



LES DAMES d'ESCOFFIER-ANN ARBOR

LDE-AA President's Letter

April, 2017

Spring is finally here and if the saying holds true that 'April Showers will bring May Flowers' then we are sure to have them in abundance this year.

LDE-AA began the year with our first social get together for all members. The theme for the potluck was Global Diversity and each member brought a dish to pass which represented a country or location they visited this past year in real or virtual time. We had quite an array of delicious foods offerings from France, Israel, Mexico, Italy, Cambodia, Vietnam, Spain, California, Northern Michigan, as well as treats from our local Ann Arbor bakers.

We sat around in small groups dining and sharing conversations with each other as we became better acquainted and learned more about one another. It was such an enjoyable event that we might consider starting off each year in this way.

Our Ann Arbor Chapter has nominated our Co-President Ricky Argranoff to be considered for the Grande Dame award presented by LDEI. This award has been given in the past to 12 such women and includes Julia Child, Alice Waters, Edna Lewis, Madeleine Kamman, and Nathalie Dupree. Ricky, as most of you know, is truly a Grande Dame and we certainly consider her our chapter's Grande Dame. Her lists of accomplishments are many. She really started the culinary engine here in Ann Arbor. She opened the first Kitchen Port store, brought the first fresh baked croissant available for purchase to our city, opened a restaurant and catering company, mentored many and the list goes on. LDEI's selection committee will review all the applications that have been received and the announcement of the recipient will be made sometime in the fall.

Our Scholarship fund has blossomed. LDE-AA Dame Amy Emberling donated \$500 of behalf of her team at Zingerman's BakeHouse. Don Moreland, Dame Antoinette's husband, donated \$1,000 on behalf of Dame Donna Tope, for legal work she did for his Ann Arbor Bach Association, another non-profit organization, of which Don is President. We now have funding to start developing our Scholarship Program...very exciting news!

On March 8, 2017 60 Dames from chapters all over the United States gathered in Guadalajara Mexico for The Flavors of Mexico. Dame Antoinette and Dame Donna represented our chapter. The Mexican Dames put together one of the most exciting, fun filled, delicious, 4 days in the sun that a Dame could ever wish for. We visited the newly excavated (yr 2000) site of Guachimontones, an ancient Aztec village, a hands-on cooking opportunity with the Women

of the Corn to celebrate International Women's Day, A welcome by the Mayor of Tlaquepaque and a formal sit down dinner (complete with strolling violins and Dio de los Muertos models!) in the Jardin Hidalgo, A visit to Centro Educativo Jaltepec which gives young women an opportunity to learn a profession in hospitality and develop entrepreneurial skills, a train ride on the historic Quervo Express through agave filled country side to the town of Tequila where we were the guests of the Jose Cuervo Distillery and saw first hand the production of tequila followed by a tutorial in the tasting of tequila. The farewell dinner was over the top but you can read all about it in the summer edition of the Quarterly. This ambitious Mexican chapter will host another LDEI trip next year to Oaxaca Mexico.

We look forward to seeing all of you for a gathering this spring. Details will follow from our Events Committee

In the meantime, we have attached the Agenda for our next Board of Directors meeting, to be held 1 pm, Thursday April 20 at the Community Room, 2115 Natjure Cove Court. All members are welcome to attend and participate...we are developing our long range plan to accomplish our mission. Your participation is most welcome!