

# Our Activities

Industry partners collaborate with LDEI to bring educational and philanthropic programs into communities across the U.S. and Canada.

Recurring events include:

- LDEI Annual Conference, where chapter and industry leaders share best practices that promote leadership and achievement of culinary women
- "New York Cooks — Holiday Style," New York, an annual major fundraising, educational, networking event
- "Meals on Reels," San Antonio, celebrating the intersection of food and film worlds
- "Epicurean Food & Wine Auction and Banquet," Washington, D.C.'s elegant fundraiser
- "Les Dames Chefs' BBQ," Chicago, fundraiser for Chicago's Green City Market
- "Celebrity Chefs Invitational Golf Tournament," British Columbia, in September
- "Dinner on the Grounds at Serenbe," Atlanta, a musical feast with chefs
- "Raiser Grazer," Dallas, where guests graze and money is raised
- "FarmRaiser," Miami, a fundraiser helping to preserve the nearly extinct South Dade family farm
- "L'Affaire Chocolat," Palm Springs, cooking demonstrations, auction, professional dessert competition and tasting
- "Chefs' Soiree," Boston, an auction and gala banquet with chefs
- "Outreach Program," Seattle, a career seminar for high school and community college students
- "Food & Flicks," Hawaii, a fundraiser for culinary libraries at community colleges

3/05 (5000)

## Chapters

Atlanta, GA  
Austin, TX  
Boston, MA  
British Columbia, Canada  
Charleston, SC  
Chicago, IL  
Cleveland, OH  
Colorado  
Dallas, TX  
Hawaii  
Houston, TX  
Kansas City, MO  
Los Angeles/Orange County

Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN  
Monterey Bay, CA  
New York, NY  
Ontario, Canada  
Palm Springs, CA  
Philadelphia, PA  
Phoenix, AZ  
San Antonio, TX  
San Diego, CA  
San Francisco, CA  
Seattle, WA  
South Florida  
Washington, DC



Visit us at: [www.ldei.org](http://www.ldei.org)

For additional information, contact LDEI Headquarters; Greg Jewell, Executive Director (502) 456-1851; FAX (502) 456-1821; [ldei@aecmanagement.com](mailto:ldei@aecmanagement.com)



## Looking for more information about Les Dames d'Escoffier International?

Visit [www.ldei.org](http://www.ldei.org) where you can read about chapter news and activities that are happening. Click on the "chapters" button and you can link to many of the chapters' Web sites. Other information you can access on the site includes: Awards given by the organization; who our partners are; members' biographies; who Auguste Escoffier was and why he is important to the culinary world; and, how to contact us.

## Les Dames d'Escoffier International

*Renowned and distinguished ...*

Chefs and restaurateurs  
Food journalists and cookbook authors  
TV and radio personalities  
Culinary educators  
Hospitality executives  
Caterers  
Special events coordinators  
Consultants and entrepreneurs  
Food and beverage producers  
Food marketers  
Retailers  
Publishers

All these and more are Les Dames d'Escoffier, women of achievement.





# Our Profession

*There was a time, not so long ago, when women were shut out of the professional kitchen and the business world of food and wine. Accomplished women earned their places, changed that paradigm and opened the doors to culinary careers for all.*

*The best and the brightest founded Les Dames d'Escoffier (LDEI), the premier organization for women in diverse careers across the food, beverage and hospitality industries. LDEI grows its membership selectively, by invitation only. These are the elite leaders who shape and influence what the world consumes — today and tomorrow.*

*The late Dame Julia Child said it best: "Les Dames d'Escoffier is a leadership culinary organization composed of women who have not only achieved success in their professions, but who contribute significantly to their communities. Since its incorporation in 1976, Les Dames d'Escoffier has followed its mission to elevate the profession through mentoring the members and helping worthy students succeed in their culinary careers."*

# Our Vision

*LDEI is an international organization of women leaders who create a supportive culture in their communities to achieve excellence in the food, beverage and hospitality professions.*

*To do this, members in our chapters provide leadership, educational opportunities and host philanthropic events within their communities.*

# Our Mission

*LDEI is an invitational organization of women leaders in food, beverage and hospitality whose mission is education, advocacy and philanthropy.*

*In the words of LDEI past president, Abby Mandel, accomplished food writer, educator and entrepreneur: "As members of Les Dames d'Escoffier, we are unified through our personal achievement, vision of leadership, support of aspiring culinary professionals with an emphasis on opportunities for women and our contributions to our communities. These priorities distinguish us from other professional culinary organizations."*



# Our Philanthropic Endeavors

*LDEI chapters have raised approximately 3 million dollars to fund culinary scholarships, food service training for underprivileged women, culinary libraries and the Green Tables Civic Agriculture and Garden Initiative: Garden-to-table education projects, held in communities, that draw upon Dames' considerable experience.*

*A scholarship helped The New York Times food writer Amanda Hesser to find her calling: "Les Dames d'Escoffier gave me a chance to take my interest in food and find my way to a career that suited me," she says. Financial support enabled her to work throughout Europe and eventually to go to cooking school. "By the time my scholarship ended, I had found my place. I was writing."*

*Sara Moulton, host of the Food Network's "Sara's Secrets" and executive chef at Gourmet magazine, also was an LDEI scholarship recipient. In her experience a Les Dames d'Escoffier scholarship "... provides a critical career boost and opportunities for young people who may not otherwise pursue a career that is inherently demanding."*

# Our Grande Dame Award

*The Grande Dame Award represents the ultimate accolade for women's professional culinary achievement. Women who have been honored are:*

- **Marion Cunningham**, author of the Fannie Farmer Baking Book; writer for the *San Francisco Chronicle*
- **Anne Willan**, cookbook author; founder of La Varenne Cooking School, Burgundy, France
- **Madeleine Kamman**, cookbook author; PBS TV show host; director, School for American Chefs, Beringer Vineyards
- **Alice Waters**, pioneering restaurateur (Chez Panisse), author of 8 cookbooks, developer of the Edible Schoolyard
- **Jerry Anne DiVecchio**, retired senior editor, food and entertaining, *Sunset* magazine; expert on food of the American West
- **Abigail Kirsch**, catering executive; founder/owner Abigail Kirsch Culinary Productions, New York; author of four cookbooks
- **Rosemary Kowalski**, catering executive; founder/owner, the RK Group; official caterer for the San Antonio Convention Center for 40 years
- **Marcella Hazan**, a lifetime teacher and the author of five cookbooks, including *The Classic Italian Cookbook*.

