



Les Dames d'Escoffier International's

MFK Fisher Award for Excellence in Culinary Writing

The MFK Fisher Award, presented biennially in even-numbered years, honors Mary Frances Kennedy Fisher, a widely read and lauded culinary writer. Before her death in 1992, MFK Fisher personally gave her permission to Les Dames d'Escoffier International to present an award in her name.

This award is given to women writers whose published works reflect creativity and insight, and illuminate the pivotal roles of food, beverages, the arts of the table or contribute to our knowledge of those who grow, produce or prepare nourishment.

The entries should be nonfiction, and may include analytical pieces, autobiographical explorations—including reminiscences and personal experiences—and forays into culinary history.

Each entry should be no longer than 2,000 words. Entries longer than 2,000 words or those that have not followed the Criteria for Entries will be disqualified.

The entry will be judged on writing, knowledge of subject matter, topic, relevance and creative approach by qualified judges.

Goals of the Award:

- To honor the accomplishments of MFK Fisher and to showcase her contributions to gastronomy.
- To give recognition to a woman who is engaged in significant culinary writing.

CRITERIA FOR ENTRIES

1. The work must be original and published in English during **2008-2009**.
2. Authors must be women residents of the United States, Canada or Mexico.
3. The work must have been published in a book, newspaper or magazine (or their online counterpart), or on Internet sites (such as blogs, culinary Web sites, or newsletters).
4. The work may be submitted by the author or her editor, publisher, agent or other authorized person.
5. A maximum of 2,000 words may be submitted. The entry may be a portion of a published article or book and need not be an article in its entirety.
6. The words must be taken continuously from the publication and not from various pages.
7. The nominee must sign a letter of agreement stating that she will attend the award ceremony.
8. In the event that the submission wins a prize, the author must execute an agreement that allows LDEI to reprint all or part of the submitted entry.
9. Although members of LDEI are eligible to receive the award, directors and officers of LDEI and their families as well as the MFK Fisher Awards chair are not eligible.

ENTRY FEE

The fee per entry, not per person, is \$25 USD, and must accompany the entry. Entry fees are non-refundable. If an entry is disqualified for not following the rules, written notice will be given.

Checks or money orders should be payable to **Les Dames d'Escoffier International** and drawn on a United States bank. LDEI accepts credit card payment. If more than one entry from the same author is sent in the same envelope, only one check, money order, or credit card number need be included for all her entries mailed in one packet. LDEI is a tax-exempt non-profit organization. Its tax number is 11-2994412.

NEWSPAPER AND MAGAZINE ENTRIES (PRINT EDITIONS):

Each entry must include an original tear sheet with full text of the article as published, with the 2,000-word (maximum) selection highlighted. Tear sheet must include title of the article, name and date of publication, by-line or credit. (If the article is not by-lined, tear sheet must be accompanied by a letter from the publication's editor-in-chief confirming the authorship.)

In addition to the tear sheet, **an electronic Word** file attachment of the selected text must be e-mailed to ldei@aecmanagement.com for ease in transmission to the judges. The text should contain the title of the article from which the text is taken but must not contain the author's name or publication. Photographs may not be included in the digital file.

BOOK EXCERPTS:

Each entry must include one autographed copy of the book in which the 2,000-word selection is marked. The book will not be returned. It will be publicized and included in the non-profit organization's Epicurean Auction. In addition to the book, **an electronic Word** file attachment of the selected text must be e-mailed to ldei@aecmanagement.com for ease in transmission to the judges. The text should contain the title of the book from which the text is taken but must not contain the author's name or publisher. Photographs may not be included in the digital file.

INTERNET-BASED WRITING:

Each entry must include a printed copy of the writing as it appears(ed) online. Also, **an electronic Word** file attachment must be e-mailed to ldei@aecmanagement.com with the full text of the original work including the earliest publication or post date. The name and URL of the Web site homepage and, if available, a URL link to the active or archived online work must be submitted.

JUDGING: LDEI's judges are editors, authors, journalists, educators and other food professionals who are leaders in their fields, who have not entered the 2010 MFK Fisher Award competition and who are not members of LDEI. The identities of the judges are kept confidential to allow complete impartiality. The entries are judged according to a point system by three judges who work independently of each other. Three (3) copies of each entry — one for each of the three judges — plus a digital file for LDEI records are required for all entries. Each judge completes a scoring sheet based on the following criteria:

JUDGING CRITERIA: Writing (maximum 50 points); Mastery of subject matter (maximum 20 points); Topic and creative approach that shows author's voice (maximum 20 points); and Relevance (maximum 10 points).

PRIZES: Prizes for the MFK Fisher Award for Excellence in Culinary Writing are certificates plus \$1,000 (USD) for first place, \$500 (USD) for second place, and \$250 (USD) for third place. In addition, the first place winner will receive round trip (coach class) airfare to the conference city to receive her honor in person (mandatory) from within the U.S., Canada, or Mexico for one person; two nights lodging; taxis to and from the airport; and dinner for the recipient plus one guest. These expenses will be paid by Les Dames d'Escoffier International.

Contest winners will be notified by **August 2010** so that they can set aside time to attend LDEI's MFK Fisher Awards presentation on **Saturday, October 23, 2010**, in **Palm Springs, Calif**

SENDING ENTRIES

Entries may be sent by overnight delivery service. Please make the proper notation on any delivery form that a signature is not required upon delivery. Your cancelled check is your receipt. Entries must be postmarked by **April 30, 2010**, but will be accepted anytime before that date.

CHECKLIST FOR ENTRY PACKET

- Entry form.**
- Agreement.**
- Check, money order, or credit card number (\$25 for each entry)**

For newspaper or magazine submissions:

- One original tear sheet.**
- An electronic Word file of the 2,000-word (maximum) selection.**

For book excerpts:

- One copy of the book (after LDEI judging use, the book will be included in the non-profit organization's Epicurean Auction).**
- An electronic Word file of the 2,000-word (maximum) selection from the book.**

Web-based Writing:

- One printed copy of the writing as it appears(ed) online.**
- An electronic Word file of the 2,000-word (maximum) selection including the earliest publication or post date, the name and URL of the Web site homepage, and, if available, a URL link to the active or archived online work.**

SUBMISSION OF FULL APPLICATION MUST BE POSTMARKED BY **APRIL 30, 2010**.

QUESTIONS: If you have questions about any of the rules, contact the **MFK Fisher Award Chair**, **CiCi Williamson** at (703) 533-0066 or e-mail: Mfkfisher10@aol.com.

AGREEMENT

The undersigned represents to Les Dames d'Escoffier International that the work that is being submitted is original text written by the undersigned (or the author whose name appears below) that does not infringe upon the copyright, trademark, privacy right or any other intellectual property right of any third party.

In submitting the text to LDEI for consideration, the undersigned expressly releases and will hold forever harmless Les Dames d'Escoffier International, its directors, officers, employees and judges from any claim, expense or liability of any nature whatsoever out of the selection, judging, awards process and/or LDEI's publication or use of the submitted text.

The undersigned further specifically represents that if she is not the author of the text submitted, the undersigned is fully authorized to sign this form on behalf of the author and to bind the author by terms of this agreement.

Rights to reprint submission upon selection

The undersigned allows Les Dames d'Escoffier International to reprint the submitted entry in the event that her submission should win an award. The reprint will be expressly used for publicity purposes on behalf of the winner and for possible reprint in the organization's magazine and/on the organization's website: www.ldei.org.

Signature	Printed Name	Date
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(Author)

Signature	Printed Name	Date
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Completed packet with Entry Form and this Agreement must be postmarked by April 30, 2010.
Send to:

Greg Jewell, Executive Director
Les Dames d'Escoffier International
P.O. Box 4961, Louisville, KY 40204 OR
2132 Maryland Avenue, Louisville, KY 40205
502-456-1851
Fax: 502-456-1821
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