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GLOBAL COFFEE & TEA SPECIALIST NAMED PRESIDENT OF LDEI
Suzanne J. Brown Elected President of Les Dames d'Escoffier International

ATLANTA (March 2, 2009) - Suzanne J. Brown of Atlanta has been elected president of Les Dames d'Escoffier International (LDEI). LDEI is a philanthropic society of professional women leaders in the fields of food, beverage and hospitality – the only organization of its kind.

Membership, which is by invitation, reflects the multifaceted fields of contemporary gastronomy and hospitality. Members are educators, cookbook authors, chefs, winery owners, food scientists and more -- influencers who shape the way consumers think, purchase, prepare and eat food.

Brown and her board of directors are charged with fostering the continued growth and success of LDEI by supporting the organization's 26 chapters across North America, and by developing new chapters. The chapters, which function independently, develop wide-ranging programs around the organization's mission of education, advocacy and philanthropy. To date, the chapters collectively have raised and awarded more than four million dollars in culinary scholarships.

A defining initiative of LDEI is the Green Tables program, designed to help communities better



understand the link between rural and urban farms and the food that appears on kitchen tables. Concurrent with Green Tables, Brown announced a new initiative under development, focusing on food traditions in global cultures.

Brown, who works as a global coffee and tea marketing specialist for The Partnership, Inc., an interactive, advertising and design firm based in Atlanta, has learned the importance of food in world cultures.” In my profession working with coffee- and tea-growing countries, I’ve experienced the significance food has on its community. Food, its traditions and enjoyment weave into the very social fabric of these countries,” Brown said. “Increased globalization has brought people from many countries into our communities who also bring along their food heritage. What better way to welcome these immigrants than to share our diverse foods and traditions? Just think, it brings new meaning to ‘pot luck,’” she added. The new program will be announced at the annual LDEI conference in Philadelphia, Oct. 1 to 4.

For more information about LDEI, visit www.ldei.org. More about the members, their favorite recipes and their kitchen wisdom can be found in *Cooking with Les Dames d’Escoffier*, published in 2008 by Sasquatch Books.

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