

JANUARY 30, 2014



Les Dames d'Escoffier International  
Washington, DC Chapter

*Entre News*



## Message from the President

Dear Sister Dames,

Gung Hei Fat Choy! Happy Chinese New Year! A big thank you to Janet Yu and her staff for helping us welcome in the Year of the Horse in grand style Saturday night at her restaurant, Hollywood East Cafe. 43 Dames and friends of Dames were treated to a bountiful and delicious meal of Chinese banquet foods. We were entertained with traditional singing, dancing, and a spectacular lion dance. This has become an annual event for our chapter. If you missed it this year, I urge you to put it on your calendar next year. It is a wonderful event suitable for all ages.

Thank you to Karen Vartan for hosting 14 Dames and guests in her home on January 18th. Those in attendance enjoyed a delicious and very personal luncheon of Umbrian foods and wines prepared by Chef Simone Proietti-Pesci.

Come network with your sister members at the Dames Who Dine event February 3rd at the Weekend Bistro at the Ritz in D. C. Thanks to Annie Boutin-King for helping to arrange this evening for our members.

The date of our biennial symposium is rapidly approaching. Women in Gastronomy is the largest single event produced by our chapter. We need your help to make the event a success. Information about how you can volunteer at the event is below. We need your help to get the word out to the public.

## In this issue

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

HURRAH!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS/EVENTS

DAMES CORNER-ANN STRATTE

JOIN A COMMITTEE

## Having Trouble Logging into [www.lesdamesdc.org](http://www.lesdamesdc.org)?

To log into the "Members Only" section of our website to make reservations and find chapter documents, remember to click on "Members Only" on the top menu bar. Then sign in to your account. You must use the email address recorded in your account plus the secret password you created. It is not possible for our Chapter Web Administrator to retrieve a Dame's password --only you know the password you created for your account.

**THE SOLUTION:** If you don't remember your login email address or password, send an email to DC Chapter Web Administrator CiCi Williamson, [ciciwmson@aol.com](mailto:ciciwmson@aol.com), and she will let you know what email address is listed for your account. She will assign a new password in the database, and then you can use the new password to get into your account. After you get into the members-only area of the website, please update your account information and you can change your password to whatever you like (which will again be secret and not retrievable). In order to save time for everyone, each Dame needs to record somewhere her login email address and password for [www.lesdamesdc.org](http://www.lesdamesdc.org).

It is important to update your contact information on both Les Dames DC website and Les Dames d'Escoffier International site

Please advertise our symposium through word of mouth, your social media sites, and your businesses.

It is time to start inviting qualified women to join our organization. Your recommendations as a new member sponsor are due February 21st.

Tally Ho! Wishing you all the best in the Year of the Horse!

Warmly,

Drew Faulkner  
President

[drewcooks@mac.com](mailto:drewcooks@mac.com)

## NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT

It is time to focus on finding exceptional colleagues who will bring new talents, ideas and energy to enrich our organization in 2014-15 and beyond. We ask you to recommend and sponsor highly qualified individuals who will be welcome additions and enthusiastic contributors to Les Dames d'Escoffier DC Chapter. Requirements for membership include, but are not limited to, a minimum of five years as a distinguished professional in the food, beverage or hospitality industry.

Prospective new member recommendations from Member Sponsors are due February 21, 2014 Sponsorship is an important and fulfilling responsibility that is critical to the success of our Chapter. Sponsors are required to do the following:

\* Inform qualified prospective new members about the organization (mission, goals, activities, requirements) and assess their interest in becoming contributing members of Les Dames.

[www.ldei.org](http://www.ldei.org).

If you need with assistance with your LDEI account please contact Executive Director Greg Jewell at [info@ldei.org](mailto:info@ldei.org) or call (502) 456-1851.

**Without up-to-date contact info our communications will not reach you!**

## Social Media Connections

[Connect with Sister Dames](#)

Like us on Facebook 

Follow us on 

We need **ALL** members who have FB and Twitter accounts to follow and actively re-tweet our members' tweets to spread the great news about our activities and programs!

[Connect with Les Dames d'Escoffier International](#)

Please share news, events and updates. Join the LDEI members-only LinkedIn Group to stay connected with other Dames.



## Join a Committee....

You were invited to join Dames because of your talents and achievements and you promised to be part of our chapter's committee work; so, now it is time to

### **Get Involved!**

Our committees offer the perfect opportunity to get to know your sister Dames, share your skills and to give back to the community through service. Every committee needs dedicated participants. Please contact the committee chairs and offer your time and skills, now.

\* Submit nomination to **Ann Stratte** ([annstratte@aol.com](mailto:annstratte@aol.com)) by February 21, 2014

\* Assist the candidate in completing the application for submission by March 21, 2014.

\* Attend a meeting to introduce the candidate to the Membership

---

## HURRAH!

**Joan Nathan** for successfully co-chairing with Alice Waters (SF) and Jose Andres another Sips & Suppers this past weekend event benefiting DC Central Kitchen and Martha's Table.

**Nancy Baggett** upon the publication of her first Kindle book, *The 2 Day a Week Diet Cookbook*, a 75-recipe cookbook now receiving great reviews on Amazon.

**Michelle Poteaux** and husband Christian Poteaux for having their Bastille Restaurant & Wine Bar in Alexandria, included in Washingtonian's Top 100 Restaurants.

And, to Robert and **Polly Wiedmaier** for Marcel's inclusion at #5 in Washingtonian's Top 100 Restaurants.

**Amy Riolo** for signing a contract for her fifth book; this one is on the Mediterranean Diet and is set to be released in December 2014.

**Katherine Tallmadge** for being included in Washingtonian's February issue in its Well Being feature as one of nine Good Nutritionists and Dietitians.

**Connie Hay** for the November release of *A Passion for Bread* by Master Baker Lionel Vatinet with whom she collaborated. "Together we found simple methods to create Lionel's delicious, authentic artisan breads without any fussy equipment," says

### Grants/Mentoring:

Kate Jansen

[jansenkt@comcast.net](mailto:jansenkt@comcast.net)

Cindy Kacher

[ckacher@aol.com](mailto:ckacher@aol.com)

### Scholarships:

Diane Feffer Neas

[dianeneas@gmail.com](mailto:dianeneas@gmail.com)

Michele Jacobs

[michele@unionstationevents.com](mailto:michele@unionstationevents.com)

### Green Tables:

Danielle Turner

[chefdanielle@greattastepcs.com](mailto:chefdanielle@greattastepcs.com)

Aviva Goldfarb

[aviva@thescramble.com](mailto:aviva@thescramble.com)

### Programs:

Gail Forman

[gailforman@comcast.net](mailto:gailforman@comcast.net)

Barbara Cullen & Eileen Dykes

[bamc519@yahoo.com](mailto:bamc519@yahoo.com);

[eileendykes@gmail.com](mailto:eileendykes@gmail.com)

### Global Culinary Initiatives:

Amy Riolo

[amy@amyriolo.com](mailto:amy@amyriolo.com)

### Public Relations:

Jill Collins

[jill@jillcollinspr.com](mailto:jill@jillcollinspr.com)

### Fundraising:

Theresa Morrison

[wine@34south.com](mailto:wine@34south.com)

---

## Entre News Update:

Please submit your Entre News information in a brief, concise statement to **Katherine Newell Smith** at [kns4pr@erols.com](mailto:kns4pr@erols.com).

---

## Board Meeting Minutes

To view the latest approved board meeting minutes, go to [www.lesdamesdc.org](http://www.lesdamesdc.org) and click on the *Members Only* tab and again on *Member Login Page*. Log in. Once you are logged in, click on the *Bylaws, Roster & Minutes* tab. You will see a link to the board meeting minutes. During each monthly board meeting, the board approves the previous month's minutes and they are then posted to our website.

---

Connie.

---

## CONDOLENCES

To **CiCi Williamson** upon the loss of her beloved mother, Carolyn Cheney, on Tuesday, January 20. While Carolyn was chronologically 95 years old, you would never have guessed it as she sidled up to the cowboy model who posed with our chapter at the Austin LDEI conference last October. She was a delight and we will miss her presence our events. The family invites Dames to visit them on Friday, January 31: from 3:00 to 7:00 p.m. at Murphy Funeral Home, 1102 West Broad Street, Falls Church, VA 22046, 703-533-0341. Also, you are invited to a memorial service followed by a luncheon on Saturday, February 1, at 11:00, at Trinity United Methodist Church, 1205 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean, VA 22101. Please contact **Katherine Newell Smith** at [kns4pr@erols.com](mailto:kns4pr@erols.com) to let her know if you plan to attend the service and luncheon.

---

## PROGRAM NOTES

Dames participated in several of the 32 Sips and Suppers venues in metro-Washington, DC Sunday evening including **Amy Brandwein, Carla Hall, Ris Lacoste, Nathalie Dupree (Charleston), Katherine Newell Smith** and, of course, co-chairs **Joan Nathan and Alice Waters (SF)**.



## Revised Members-Only Section to our Website

Through the creative and diligent efforts of **CiCi Williamson**, our chapter's web administrator, it is easier to find chapter documents and resources, our event archives and past editions of *Entre News*.

Once you log in under **Members Only**, you will see a revised toolbar where you can find:

- past and current *Entre News* issues posted under the **News** tab.
- archives of past events in the **Events** dropdown menu along with upcoming events.
- helpful files including chapter letterhead, name tag template, LDEI logos and tax-exempt certificates under **Resources**.
- our chapter's standing rules, bylaws and membership roster under **Bylaws, Roster & Minutes**

---

### Quick Links

[Les Dames DC Website](http://www.lesdamesdc.com)  
[lesdamesdc@aol.com](mailto:lesdamesdc@aol.com)

[Les Dames d'Escoffier International Website](http://www.lesdamesdeseffier.com)  
[info@ldei.org](mailto:info@ldei.org)

LDEI Quarterly  
<http://www.ldei.org/uploads/archives/52.pdf>

---

### LDEI Quarterly

[\(click for latest copy\)](#)

Member Milestones - Share your professional news with Dames in all Chapters in our *LDEI Quarterly*. Submit your news to:

[MemberMilestones@aol.com](mailto:MemberMilestones@aol.com) - Edited by **Hayley Matson Mathes (Hawaii)**

*LDEI Quarterly Deadlines:*

The deadline for sending in Member Milestones and Chapter



Lion Dancers, one being "fed" money in special red envelopes, at Hollywood East Chinese New Year Dinner.

Mourad Lahlou, (Aziza), Chanel Rowe-Green, Nate Appleman (Chipotle), Katherine Newell Smith, Adam Manson (Zentan) after a Sips & Suppers dinner in Chevy Chase MD.

---

## PROGRAMS

### **DAMES WHO DINE: PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ (DAMES ONLY)**

**DATE:** Monday, Feb. 3, 2014

**TIME:** Happy Hour 6:15, Dinner 7:00p.m.

**PLACE:** West End Bistro @ Ritz Carlton, 1190

News for the SPRING issue of the LDEI Quarterly is April 15, 2014. The winter 2014 issue of the LDEI Quarterly is now posted at [www.ldei.org](http://www.ldei.org) and you should have received the magazine by now. If you have not, please check your online contact information. If it is correct, please contact Greg Jewell to make sure you are on the mailing list.

PROVIDE DAME'S NAME and CHAPTER. Submit up to 50 words about honors or important business-related activities to appear in the *LDEI Quarterly*. You may email a quality headshot to accompany your news. Press releases and cookbook covers are not accepted. Entries received after the deadline may appear in a following issue.

### Quarterly Guidelines:

Photography/Images-Electronic images must be properly focused, in color with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi (TIFF or JPEG). Cell phone photos are acceptable if they meet resolution requirements. Do not send photos taken off the internet or embedded with text in Word files or PDF files. Identify individuals in photos from left to right in the message of your email. Include photo credits, if required. CAPTIONS ARE REQUIRED FOR PUBLICATION.

### **M.F.K. FISHER AWARD CONTEST**

The M.F.K. Fisher Award contest is open for entries with a deadline of March 31, 2014 and a \$25 fee per entry. There are three categories in which to win:

1. Culinary Books
2. Print Media (magazine and newspaper food stories)

Internet-based food articles or blogs

Each category offers a \$500 prize. The overall winner will be awarded an additional \$500 plus a trip to Boston to receive her award at the 2014 LDEI Annual Conference on Saturday, November 1. There will be a big do-da ceremony at the Royal Sonesta Hotel Boston, Cambridge, MA! For more information, go to [ldei.org](http://ldei.org) or email [mfkfisher14@aol.com](mailto:mfkfisher14@aol.com)

---

## LDEI News

**EDIBLE LONDON - A GASTRONOMIC TOUR PRESENTED BY LDEI-LONDON CHAPTER, MAY 15-18, 2014**

22nd Street NW, WDC

**COST:** Dutch Treat

**CELEBRATING FOOD: WOMEN IN GASTRONOMY SYMPOSIUM 2014 ALERT**

As we approach the date of our next Salute to Women in Gastronomy, March 8, 2014, there is still much work to be done. So, we need your help! Please let us know, as soon as possible, what you would like to do to make this Symposium the most successful ever. Time is running short.

**Cooking Classes**-if you have agreed to conduct or help with a cooking class and have not submitted the requested information, please contact **Beverly Bates:** [bevbates@gmail.com](mailto:bevbates@gmail.com)

**Breakout Sessions**-if you are a session chair and have not submitted the requested information, please contact **Eileen Dykes** at [eileendykes@gmail.com](mailto:eileendykes@gmail.com) or **Sara Ducey** at [sara.ducey@montgomerycollege.edu](mailto:sara.ducey@montgomerycollege.edu) with the description of your session, bio, contact information, information from your panelists, and any other needs ASAP. And, if you are a panelist or are otherwise participating in a session and have not submitted the information requested, please contact the chair of your session.

**Cookbook Jumble**--to donate books, contact **Marianne Ali** at [ali51657@aol.com](mailto:ali51657@aol.com) or **Cindy Kacher** at [ckacher@aol.com](mailto:ckacher@aol.com)

**Volunteers**--to offer your time, contact **Goody Solomon:**

[goody.solomon@verizon.net](mailto:goody.solomon@verizon.net)

**EXPO**-if you would like to reserve a table to showcase your work, or product, or client, contact **Jill Collins:** [jill@jillcollinspr.com](mailto:jill@jillcollinspr.com) There is a \$25 table set-up charge for Dames; non-Dames \$125 exhibitor fee.

If you have other questions, contact one of the Symposium co-chairs:

[jill@jillcollinspr.com](mailto:jill@jillcollinspr.com) ,

[eileendykes@gmail.com](mailto:eileendykes@gmail.com) or

[marie.steffany@marriott.com](mailto:marie.steffany@marriott.com)

Please plan to attend and invite friends.

**TIME:** 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Inspired by our chapter's Women in Gastronomy symposium, yes really! LDEI-London is planning the first ever London Gastronomic Tour May 15- 18, 2014. While the deadline has passed, you still may be able to get a spot. Contact [valentina.harris@googlemail.com](mailto:valentina.harris@googlemail.com) . The event will focus on the food in and around London and will be a wonderful opportunity to meet our sister Dames across the pond and explore an exciting food-centric city. <http://www.ldei.org/images/file/edible%20london%20flyer.pdf>

---

**PLACE:** The Universities at Shady Grove, 9630 Gudelsky Drive, Rockville, MD 20850

**PRICE:** \$125 pp; \$65 for Dame volunteers who also attend events; \$50 student

**AN AFTERNOON WITH RUTH GRESSER AND CARLA HALL**

**TO CELEBRATE THE PUBLICATION OF THEIR NEW COOKBOOKS, *KITCHEN WORKSHOP-PIZZA* and *CARLA's COMFORT FOODS***

**FUNDRAISER TO BENEFIT LDE-DC's SCHOLARSHIPS and ARTWORKS STUDIOS**

**DATE:** Saturday, March 29, 2014

**TIME:** 2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** at the home of Ruth Gresser and Barbara Johnson

**PRICE:** \$150.00 includes food, beverage, cooking and art demonstrations, signed copy of each cookbook

**SOMETHING TO LOOK FORWARD TO:**

Event at Alba Osteria with Amy Brandwein during the month of April, TBA

---

**DAMES CORNER-ANN STRATTE**



"One 16 oz tin River Beluga Caviar: \$2560.00.  
One bottle 2005 Louis Roederer  
Crystal Rose: \$539.00. Membership in Les  
Dames D'Escoffier: Priceless." - **Ann Stratte**

When the 4-year-old **Ann Stratte** was asked where she wanted to go for her birthday dinner, she chose the most expensive restaurant in Minneapolis, an hour's drive from her home. Her wish was granted and, at the restaurant, she ordered lobster. It was a harbinger of things to come.

By the time Ann was in first grade, she was getting practical cooking experience at home, making dinner for herself most evenings. Her parents worked late and her mom wasn't able to serve dinner until 9 p.m. Young Ann was hungry and simply could not wait.

Ann spent two years at Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., and then travelled for a year in Europe with two girlfriends. The trip, naturally, included a Paris stop and Ann fell in love with the city. A couple of years later, she read a *Gourmet Magazine* article about Le Cordon Bleu, Ecole de Cuisine in Paris. She promptly created another intra-collegiate gap year and applied and was accepted to Cordon Bleu. Her fate was sealed.

Back in Minneapolis after graduating from university, Ann began a small catering business, C'est Bon, serving high-end formal cocktail and dinner-party clients. Her parents were nervous about her future as a lone culinary practitioner and strongly urged her to get a "real job", that is, one with health benefits.

Within a week, she had a job, complete with benefits and a company car, with General Mills selling Wheaties, Cheerios, Gold Medal flour and other products to grocery stores in the Dakotas. Her intention was to go back to catering when she married and had a husband who would provide a steady income. That took longer than anticipated.



Ann spent the next 25 years in the corporate world working for various food companies and living in Des Moines, St. Louis, Washington D.C., Savannah and Atlanta. During the last 15 of these years, while in Atlanta, she negotiated private label contracts between manufacturers and grocery chains.

Then, through friends, she met Bill Corbin in 1999, fell in love and moved to Annapolis. On the day before her 50th birthday, Ann and Bill married and Ann was finally able to fulfill her dream of becoming a personal chef and caterer.

Her company is aptly named My Personal Chef. She has catered parties throughout the Washington metro area, including for the Israeli ambassador, former Vice President Dick Cheney, The Pillsburys, CEO's of major corporations, Broadway producers and other luminaries.

Ann, Bill and their two Cairn terriers, Marge and Fargo (names borrowed from the movie "Fargo"), spend at least six months a year on their 46' Nordhavn yacht cruising East Coast waters and stopping in ports along the way. Charleston is a favorite spot. When they are at home, Ann continues to cater.

She has served on the LDE-DC board for the past six years, including two years as treasurer and one as first VP. She is also serving a second term as LDEI treasurer.

And, yes, she still likes lobster.

---

## Editor's Note

ENTRE NEWS is published on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. Deadline for HURRAH! and other news is the first and third Thursday of each month. Please send a BRIEF paragraph with your professional and personal news that you would like your sister

Dames to know about in HURRAH!

HURRAH! is not meant as an advertising opportunity for a cooking class or event, rather it offers a shout out to members for recent accomplishments and honors.

And, we will try this for a while to see how it works: OF INTEREST will now offer Dames a chance to let their sister chapter members know about events they are involved in that might be of interest to a majority of the membership. OF INTEREST entries can be NO LONGER than 75 words. Less is always better.

Send information to EN Editor Katherine Newell Smith [kns4pr@erols.com](mailto:kns4pr@erols.com)

Thank you for your continued interest and participation.

Katherine Newell Smith  
Editor, Entre News

---