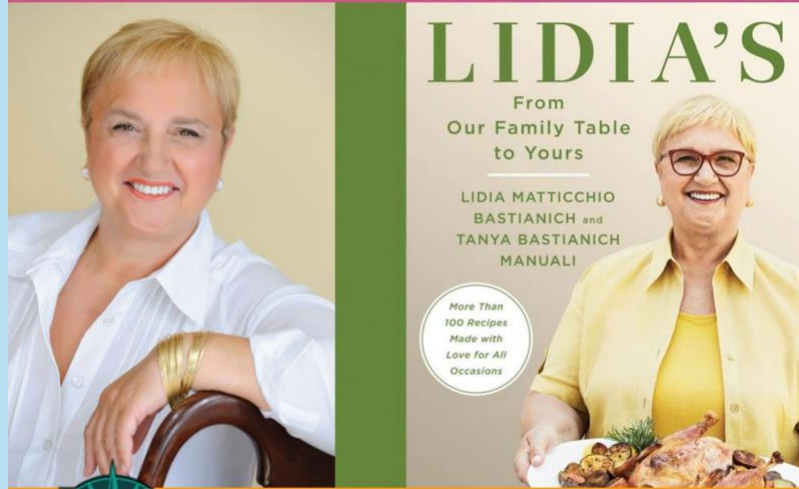


Photo Credit - Georgeanne Brennan

**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 fellow 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 a 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](#).

# A SPECIAL LUNCH WITH Lidia Bastianich



**Book Passage** Sat. October 21st at 12pm  
Insalata's Restaurant - San Anselmo  
GET TICKETS: [bookpassage.com/lidia23](http://bookpassage.com/lidia23)

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

We are offering a great way for members, new and established, to know more about our chapter. **Getting to Know LDEI-SF: Our Roots, Our Focus, Our Future.** This lively, informative, and interactive online session will serve as an orientation to our 34-year-old chapter, its history and inner workings. It will feature some of our chapter's founders and earliest members – Jerry Di Vecchio, Carolyn Wente, Linda Anusasananan – discussing our 1989 beginnings and we'll touch on the international organization's roots and reason for being. Current board members will describe our committees and impact areas and share a quick debrief on the October annual conference. Bring your questions and favorite happy-hour drink and get to know your chapter!

[Link to registration](#)

## 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.

## *Fellowship*

In the coming weeks, we will publicize our newest Karola Saekel Craib fellowship recipient, [Teresa Cotsirilos](#) and this spring at a dedicated Fellowship event, we will honor Teresa and previous recipients, celebrating the Fellowship and our 14 years of supporting Bay Area women journalists.

## *Business Grant*

We have received several 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. We still have 6 more days till the application window closes, October 12th. Through cash awards of \$5,000, this initiative seeks to empower and propel these businesses forward by facilitating expansion and the enhancement of their operations. Please [help us get the word out with this press release link](#) to business owners who fit the criteria and encourage them to apply online [here](#). For more information on the grant and committee, please contact Emily Luchetti at [emily@emilyluchetti.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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!



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